

ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH
CODY. WYOMING
History 1940 - 1950

By decree of His Excellency, the Most Reverend P.A. McGovern, D.D., Bishop of Cheyenne, St. Anthony's Church, located in Cody, Wyoming, was elevated to the status of a parish on Oct. 23, 1940. At that time the Reverend F.J. Kimmett, pastor of St. Barbara's Church, Powell, Wyoming, was appointed administrator of the newly created parish until the bishop could supply a pastor.

Although the actuality of war was realized late in 1941, along with restrictions and the rationing of many commodities, the schedule of Masses in Yellowstone National Park was maintained throughout the summer of 1942. Father Kimmett also found the means to paint the Cody church and reshingle the roof before the end of 1943.

The early days of 1944 brought a change in the new parish. Father Kimmett had received permission from the Most Reverend Bishop to apply for a chaplaincy in the Army. As soon as his application had been accepted, the Bishop appointed the Reverend Francis T. Penny, assistant superintendent of St. Joseph's Orphanage at Torrington, to the pastorate of St. Anthony's Church, Cody (1/10/44), and administrator of St. Barbara's Church, Powell, with residence in Powell. This condition existed until some time after World War II.

During the summer months of 1945 serious attention was given to the location and extent of the real property of the Church in Cody. The pastor and the trustees felt that a better site with more ground should be sought for the future development of the Church. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence J. Linn had for sale at this time twelve lots on Rumsey Avenue. The asking price was \$7,500.00. A lower figure was offered the Linns and after some deliberation they decided to accept the offer. Accordingly on Sept. 30, 1945, the members of the corporation of St. Anthony's Church, Cody, Wyoming, in resolution agreed to buy lots 7 to 16 inclusive in Block 7, the original Town of Cody, Wyoming, for a total consideration of \$6,500.00 from Clarence J. Linn and Gertrude M. Linn, husband and wife. In the transfer of the property the Linns accepted a small house and lot on Beck Avenue from the Church for a consideration of \$3,000.00 and the balance of \$3,500.00 was tendered them in cash.

As World War II was now over, plans were made by the pastor to take up residence in Cody. Father Kimmett had written that he would return soon to Powell, so some sort of abode was necessary in Cody. On Feb. 3, 1946, the trustees in meeting with the pastor decided that a campaign for funds to build a new rectory be inaugurated. It was soon apparent, however, that it was impossible for the new parish to construct a suitable rectory. Rising building costs and the scarcity of materials had made permanent construction not feasible. Upon consulting the Most Reverend Bishop it was decided to remodel the quarters in the rear of the Church and to add to them. Carpenters and laborers were hired and the new temporary quarters were soon made habitable. So on April 26, 1946, the first resident pastor of St. Anthony's Church actually began to live within the confines of the parish.

The post-war years made Cody a prosperous community. The population soared as the town doubled in size. The summer schedule of Masses was resumed in Yellowstone National Park in 1946. Mass was said each Sunday at Old Faithful Lodge, Lake Lodge, Canyon Lodge, and at the government chapel at Mammoth. Two Sunday Masses were said in Cody. Such were conditions through 1948. In the spring of 1949 it was felt that a campaign for funds should be organized to build a new Church. In that summer of 1949 two more Masses were added to the summer Mass schedule at Cody to care for the increased number of tourists. Early in the fall the fund-raising campaign was started. The campaign itself -was successfully accomplished in a few weeks. However, disturbing signs began to appear in the community. The first of these signs appeared in the oil fields adjacent to Cody and upon which Cody depended for much of her prosperity. Black oil, pumped in these fields and used extensively in roadwork, no longer had a great demand, so production was cut to a minimum. Men were laid off, or transferred to other fields. The building boom, which had reached Cody after the war, had reached its saturation point and this, too, threw many men out of work. By 1950 many of the parishioners of St. Anthony's Church had moved away permanently; some were still living in Cody but working in surrounding towns. Then in the late fall of 1950 the pendulum swung the other way. The oil fields resumed production at a greatly increased daily capacity. At the same time many new government employees, connected mainly with the Bureau of Reclamation, moved to Cody. This influx of workers brought the Catholic population back to the 1949 level.

In the spring of 1950 a need to acquire different land holdings within the City of Cody was felt. A site in the west end of town was selected. Paul Stock owns this property, a millionaire oilman of Cody. Mr. Stock has agreed to donate this valuable property to St. Anthony's Church as a site for a new church and rectory, provided that certain legal obstacles can be surmounted. As the property lies within a restricted residential district, the main restriction being that all building must be confined to one-story residential buildings, this restriction must be removed to permit the construction of a new church on the property. All interested parties have agreed orally to its removal and Mr. Stock's lawyer has been instructed to take the necessary legal steps. Some day, it is hoped, a beautiful Catholic church will grace this land that lies at the feet of Cedar and Rattlesnake Mountains.

