

Douglas, St. James Bishop McGovern

[69] For many years before it became a parish the Douglas district was visited by missionaries.

The first priest known to have come to Douglas was the Rev. Patrick Brophy, then pastor of Chadron, Nebraska. He gives us this information of the early days: "I visited Douglas in 1887; at that time it was the end of the railroad. Mass was celebrated for the first time on Sunday, June 5th, in a public hall in the western part of town. I also said Mass at old Fort Fetterman, a little west of Douglas, on this occasion. The fort was then being dismantled.

"There was a fair number of Catholics at Douglas, mostly transients, who later moved west or east again as excitement subsided.

"When I was preaching the first Sunday a short-handled, heavy axe came flying through the door. The congregation became excited and was going to administer treatment. The poor fellow was on his way home to his dugout in a sandhill further west. This was a form of salutation in those 'wet early days'.

"I visited Douglas again in August, 1887, and said Mass in the same hall. At this time Wyoming became a diocese. During the first interregnum (1893-1897), I made another trip along the line and said Mass in [70] Lusk, Douglas, Glendo, Glenrock and Casper. My last trip was in 1896, a little while before the arrival of Bishop Lenihan, and just before I was transferred from northwest to northeast Nebraska. On this last trip to Douglas, I found no Catholics there and the town looked like Goldsmith's Deserted Village."

Another priest from Chadron, Nebraska, Rev. James Aherne, visited Douglas and vicinity following the transfer of Fr. Brophy. Fr. Aherne said Mass at Douglas, Lusk, Glenrock, Glendo and Casper in the period between November, 1896, and July, 1897. Other priests who visited Douglas were Rev. Francis J. Nugent and Rev. Frs. Quinn and Fitzgerald. These fathers made the trip to Douglas from Cheyenne about once a year.

In June, 1898, Most Rev. Thomas M. Lenihan, D.D., confirmed the four O'Brian girls, Margaret Ferguson and William Henry in the old town hall, then located at Third and Center streets.

In the early fall of 1898, Rev. James Keating, of Casper, entered into the life of Douglas, and erected a comfortable little church on Fifth and Cedar streets. The total cost of the church was \$875.45 of which amount the last payment was made in 1901.

During Fr. Keating's period of visits, Fr. Ignatius Lissner, a white priest from Africa, arrived in Douglas for a sojourn with relatives. During his visit Fr. Lissner attended to the spiritual needs of the [71] flock. Upon his return to the missionary field he presented the church with a beautiful gold chalice.

In November, 1902, Rev. George Bryant, of Casper, began to hold regular services at Douglas, as Fr. Keating had done. By the spring of 1905, Fr. Bryant had a class ready for confirmation, which was duly administered by the Most Rev. James J. Keane, D.D.

The increasing need of the people of Douglas for a resident pastor was brought to the attention of Bishop Keane. As a consequence he appointed Rev. Neil Brennan, former chaplain at Fort Douglas, as the first resident pastor of Douglas.

The next event of importance in the Douglas parish was the advent of Rev. Ignatius Berna, O.M.C., late in the year 1909. Fr. Berna, who had been sent to erect a new church and rectory, commenced his work in earnest. He selected a site, the two southeast lots on Fifth and Elm streets, for the church and rectory. This property, in addition to a seven room house, was bought from Harry LeBar for \$4,000.00, in October, 1910. Soon after, the old church was sold, and Mass was said in one of the rooms of the house. On Sundays an early Mass was said in the house and a later Mass was said in the lodge of the Unity Temple.

The spiritual care of Douglas was confided to the Order of Minor Conventuals by Bishop Keane Dec. 15, [72] 1910, and the Sacred Congregation of Religious confirmed his action Dec. 1, 1911.

With a permanent pastor in charge, the urge for a new church became acute and at a regular meeting July 1, 1912, the board of directors, composed of Fr. Berna, Michael Henry and Joseph Dunn, passed a resolution that the corporation authorize a note of \$5,000.00 to be issued for the purpose of erecting a church building.

Though earnestly planning for the new Douglas church, energetic Fr. Berna was not too busy to have more than one iron in the fire, and under his guidance a frame church building was erected at Lusk, Wyoming. Fr. Berna named the church St. Leo's, in honor of the Very Rev. Leo Greulich, provincial of the Minor Conventuals. The contract price was \$1,535.00. The windows cost \$165.00.

The corner stone of the new church at Douglas was laid Sunday afternoon at 2:30, October 14, 1912. Most Rev. P. A. McGovern was ill and unable to attend, but he delegated Fr. Berna to perform the ceremony. A concert of sacred music was given by the Third Regimental band, N.G., of Wyoming. A representative gathering attended the ceremony. Revs. George Bryant, James, O.M.C., and Dominic, O.M.C., were present.

The cost of the building during 1912 was \$6618.19; while the total amount of liabilities Jan. 1, 1913, was [73] \$9,263.64. Hence, in May, 1913, the board of directors again passed a resolution to borrow money, this time from the diocese of Cheyenne, to the amount of \$2,000.00, at an annual interest rate of six per cent. The purpose of this loan was to pay outstanding bills against the new church. In 1914 a steam heating-plant for both the church and house was installed at a cost of \$940.00, plus the freight. Since that year the congregation has paid off a minimum of \$1,000.00 annually.

St. Leo's church, at Lusk, was dedicated May 30, 1913, by the Most Rev. P. A. McGovern, D.D. The sacrament of confirmation was administered the same day.

Two days later the church of St. James, at Douglas, was dedicated by Bishop McGovern. A solemn high Mass was sung. Fr. James was celebrant, Fr. Ignatius, sub-deacon, and Fr. Dominic, deacon. His excellency, Bishop McGovern preached the sermon.

Leaving behind him a work well done, Fr. Ignatius was called to Utica, N. Y., September 23, 1913, by the provincial. On the day of Fr. Ignatius' departure Fr. Dominic was taken ill, and died October 6th. A solemn high Mass was sung for the repose of his soul. Fr. Dominic was ordained in Cheyenne by the Most Rev. James J. Keane, D.D., February 10, 1911. The eastern climate was not conducive to the recovery of Fr. Ignatius, who, suffering from tuberculosis, had [74] barely been able to speak above a whisper when he left Douglas. He died in Syracuse, N. Y., February 9, 1914, less than a year after he left Wyoming.

The latter part of 1913 found the Rev. James Hermes in charge of the missions entrusted to the care of the Franciscan fathers in Wyoming. He was assisted by the Revs. Isidore and Matthias. Fr. Hermes made many improvements and notable progress during his administration. His efficient service and civic interests made his departure in October, 1916, regrettable to the entire community, Catholics and Protestants alike. Fr. Matthias accompanied Fr. Hermes to his new pastorate at Broken Bow, Nebraska, as his assistant.

Fr. Isidore assumed charge and was given as his assistants, Revs. Cornelius and Benedict. In January of the following year Fr. Cornelius and Fr. Matthias exchanged places.

Notable achievements during Fr. Isidore's tenure were the building of a new church at Van Tassel and the introduction of the Forty Hours which has since been held every year in Douglas and at the principal missions, Lusk, Wheatland and Glenrock.

The church at Van Tassel, a simple frame structure, was built in June, 1917, at a cost of approximately \$2,500.00. The money was donated by the Catholic Church Extension Society. In 1918, improvements were made on the building at a cost of one hundred dollars. [75] In the intervening years the congregation has diminished from twenty-five to nine families.

Fr. Isidore was called away by his provincial, March, 1918, to accept a chaplaincy in the army. Fr. Matthias succeeded him until November, 1918, when he was replaced by Fr. Adolph. Fr. Adolph had as his assistants, Frs. Benedict and Matthias.

Most of the missions gave evidence of increasing prosperity at this time and it seemed a propitious moment to consider the construction of several new churches. Keeline and Glenrock were discussed as favorable locations. However, due to the exorbitant wartime prices of building material, construction was delayed until the summer of 1920. It had been decided in the meantime that Manville was the more suitable location instead of Keeline. In August, a \$3,500.00 church, St. Mary's, was dedicated. Before its erection divine services were held in the motion picture hall.

Manville did not retain its suggestion of prosperity for long. It gradually declined in population, the congregation vanished, and the bishop gave his consent for the moving of the church building to Lance Creek, eighteen miles north.

Another change was made in the personnel of St. James convent in August, 1919. Fr. Matthias was again called to Broken Bow, Nebraska, and Fr. Benedict was called to Terre Haute, Ind. They were [76] succeeded as assistants by Frs. Anacleto and Herman. Fr. Herman's stay was brief and he left in December for St. Francis College, at Floyd Knobs, Ind., and was replaced by Fr. George. On September 16th, Fr. Philip was sent to Douglas. There were now four fathers to care for the missions.

In the fall of 1921, construction of the new church at Glenrock began. It was completed by the end of January, 1922. Built of pressed brick the \$10,000.00 church was a handsome structure with a dignified exterior.

Changes were again made in the household of St. James convent in September, 1922. Frs. Philip and George were transferred to Chicago Heights and Washington, respectively, and Frs. Herman and Fidelis succeeded them. Two years later Fr. Anacleto was transferred to Terre Haute, Ind. Fr. Adolph was also transferred at this time to Seaside Park, N. J.

During the almost eight years of Fr. Adolph's regime much had been accomplished and new fields of missionary activity developed. It was during his administration that a resident priest was placed at Torrington in order to care for the newly-established orphanage, and the Franciscan fathers were relieved of that mission. Shortly after this change the bishop requested the fathers to take charge of Salt Creek mission, later called Midwest, a busy, thriving town in the heart [77] of the Salt Creek oil field, some fifty miles north of Casper.

Services were held in a large community recreation hall which was but poorly adapted for the purpose. Through the insistence of several prominent Catholic employees of the Midwest Oil Co., the officials of the company undertook to renovate the building. An alcove was built in the rear of the hall in addition to an annex which was to serve the purpose of a sacristy and sleeping room. The new addition was isolated from the rest of the hall by folding doors.

Here and in the neighboring Lavoye, Mass was said twice a month. The number of Catholics in attendance at these missions in the oil fields was as high as eighty families. After these missions had been attended by the fathers for a period of about two years it became necessary to add a third priest to the parish of Casper because of the increased Catholic population. This made it possible for the more advantageous arrangement of having the missions in the oil fields attended from Casper rather than from Douglas.

Fr. Adolph's successor, Fr. Theodore, was in Douglas for two years. In that time he lifted the debt on the St. James church, and procured a place of worship at Chugwater. The building, formerly a school house, was purchased for \$125.00 and converted into a church, which was dedicated in honor of the Little Flower.

[78] Fr. Theodore was transferred to Louisville, Ky., in September, 1928. Fr. Herman was appointed to succeed him in office. In 1928, the three fathers in charge of the missionary work were Frs. Herman, Fidelis and Ambrose. The total number of missions with churches was seven and of stations, three.

The history of the Wheatland mission begins in 1885, with the celebration of Mass by Rev. Francis Nugent at the home of Patrick Mullin (Laramie River). The first church was built by Rev. James Keating in 1898, and was later attended by Bishop Lenihan, Rev. James Duffy and various priests from Cheyenne and Casper. August 12, 1905, the church was incorporated, with Casper Rowse and John Mullin as lay trustees.