In the past decade St. Anthony's Church has seen 177 Baptisms, 36 Confirmations, 90 First Holy Communions, 48 Marriages, 34 Deaths and 25 Converts.

History of St. Anthony's Church

Cody

1950-1960

In the decade just finished St. Anthony's Church made considerable strides in the expansion of the parish, both physically and spiritually. As the parish grew it became imperative that a new church building is provided. Accordingly in the spring of 1952 an entire city block was purchased in the Stock Addition. Mr. John K. Monroe an architect in Denver, Colorado, was contacted and plans for a new church and rectory were drawn up. In the spring of 1953 the contract for the church was let to the Welch Construction Company of Cowley, Wyoming. The Big Horn Plumbing Co. was awarded the mechanical and plumbing contract and the Benson Electric was given the electrical work. The new church was dedicated on Nov. 7, 1954.

In August of 1955 St. Anthony's Church was able to dispose of some property the church owned on Rumsey Avenue in Cody. The selling price of \$14,000.00 materially reduced the debt on the new church. At Christmas of 1956 Father Penny was able to announce to the people of the parish that the entire debt of \$50,000.00 on the new church had been paid.

In the spring of 1958 the front walk of the new church was widened for the entire length of the block on the side facing Monument Street.

In 1958 the plans for the new rectory were revised. The revision was mainly the addition of a basement to the original plan. The Bishop approved this plan in 1959 and steps were taken to have various contracting firms bid on the project. Bids were opened towards the end of December 1959, and it was found that the Corrigan Construction Co., of Cody was the low bidder with a bid of \$73,577.70. This bid included the general and electrical as well as the mechanical and plumbing contracts. The electrical was sublet to the Cody Electric of Cody, and the plumbing to the Kurtz Plumbing of Cody. Although the contract price was approved in 1959 the actual letting of the contracts did not take place until the spring of 1960.

At the beginning of the decade Kenneth H. Davis and Burke McDonald were the lay members of the corporation of St. Anthony's Church. Early in 1952 Mr. Davis moved to Billings and Richard C. Kranz was elected to take his place on the church board. In Sept. of 1955 Mr. McDonald indicated that he wished to resign from the church board. He had served from October of 1949 and had served well all during the building of the new church. George Angelovic was elected to take Mr. McDonald's place. In January of 1956 Mr. Kranz moved to Ontario, Oregon. Mr. Kranz had served as Chairman for the Building Committee for the new church, as well as secretary of the corporation. Mr. Fred W. Felsheim was elected to take his place. In November of that same year Mr. Angelovic moved to Green River and Mr. Louis Thiel took his place on the church board. Mr. Fred W. Felsheim and Mr. Louis Thiel are still the lay members of the board of St. Anthony's Church.

THE HISTORY OF ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH CODY WYOMING 1960-1970

The year 1960 marked an auspicious beginning of a decade of improvement for St. Anthony's Church in Cody, Wyoming.

On January 3, 1960 the contract for building a rectory was awarded to the Corrigan Construction Company of Cody, Wyoming. John K. Monroe of Denver, Colorado, the architect who had drawn the plans for the new church also drew the plans for the rectory. This was the first actual rectory for the parish as in prior years the pastor, Rev. Francis T. Penny, had utilized the rear section of the old church on Sheridan Avenue as living quarters. This condition existed from 1944 until the end of 1960.

The total price for the new rectory was \$73,577.70 with \$2,500.00 additional allotted for any contingency. The rectory was built as an addition to the new church built in 1954. The rectory extended from the northwest corner of the church. The rectory has two offices and a waiting room in the front part of the wing directly connected to the church. Back of the office section there is a hall separating that part from the pastor's bedroom and bath. There is also a spare bedroom and guest lavatory in this section. This part of the rectory has its own entrance. The rectory entrance opens on a hall to the right of which there is a large living room. Back of the living room there is a dining room and kitchen. Across the hall from the kitchen there is a utility room, equipped with an automatic washer and dryer. The utility room also has an electric mangle, a gift from the Penny family of Newton, Iowa. The room has spacious cabinets for storage purposes. With a hall dividing the back part of the house, there is a separate apartment for the housekeeper consisting of a large living room, bedroom and bath. An attached two-car garage with a ramp to the basement completes this area. The basement has five small bedrooms, a multiple bathroom, recreation room and several store and workrooms. This area of the rectory was designed primarily for the use of the summer priests who service Yellowstone National Park in the summer months. The new rectory was turned over to the parish and occupied on December 29, 1960. There was still a little inside work to be done and this was finished in the spring of 1961. New furnishings for the rectory amounted to \$9,118.42, which was installed in the fall of 1960 and the spring of 1961. Furnishings from the old rectory were also used in the new rectory.