Rev. Patrick Long was resident pastor from February, 1907, to July, 1910. He also took charge of the missions: Guernsey, Sunrise, Hartville, Torrington and Glendo. The Franciscans represented by Fr. Ignatius Berna took Wheatland as a mission in 1910.

Glendo's mission history begins about 1889, when Rev. Francis Nugent visited Belwood (three miles from Glendo). Revs. James Keating and George Bryant followed. In 1900, the first church was built at a cost of \$800.00, which sum was paid at the time of building. Rev. George Bryant, of Cheyenne, was in charge. Rev. P. Long attended Glendo from Wheatland from 1907 to 1910. The congregation consisted of six families. [79] The Laughlin children were the first to be baptized in the new church and Mrs. Hoffman was the first convert. Prominent members were: Tom Freeney, Pat Freeney, James Moran, Pat Hall and Mrs. B. McDermot.

The first priest known to have visited Sunrise was Fr. Keating of Casper, who came about 1901. He was followed by Fr. Bryant, also of Casper. Rev. P. Long made regular visits from Wheatland until Fr. Ignatius Berna took over the missions.

Glenrock was first attended by Rev. Patrick Brophy on one of his visits through Wyoming. From 1912 it was regularly attended by the Franciscan fathers from Douglas.

Fr. Ignatius visited Flattop at the same time that he visited Manville. Mass was said monthly in the home of Kenneth Hughes. Names remembered among the early members are Frank Fahy, John Fahy, Patrick Fay and Jos. Foy.

Returning to affairs at Douglas, in August, 1929, Fr. Ambrose was transferred to Broken Bow, Nebr., and Fr. Bruno, newly ordained, came to fill his place. In Feb., 1931, Fr. Herman was moved to another field of labor, and was succeeded by Rev. Ignatius Hanley. During the latter's regime (1931-1939) vacation schools were held in various missions. Bishop McGovern donated a new automobile to the parish, in order to provide better service for the places attended from Douglas [80] (1935). He also secured a donation of \$300.00 for Glenrock, which, with an additional sum of \$300.00 raised by the people reduced the debt on their church to \$2,000.00 (1937). The following year the congregation was able to pay \$500.00 more on the debt.

In the year 1935, by reason of a change in the state highway, it was necessary to move the church at Glendo to a new location. Since Sept., 1938, Mass is celebrated there twice a month.

Due to the development of the Lance Creek oil fields, it was found necessary to have two Masses every Sunday in Lusk (1938).

Prior to 1937, the Catholics of Hartville and Sunrise, mostly of Italian extraction, had Mass in the latter town in a hall above the offices of the mining company. As the company needed the hall for more office room, the congregation secured the use of the Dante Alighieri meeting place in Hartville, but later were able to use the community church in Sunrise. In the beginning of 1937 Sunday services were increased from once to twice a month.

The Wheatland church property has been much improved in the last few years: curbing has been laid, a lawn planted, as well as trees and shrubs, the exterior of the church stuccoed, and a neat vestibule added to the front entrance. Spiritual progress has kept apace with the material; for now Mass is celebrated there [81] every Sunday, instead of twice a month, and the number approaching the sacraments has increased *pari passu*. The people of this mission are of various nationalities, with quite a percentage of Spanish-Americans, particularly during the sugar-beet season.

In July of 1939 Rev. Ignatius Hanley, O.M.C., was promoted to the responsible position of master of novices, and Rev. Lawrence Martin, O.M.C., was named pastor of Douglas and missions in his place, with the following staff of assistants, all Minor Conventuals: Revs. Othmar Miller, Martin Collet, and Bernard Miller. In 1940 the two latter were replaced by Revs. Andrew Maas and Gerald Biwer.

Confirmation was administered by Bishop McGovern in Douglas and missions in 1928 to 108 persons; and in 1934 to 161.

Statistics of baptisms and marriages are presented for 1939:

Baptisms	
Douglas	20
Wheatland	31
Lusk	21
Sunrise	5
Glenrock	3
Glendo	2
Total	82

Marriages	
Douglas	10
Wheatland	4
Lusk	3
Sunrise	3
Flattop	1
Total	21

History of Douglas Parish 1940 to 1950

[Archives Conventual Franciscan Friars Province of Our Lady of Consolation, Mount Saint Francis, Indiana 47146]

[p1]In August 1941, Father Gerald Biwer was transferred to San Jose Mexican Missions, Carlsbad, New Mexico. Father Henry Bethiaum came to Wyoming to assume Fr. Biwer's duties in the St. James Convent, Douglas, Wyoming.

Father Lawrence Martin, superior and pastor, was transferred to Waupum, Wisconsin, to serve as chaplain at the state prison in July, 1942. Father Andrew Maas was appointed superior and pastor of St. James Church, Convent and missions and took the office August 13, 1942, on which date he was duly approved and installed by the Most Rev. Patrick A. McGovern. Father[s] Roderic Oriams and Brenden Weishear came from Carlsbad, New Mexico, to fill the vacancies created by the transferrals of Fathers Lawrence Martin and Henry Berthiaume in July, 1942.

On March 6, 1943, Fr. Othmar Miller, who was in charge of St. Patrick's Church, Wheatland, Wyoming, was moved to Lusk, Wyo., to take charge of St. Leo's Church. Fr. Brendan Weishaer was given charge of Wheatland, Wyoming.

On March 13, 1943, Father Marcel Lell was sent by Very Rev. Anthony Hodapp, Provincial, to Douglas, Wyo. He replaced Fr. Roderic Oraiam, who was moved to another field of labor. On his arrival Father Marcel Lell was given St. Louis Mission of Glenrock and St. John Mission of Glendo to attend from Douglas.

On May 22, 1943, Fr. Brenden Weishaer was moved and Fr. Norbert Risley was sent to Douglas temporarily, by the Provincial and during his stay in Wyoming took care of the needs of Glenrock and Glendo missions, while Fr. Marcel Lell took care of Wheatland and missions.

On July 26, 1943, Fr. Ferdinand Gruss, formerly a professor in the Seminary at Mt. St. Francis, Indiana, was sent to Douglas. He was given charge of Wheatland and missions and Fr. Risley returned to his position at the same seminary. Early in 1944 plans were being formulated to build a church at the mission of Hartville-Sunrise which at the time was being cared for out of Wheatland. After securing permission from the Most Rev. P. A. McGovern, work on the new church in Hartville was begun in April, 1944. On June 9, 1944, Fr. Charles Zengel was sent to Douglas Convent, from Lansing, Michigan, by the Very Rev. Anthony Hodapp, Provincial. When the mission church at Hartville was in the process of completion, Fr. Charles Zengel was given charge of the mission. He became the first resident priest of Hartville.

Under the Pastorship of Rev. Andrew Maas, one Father was stationed to head each main Mission. This was done that more spiritual care could be given to the respective missions. Accordingly, in Nov. 1944, the position of the Fathers in Douglas Convent was as follows:

Very Rev. Andrew Maas, Pastor of St. James Church and Mission and Superior of St. James Convent, Douglas, Wyo.

Rev. Othmar Miller in charge of St. Leo's church, Lusk, Wyo. and missions and stations attached which were Lance Creek, Hat Creek, and Flat Top.

Rev. Ferdinand Gruss in charge of St. [p.2] Patrick's Church, Wheatland, Wyo and one Mission: St. Theresa's, Chugwater, Wyo.

Rev. Marcel Lell in charge of St. Louis Mission, Glenrock, Wyo. and St. John's Mission, Glendo, Wyo. Both are attended from Douglas, Wyo.

Rev. Charles Zengel in charge of St. Anthony's Church, Hartville, Wyo. and, at that time, attended the Army Camp at Guernsey, Wyo.

On October 22, 1944, Father Andrew Maas said Mass at the Prisoner of War Camp at Douglas and continued to say Mass there until such time that a German-speaking priest came to the Camp.

Early in 1943, \$615.00 was paid to clean up the balance of the debt on the St. Louis Mission Church of Glenrock.

The same Fathers are attending the missions, as noted above, under date of Nov. 1944, and the year 1946 drew to a close.

Early in the year 1947, word was received from the Most Rev. Bishop directing that Fr. Charles Zengel attend Glendo mission from Hartville, Wyo. Fr. Charles Zengel assumed charge of Glendo Mission, Easter Sunday, April 6, 1947. On July 11, 1947, Father Marcel Lell was moved to the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, Carey, Ohio, and the vacancy created was filled by Fr. Conrad Schweibold, newly-ordained priest who had arrived on June 21.

On August 5, 1947, the parish at Lusk was removed from the Friars Minor Conventuals and was taken over by the Diocese. However, the Most Rev. Bishop left Fr. Miller OFM Conv. on as temporary administrator of St. Leo's until a diocesan priest was available to replace him.

The year drew to a close with all the missions in Wyoming which are under the care of the Franciscan, having a mission for their people, conducted by the Missionary Fathers from Chicago, Ill.

After the Franciscan Provincial election in 1948, many changes were made in the West. Every Father, except Fr. Charles Zengel, was moved to other fields of labor. First to be transferred was Rev. Andrew Maas, who left Douglas to assume a pastorate in Angola, Indiana, on Sept. 12, 1948. Fr. Andrew made notable progress during his administration. His efficient service and civic interests made his departure regrettable to the entire community, Catholic and Protestant alike. He left a building fund which helped realize the building program for his successor. Fr. Andrew was replaced by the Very Rev. Bernadin Singleton, who came from Pismo Beach, Calif. He took over his pastoral duties in Douglas on Sept. 15, 1948. On Oct. 17, Fr. Conrad was moved to Pismo, Calif., and was replaced by Father Boniface Bianco, from the Mexican missions of Carlsbad, New Mexico.

In February 1949, Fr. Bernarlin Singleton drew up plans with Clinton Baker, architect, which were approved by the Most Rev. Bishop P.A. McGovern, D.D., and the Very Rev. Wenceslaus Hertvick, Provincial, for an addition to the rectory which would provide a hall for the parish and additional living quarters in the rectory.

[p3] At the same time plans were approved for a practical remodeling of the rectory when, after proper investigation, it was deemed inopportune to build a new rectory. At that time, plans were drawn up by the same architect to build a four-room apartment to the rear of St. Louis Mission Church, Glenrock, which was approved. Work on both places got under way on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. The pastor himself, with donated and paid labor, went to work on the addition and remodeling, completing the project in October. The hall was complete with rest rooms, stove, sink and other equipment. The rectory was papered, painted and a bathroom installed on the second floor. With a hall for the parish, many new activities are possible. The rectory is now adequate and comfortable.

The hall was dedicated and blessed by the Most Rev. Bishop H. Newell, D.D., co-adjutor, October 19, 1949, on the occasion of Confirmation.

Early in 1949 Father Bernadin Singleton organized and started two church societies --The Altar and Rosary Society and the Holy Name Society. That same Fall, he recruited the youngsters of the parish (grade school children) and initiated the Don Bosco Club. In May of 1949 the Militia of Mary Immaculate, a Franciscan confraternity was begun, starting off with 52 members. The first Sunday of the month was designated as Holy Communion Day for all the societies.

In December the sanctuary of St. James Church in Douglas was completely renovated. A new \$500.00 liturgical tabernacle was donated by a friend. The old altar was made conspicuous for its absence of bric-a-brac, new flooring was laid, a large altar crucifix was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Slonaker in memory of James Brady and new carpeting was donated for the sanctuary floor.