Due to the increased number of children attending catechism classes it was felt imperative that a large folding door be installed in the basement of the church to divide the room into two classrooms. This was done in April of 1962.

On May 13, 1962 a contract was let to Graham & Hill of Cody, Wyoming, to construct an asphalt parking lot just south of the church. The original contract called for an expenditure of \$3,900.00. As the parking lot was laid out, it was felt necessary to enlarge it to include the rear basement entrance of the church. This was done by Graham & Hill at an additional cost of \$600.00. This greatly relieved the car-parking problem that had plagued the church in previous years.

When the church was built in 1954 the sidewalks were constructed with a three-foot width. With the increase in the number of parishioners these sidewalks were inadequate, so on May 19, 1963, a meeting was held by the members of the church corporation to award a contract to Lawrence Kaimann of Cody, Wyoming, to widen the existing sidewalks by three feet and to construct new sidewalks to the parking lot and around the rear of the rectory. A patio was also added at this time just outside the rear south entrance to the rectory.

In January of 1964 St. Anthony's Church made a contribution of \$900.00 to St. Barbara's Church, Powell, Wyoming, towards the purchase of a new Ford car for the use of the Sisters who teach catechism in Powell, Lovell, and Cody. This was done with the approval of all of the members of the corporation of St. Anthony's Church.

In March of 1964 the Pawnee Supply of Cody, Wyoming, installed an automatic water sprinkler system for the lawns of the church and rectory. This entailed an expenditure of \$2,500.00

For a number of years the church had been faced with an increasing need for space to teach the ever-growing number of children attending catechism classes. Room in the church was inadequate for all the classes so some of the classes were moved to private homes. To overcome this problem plans were drawn for a catechetical center to be built on the south end of the church property. John E. Toohey, an architect of Worland, Wyoming, was commissioned to do the work. The plans called for five classrooms, a lavatory for the boys and one for the girls, a boiler room, janitors closet, Sisters' lounge with a private lavatory, office, and book storage room.

On April 30, 1968, the members of St. Anthony's Corporation together with the members of the building committee of St. Anthony's Church met in the basement of the church to consider bids for the new catechetical center. Present were His Excellency, Bishop Hubert M. Newell, D.D., Rt. Rev. Msgr. Thomas F. O'Reilly, V.G., was represented by his proxy, Rev. Francis T. Penny, Dean H. Pond, Sr., and members of the building committee: Dale Zeller, Joe McNulty, and Ray Mentock. Of the six bids submitted, Spiegelberg & Son of Cody, Wyoming, had the lowest bid with \$109,350.00, which included mechanical work and electrical work, which were separate bids selected by the committee previously. The prime contractor included these bids in his contract. After considering the various bids the contract was awarded to Spiegelberg & Son.

The new St. Anthony's Center was dedicated on Sunday, April 20, 1969. Prior to the dedication ceremonies Bishop Newell confirmed a class of 89 persons, including 8 adults. A crowd of more than 400 persons attended the dedication.

In October of 1969 a contract was given to the Pawnee Supply of Cody to install a water sprinkler system for the lawn at St. Anthony's Center. As the fall of the year is a slow time in business for them they offered to deduct \$200.00 from their original estimate and do the work for a total of \$1,700.00. The lawn was seeded in the summer of 1970 and is in the process of growing.

The past decade has seen a growth in the church from 190 families in 1960 to 240 families in 1970. In that time there have been 355 baptisms, of which 43 were adult baptisms. There have

been 90 marriages, 62 of which were mixed marriages. There were 70 deaths in the parish. 331 persons made their First Holy Communion and 274 persons were confirmed.

Rev. Francis T. Penny, Pastor.

St. Anthony Church
Cody
1970-1980

Since the present parish facilities were built prior to 1970 -- the Church in 1954, the Rectory in 1960, and the Catechetical Center in 1969 -- the decade of the 1970's saw no further additions made and no real estate was acquired. At a corporation meeting of St. Anthony's Parish officers on January 17, 1974, Msgr. Francis T. Penny informed the trustees and others present that the debt on the Catechetical Center had been completely retired with a final payment of \$15,000. The trustees on that date were Fred W. Felsheim and Ed Krasovich, Sr. A balance in the church funds at that time was \$12,167.61.

The 1970's saw the continuation of the normal or routine parish activities with a special emphasis on the religious education of all Catholic youth in grades 1 - 12 under the direction of the Victory Noll Sisters who resided in Powell, Wyoming. In March 1976, a contract was let to the Althoff Construction Co., Cody, to enlarge and pave the parking lot between the Church and the Center, and later in May 1976, the lawns were planted and the present driveways around the rectory were built. In January 1977, plans to install stain glass windows in the church were discussed based on a proposal from the Cody Council Knights of Columbus, the latter being responsible for the cost of the windows with the parish carrying the installation expense. Immediately the L. & R. Studio, Chicago, was contacted and these plans materialized in September 1979, when a beautiful set of stained glass windows were installed, each one depicting a Beatitude. Parishioners had been invited to participate in the costs of these windows by selecting a window as a memorial to a relative or friend. The approximate cost was \$20,000.