In July 1950 the windows of the church were repaired. They were releaded, broken panes replaced and braces put in. In October storm windows and doors were put on the rectory. A Christmas gift of \$5,000.00 was given to the church by Mrs. S.E. Morton; it was a generous and much appreciated gift.

On August 4, 1949 on the Feast of St. Dominic, open-house was held in Glenrock on the occasion of Fr. Boniface having completed the apartment. Practically the entire structure was put up by the attending priest. The apartment is estimated at \$4000.00, but it cost the parish \$1200.00 for materials. With the new living quarters the priest now often says mass on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, affording the parishioners the opportunity to practice their faith more fully. During the year the entire sanctuary in the St. Louis Mission Church was completed and remodeled. The sanctuary was painted and all the gingerbread cut away from the Altar. New velvet drapes were given for the entire church by Mrs. Cal Chapman, in memory of her father, Mr. James Corsello. A three-foot altar crucifix, hand-painted, was donated by Mrs. Elizabeth Kimball, in memory of her father, Mr. James Kimball. A liturgical

tabernacle was donated by Mrs. Myron Spencer. As a Christmas present to the church, a friend donated storm windows for all the windows.

[4] Spiritual progress has kept pace with the material in Douglas and Glenrock and the number approaching the sacraments has increased about 400 percent in the past ten years. The children of the parish are instructed weekly by the Fathers with the assistance of two lay teachers. During the summer months, a two week's vocational school is provided. Statistics for the past ten years for Douglas parish are as follows:

Baptisms: Infants 190 Converts 38

Deaths: Infants 14 Adults 31

Marriages: Catholic 23 Mixed 33 Validations 11

First Communion 171

Confirmations 118

**ST. JAMES CHURCH
DOUGLAS
1950-1959**

[p.1] [Archives of the Conventual Franciscan Friars Province of Our Lady of Consolation]

10 year History 1 Jan. 1950 - 31 Dec 1959

1950

The decade opened with the Rev. Bernardin Singleton, O.F.M. Conv., being Pastor, having been appointed in August, 1948. An elaborate polished bronze tabernacle costing \$500.00 was donated to the Church by the late Mrs. Gene Payne.

1951

A new roof was installed on the Church, Hall and Rectory and definite plans were formulated for purchasing a new organ for the Church, finally installed in the following year at the cost of \$1,265.00 paid for by individual contributions of the parishioners.

1952

A Catechist fund was started to make way for a Catechist Center here as soon as possible. Contacts were made to acquire the services of Sisters for this work. The block rosary was initiated in the parish with the rosary being recited in homes, one in north and another in the south side of town -- on Monday nights. Later this was changed to have the rosary in the parish church every Monday instead of in the homes of individual parishioners. During September a Mission was held in the parish for the spiritual good of all the parishioners. 1953

Confirmation was administered in the Parish on May 1st with 28 boys and girls along with 10 adults in the class. From the Catechist Fund -- in that year of 1953 the lot north of the Church was purchased for \$2,500.00 for a Catechist center in the future. The lot had one small house and another building in the rear and the lot was 60' X 140'.

1952/1954

During the year a grotto, very devotional and beautiful, in Honor of the Blessed Mother was built out of native rock and located between the Church and rectory.

[p.2]

1954

In August 1954 the Rev. Martin Collet, O.F.M. Conv., arrived as the new Pastor of Douglas. Continued efforts were made to secure Catechist Sisters but due to the shortage of their members, Douglas was compelled to wait until more Sisters were available. The Fund being almost depleted by the purchase of the property in 1952 slowly increasing being deposited in a savings account in the local bank.

1955

The Bishop's Fund Campaign, conducted in all the parishes of the Diocese brought in quite an extra income. These extra funds and the present amount of the Catechist Fund were now invested in the Guaranty Federal Savings & Loan Assn. of Casper at 3 ½% for use on a future Catechist Center or school.

By agreement between the Most Rev. Bishop of the Diocese and the Minister Provincial of the Franciscans, Hartville and Glendo, Missions of Douglas since 1910 was made a Parish of Hartville under a Diocesan Pastor. A Mission conducted by the Rev. Mark Mindrup, O.F.M. Conv., during September of that year.

1956

On April 23, 1956, the Most Rev. Hubert Newell, D.D., administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 34 children and 11 adults of the parish. The religious vacation school this year was conducted by the Franciscan Sisters from Aspirant School at Alliance, Nebraska.

1957

On May 21, 1957, the present pastor, the Rev. Martin Collet, O.F.M. Conv., celebrated the Silver Jubilee of ordination. Due to the limited space in the parish church, the Solemn Mass was celebrated in the auditorium of the north side grade school. A large reception and dinner took place in the spacious Veterans Building. The Most Rev. Bishop along with scores of priests, both Diocesan and Franciscan graced the occasion with their presence. Parishioners not only from Douglas but [p.3] also from Lusk, Glendo, Hartville, Wheatland, Chugwater and other local communities were in attendance. A downpour of much needed rain dampened the day but filled all with a spirit of thankfulness and of hope for the future – after a long period of dryness.

1958

The Flynn property, west of and facing the Church and rectory was purchased for \$12,000.00. Consisting of two lots with a total space of 120' x 140' this property seemed more appropriate for the Catechist Center than the one lot previously purchased. For the present, the main house is being rented.

1959

Glenrock, a Mission of Douglas since 1910 was erected into a parish and a Diocesan priest was appointed its first Pastor. Confirmation by the Most Rev. Bishop of the diocese was administered to 30 children and 9 adults of Douglas along with 2 adults and 4 children from Glenrock. With the gracious permission of the Most Reverend Bishop evening Mass on both Sundays and Holydays was inaugurated as a help toward regular Mass attendance making it possible for those obligated to work during the regular morning hours to attend Mass -- also affording more opportunities for recreation on weekends.