In May 1977, Msgr. Francis T. Penny announced his retirement from active duty as pastor after 34 years at St. Anthony's in Cody. Rev. Charles Brady, then pastor of St. Anthony's Church in Casper, was appointed to succeed Msgr. Penny. In April 1978, a new Rogers organ was purchased from the Les Parsons Music Store, Casper, for \$15,000 (plus trade-in of the old organ), and this addition was made possible by a very generous donation from the Paul Stock Foundation, Cody, of \$10,000.

Since Cody is a tourist town possessing a very attractive museum and being near to the East Entrance to Yellowstone National Park, the summer months prove to be most busy in the parish of St. Anthony's. On a given weekend between mid-June and Labor Day, thirteen Masses are offered at various locations in and around Yellowstone Park including the Cody parish. Assistance in this effort came from the Jesuit Fathers in New York and St. Louis. During Msgr. Penny's time much personnel assistance came from the Benedictine priests in St. Meinrad's, Indiana and Atchison, Kansas.

On July 14 & 15, 1979, our parish was happily surprised by a visit from His Grace Most Rev. Jean Jadot, D.D., Apostolic Delegate to the United States. He was the main celebrant at a Concelebrated Mass on Saturday, July 14, at 7:00 p.m. with Most Rev. Joseph H. Hart, D.D., Bishop of Cheyenne, and Father Charles Brady. That night he journeyed into the Park with

Bishop Hart and offered Mass at Old Faithful on the following day for the tourists. He spent two days travelling through Yellowstone Park and continued into Teton National Park.

In May 1979, the first Parish Council was formed in St. Anthony's. Six members were elected at Mass. These members were: John Paisley (president), Lawrence Meister, William Hurr, Marie Manorgan, Dennis Applehans and Richard Miller. The parish is very active, having a very well attended Knights of Columbus Council, Altar & Rosary Society, and a growing Catholic Youth Organization. The 1980's will undoubtedly prove to be most interesting with the main emphasis on the strengthening of Catholic Family Life.

Church of St. Anthony
Cody 1990-2000
Father Joseph A. Daley
May 1, 2000

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

1990-1993-----Father Charles Brady
1993-1993-----Father Kevin Koch
1993-present----- Father Joseph A. Daley

2. Notable accomplishments by lay leaders and parishioners.

1992-1996-----Dean Collier-Meeteetse -DPC
1998-2000-----Cynthia Conner-Cody-DPC
1996-1998-----Shirley Patterson-CCW State President
1994-1995-----Kathlee Shannon-Diocesan Youth Board
1996-1997-----Sarah Strike-Diocesan Youth Board
1998-1999-----Carson Grant-Diocesan Youth Board
1999-2000-----Matthew McGee-Diocesan Youth Board
1994-2000-----Joan Kastner-Diocesan Youth Board

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

4. Construction---new or remodeling. (Give dates.)

1993--New church sidewalks--repair of water damage in rectory
1993--Installation of computer system--update of offices
1994--Reconstruction of stained glass windows
1994--Siding and foundation repair--Meeteetse church
1994--Repair parking lot lighting
1995--Remodel church--move tabernacle and build grotto
1995--New P.A. system--Cody church
1995--New roofs for plant and total exterior repainting
1996--Remove and replace heating system--Cody church/rectory
1997--Reconstruct and repair Cody parking lot
1997--Remodel basement of rectory for summer clergy
1998--Remodel and repair church basement
1998--Remodel all church doors
1999--Install sidewalk safety lighting--Cody church
1999--Installation of Clarion in church tower
2000--Install elevator for handicapped in Cody church
2000--Remodel of church hall kitchen

5. Land acquisitions. (Give dates.)

6. Lay Trustees and term of service for each.

1990-1996 Joel Sweringer

1990-1999 Bill Frielinghausen

1997-2000 Phyllis Claudson

1999-2000 Bill Hurr

7. Pastor's overview of the decade.

A new direction and many changes have been made since Father Brady's death. In Father Kevin Koch's nine months in the Parish, most of Vatican II has begun. Father Daley continues with women lectors (special ministers of the Eucharist.) A finance committee was formed and the Parish Council reconstituted. It has been a slow process, but from 1993 to 2000, all Vatican II requirements and suggestions along with those of the Diocese have been implemented.

8. Significant parish events and programs. (Give dates.)

1998-----100th anniversary of City of Cody--(Bishop Hart present for July 4th Mass)

1996-98-2000----- High school juniors and senior