St. James
The parish history for St. James Church of Douglas
for the years 1970 - 1980 inclusive follows:

The seventies began with Fr. Sean Farren as the pastor. Sister Barbara and Sister Eloise of the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement assisted in parish affairs, including teaching religion to the Catholic children of Douglas and promoting many senior citizen activities. [See Addenda from Eloise below.]

The 160 families which comprised the parish in 1970, grew to 210 in 1977, and to 250 in 1980.

The decade can truly be characterized as ecumenical at St. James. Inter Church Youth, known by the initials I.C.Y., was a high school group made up of youths from the Catholic, Congregational, Episcopal and Methodist churches. Ministers from those same four churches also held inter church services during Lent, on Good Friday, and on Thanksgiving Day. Younger children of the parish joined in with those of the other churches for an inter church liturgy at least once a year.

A parish council was formed in 1971, lasting about two years, when it petered out. It was not revived until the end of 1980. We have high hopes for it.

The two societies, which functioned continually through the decade, were the Altar and Rosary Society and the Guadalupe Society. The Guadalupe Society was made up of the Spanish-speaking members of the parish, both men and women. Each April and each December (on or near the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe), they put on a Fiesta consisting of Mass, Mexican dinner and dance. They also gave \$400.00 scholarship each year to a graduating senior. During the year, they also held tamale sales, and so on.

The Altar and Rosary Society served coffee and rolls after the ten o'clock Mass to the parish once a month for all those years until 1978. During these years, they also had a nursery during the 10 a.m. Mass.

In 1971, a parish raffle was started bringing in \$1700, which was applied to the debt on the Center, leaving an unpaid balance of \$9800. This was finally paid off in 1978.

In March of 1972, the first Irish Smorgasbord was held on St. Patrick's Day. Everyone in the parish was responsible for something, whether it was cooking, decorating, setting up tables, entertaining, cleaning up, donating, etc. Each year the celebration grew until the Center couldn't hold all those who wanted to come. It is interesting to note that tickets for the first dinner cost \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for children, whereas the cost of a ticket in 1978, the last year it was held, was \$5.00 for adults.

In 1972, ground was broken for the Senior Citizens housing project, Irwin Towers. Our church, spearheaded by Sr. Eloise, was very active in helping senior citizens via picnics, card parties, and health clinics.

A coffee and bible hour was begun in 1972. In the summer, a Mass and picnic was held. At the end of 1972, St. James had spent \$23,536.64.

In 1973, highlights included a Gay Nineties Night in February with pie, ice cream, and all kinds of entertainment, all in a Gay Nineties motif.

Confirmation was held that year. In May, Sister Barbara was given a farewell reception and Sister Maria del Rey arrived to take her place.

The name of Altar and Rosary was changed to Douglas Catholic Women (DCW). They instituted an annual Debt Reduction Drive, which took in \$1,012.93.

A Big Brothers group was organized by Fr. Farren. It, too, was ecumenical. They had dinners and other outings.

A liturgical board was organized which directed special masses and other events of parish worship.

A special method was devised to keep the church financially solvent. Ranchers would donate a calf, raise it, and when it was sold, the money went to the church.

During 1974, the Knights of Columbus were organized with both Douglas and Glenrock participating. An initiation ceremony was held February 24, 1974. In September, they sponsored a Hunters' Smorgasbord at the American Legion.

Parishioners voted in March to allow Head Start to rent two rooms of the Center. In May, Irwin Towers apartments was dedicated and opened for senior citizens.

The CYO was holding supper meetings once a month, while the ICY (Interchurch youth) was still going strong. A Young Couples Club flourished also. They had pot luck suppers followed by discussions.

At this time, the four churches (Catholic, Congregational, Episcopal, and Methodist), got together to start the White Elephant, using the old garage in back of the Catholic Church. Parishioners contributed clothes and household goods, which were then sold at a low cost to anyone who wished to buy.

A carry-in dinner for newcomers was held in October and this idea has been continued into the 1980's.

The annual Community Thanksgiving Service acquired a new member church, the Assembly of God.

In 1975, Confirmation was held again. A CYO choir and an adult choir were formed. In September, three lay teachers joined the two sisters in teaching religion. James Dominguez donated his labor and material to finish the ceiling in the Center, a project that had been contemplated for many years.

1976 was the bicentennial year. St. James had a colorful bicentennial Mass in February. The interchurch Lenten services also were on the bicentennial theme. In March, a Latin Mass was presented. It was a High Mass complete with singing and ceremony.

The bicentennial theme surfaced again in August with a mass at the fairgrounds. A reception followed in the armory. This year, the congregation voted to let the Lutherans, as well as the Mormons use the Center. Expenditures amounted to \$33,524.25 in 1976. The debt on the Center was down to \$1850. The church purchased the Epperly house and lot which is located next to our parking lot.

In Lent during the year of 1977, the Bishops of the four churches involved, all spoke at the church of his denomination after a carry in dinner of interchurch people. Bishop Newell represented the Catholics.

In 1977, Sister Eloise was joined by Sister Jeroma, who became moderator of the CYO.

The biggest news of the year was that in September, the parishioners voted to hire an architect to inspect the present structures and prepare a report to address the present and future needs of St. James parish. Each family was to donate \$10.00 to pay for this report.

Andrea Parnett became choir and musical director and we, at last, had professional direction.

The debt reduction drive had as its goal \$1850 to pay off the debt in full. At the end of 1977, the church had spent \$43,103.13.

In 1978, the last St. Patrick's Day dinner made \$1636 profit. Parish life continued with DCW, Guadalupe Society, K of C, ICY, CYO, Prayer Meeting Group, Interchurch Lenten series, and various other get-togethers, i.e., May Fellowship Day (salad luncheon), graduation Mass for seniors, brunch for First Communicants, Mothers Day breakfast by K. of C.

Bishop Hart, newly appointed Bishop of the Diocese, came to speak to the CYO.

In August of 1978, Fr. Phillip Colibraro took over as pastor. The sisters did not return and their old house was made into the rectory. The old rectory was to be removed.

The Mormons no longer used the Center as their new church was being built. The newly elected Pope Jean Paul I died after only one month as Pope. He was succeeded by Jean Paul II, the first Polish Pope ever.

The DCW changed its name to St. James Council of Catholic Women. In December, a new Catholic Singles Group organized. The cash balance at the end of 1978 was \$3,209.82.

In 1979, adult religion classes were held. Lay women took over the religion school entirely, except for high school, which was taught by Fr. Colibraro. Confirmation was held in February.

A meeting was held with Bishop Hart on building plans for a new church. The population of Douglas had about tripled and the parish was bursting at the seams. The vote showed parishioners 5 to 1 in favor of building in the present location rather than building in the outer area of town. A Finance Committee of nine persons and a Building Committee of ten persons was formed. The Building Committee interviewed and selected architect, Keith Ames of Longmont, Colorado. The building Fund Campaign began in August and concluded in September, with \$500,000 as its goal. In September, \$171,000 in pledges was promised with \$26,603.25 in down payments. These figures have continued to go up with the latest amounts as of November 30, 1980, being: Pledges - \$215,178.80 and down payments of \$39,440.09. The rectory, which was planned along with the church, will not be built at this time because of finances.

The Driver's License Bureau moved out of the Center where it had rented space for some years.

In 1979, the White Elephant closed and that garage was torn down. The old church was also torn down, with some parishioners taking mementos of bricks and shrubbery. In September, we moved into the Center for Masses until February or March of 1981, when the new church will be completed. Six new Ministers of the Eucharist were added to the six who were appointed two years ago.

St. James now contributes to the Good Samaritan Fund run by the four churches. Indigent persons go to the police department and are given help of gas, food, and lodging made possible by the churches.

In 1980, the usual financial report was changed to July to conform with the new fiscal year of the parish.

During the interim until we can move to our new church, funeral dinners will be held at the Methodist Hall or the Moose Lodge or the American Legion hall. The Spring Deanery meeting was held here at the Methodist Hall. The Epperly house was moved, making more room for the new church site.

Bids were opened for the new church in May. Russell Construction of Douglas was low bidder at \$507,385.

In June of 1980, Glendo parish reverted to a mission of Guernsey as it had traditionally been until a few years ago. Father no longer has to provide a Mass there every week. Also in June, Head Start moved out of the Center after six years.

The June audit showed expenditures for the year ending June 30, 1980, to be L\$106,116.63. Receipts were \$197,408.80.

September saw the 50th anniversary of St. Joseph Children's Home in Torrington. Many parishioners helped St. Joseph's enjoy the celebration.

In November, the formation of a parish council was announced, consisting of nine men and women and two trustees. St. James church again joined in the community Thanksgiving Service at the high school auditorium.

Actually, the ten years ends in 1979, but a bit of 1980 will serve to give the whole thing continuity for the next historian.

Addenda from Eloise (2006):

“ Not only did I work with seniors, but I started the Senior Citizen Organization for the Community of Douglas and during my tenure as director we applied and received community funding. Six years after the organization's inception we received government funding. When we received the government funding I then turned the center over to a new director. By this time I had started a Health Clinic and a Dollar A Month Club for Seniors, which helped purchase the station wagon for transportation for seniors and a Meals On Wheels program. I was Director of the Inter-Church Religious Education Program and Secretary on the Board of Church Women United. I was on the Inter-Church Ministerial staff, conducted services, preached, did visitations and counseling, initiated radio broadcasting for the annual community Thanksgiving dinner and conducted the Inter-Faith Good Friday service. I assisted in assembling a Community Calendar of monthly events for the town paper. As a liaison person for the community I worked to get the elderly out to vote for a much needed elementary school which the elderly had been against in the past. I initiated and produced the St. Patrick's Concert for the community, as well as other concerts, Children's Carnivals, and all other community concerts sponsored by St. James Parish. And I was also a board member of the Community Cultural Program.”

Douglas 1980-1990
St. James
Rev. Philip Colibraro

1. Names of clergy & religious serving during the decade and dates of service:
Rev. Philip Colibraro

2. Notable accomplishments by lay leaders and parishioners:(give dates)

Gene Payne served as Mayor of Douglas in the 70's. He was instrumental in development of both senior citizens housing complexes. The last one was named Payne Plaza to honor him.

Larry Gubbels served on the Town Council.

Rosemary Tikka was representative to the Casper Deanery on the Diocesan Pastoral Council from 1979 to 1983.

Jim Read was elected County Treasurer, 1984-1992.

Ben LeVasseur was the recipient of the first "Distinguished Rancher Award" in 1982 by the Chamber of Commerce.

John Pexton was elected as County Commissioner, 1984 to present.

Margaret LeVasseur was honored as the first recipient of the Douglas Human Resources Council for her community work.

Pierre Nichols was elected to the Diocesan Pastoral Council, 1984-1987.

Mike Sullivan was elected Governor of Wyoming, 1986-1992. He was raised in Douglas and his parents still live here.

Jim Twiford was elected to the State Senate, 1986 to present.

Mary Burkhart was selected as Catholic "Woman of the Year" at the Casper Deanery.

Lillian Schmidt reached her 100th birthday in March 1989.

Mary Nachtman was recognized for her volunteerism by the Douglas community.

Through the decade, the following have been elected to various positions: Town Council: Larry Gubbels (1982); Jerry Zimmerman (198?); and Pat Hand (198?). County Commission: Justin Werner and John Pexton. School Board: Paul Nozicka, Jim Hinton, Rosemary Tikka and Robert Cross.

3. Notable accomplishments by the clergy and religious during the decade: (give dates)

Every year, our church joins with the Congregational, Episcopal, Lutheran, and Methodist for a Thanksgiving service. The Douglas Clergy Association consists of the pastors of the above churches and sponsors the White Elephant Thrift Shop and the Good Samaritan Fund, which gives out food, bus tickets, gasoline, overnight rooms, etc., through the police department.

Fr. Phillip Colibraro celebrated his Silver Jubilee in June 1982.

4. Construction - new or remodeling: (give dates)

Bishop Hart gave permission for St. James parish to build a new church on February 15, 1980. It is to cost not over \$500,000.

The old church was demolished and the new church is to be constructed on the same site. We used the basement of our church center across the street as a church during the building. Funeral dinners were served at the Methodist church center, the Moose Lodge, or the American Legion hall.

The architects were Ames & Associates. Bid opening was May 9, 1980, and the contract was awarded to Russell Construction.

Building Committee consisted of: Richard Cross, George Ovecka, Theresa Grohs, Gene Risha, Don Higgins, Pat Sprauer, Charles Hendricks, Mary Velasquez, Art Jones, and Dorothy Klements.

Executive Board: Betty Tillard, Gene Payne, Lucille Combs, Bill and Dolly Meehan, and Jim and Nancy Hinton.

Finance Committee: Nancy Hinton, Bev Jeffrey, Alice Leman, Tom Leman, Bill Meehan, David Ovecka, Gene Payne, and Vance Sprecher.

5. Land acquisitions: (give dates) None.

6. Lay Trustees and term of service for each:

Leo Krieger - appointed 1979 (moved away in 1980).

Gene Payne - appointed 1979 (moved away in 1992).

Lucille Combs - appointed 1980 to 1992.

7. Pastor's overview of the decade:

8. Significant Parish events and programs: (give dates)

1980: Building construction begins. Head Start leaves Center after six years and thanks us. Sept. – Catholic Church to accept married Episcopal priests. Oct. – “Topping Off Ceremony” - raising of the new cross on the new church. Nov. – Parish Council is formed, consisting of: Vance Sprecher, Agnes Higgins, Cherie Daly, Bob Owens, Gene Risha, Mac Payne, Richard Cayer, Scott Barber and Hanni Russell. Dec. – Bible Study group is formed. Guadalupe Society dinner and dance is held in Glenrock. Dec. – Midnight Mass is held in the unfinished new church – no pews, no ceiling.

1981: March - First Annual Diocesan Assembly held in Casper. Tuesday, April 28, 1981 – Dedication of the new church takes place at 7:30 p.m. The church seats 515 people. June – Parish Council constitution was approved. Dec. 6 – Bishop Arthur Tafoya of Pueblo, Colorado came for Our Lady of Guadalupe Fiesta Mass and Reception. Mariachi Band played.

1982: This is the Year of Eucharistic Splendor. Feb. – Congratulations to the First United Methodist church as they consecrate their new church addition. Pastor Randall and Bishop Melvin Wheatley officiate. St. James catholic women serve at the reception. June – Eucharistic Congress Mass was held at the Casper Events Center with Pio Laghi, the Apostolic Delegate

present. Father Colibraro celebrated his Silver Jubilee. July – New members of the parish council are Nancy Hinton, Jim Twiford, and Bill Leman. September 14 – Time to vote...

1983: March 1983 to Easter of 1984 is Holy Year. April – ABC TV network aired a documentary on Pope John Paul II. Oct. – Passionist fathers gave a week long mission in the parish. Nov. – RENEW will begin in fall of 1984 and in preparation, a core group was formed: June Wilchek, Ron Laible, and Donna York. In the Revised Code of Canon Law, annulments in the church are looked at again and made clearer. Also, every parish must now have a finance committee. So the following were appointed: Vance Sprecher, Jim Felton, Rob Thurman, Paul Nozicka, Judy Foster, and Jerry Zimmerman.

1984: Feb. – Statue of St. Maximilian Kolbe was placed in the church. March – First ecumenical prayer service takes place in the new church – Catholic, Methodist, Episcopal, Congregational, and Lutheran. June – Air conditioning was added to the church. August – Our church was used by Bishop Bob G. Jones, Episcopal Bishop of Wyoming, for the funeral services (and reception following) for Fr. Jim Wolfkiel, the Douglas Episcopal priest who died. New parish council was appointed: Agnes Higgins, Mike Camino, June Wilchek, Dave Schlosser, and Cherie Daly. Sept. – As an experiment, confirmation will now be delayed until junior and senior years of high school. RENEW begins a three-year program.

1985: Feb. – Season II of RENEW begins. April – Bishop Newell underwent spinal fusion in Denver. June – White Elephant Shop is moved to 102 N. 2nd Street. Sept. – Diocesan Assembly is held in Casper. Oct. Season III of RENEW begins.

1986: Jan. – The U.S. bishops are preparing a pastoral letter on the role of women in the church. Discussion was held at Alice Butler's home. May – Register will be published only once a month instead of once a week. June – Families are still moving out frequently because of lack of work here. July – In 1886, the Statue of Liberty was unveiled. Centennial celebration in New York. Sept. Fifth and final season of RENEW on evangelization.

1987: March – Casper Deanery of DCCW meeting is held in Douglas. World Day of Prayer luncheon is hosted by St. James' women. June – Fr. Colibraro celebrated thirty years as a priest with a reception after Mass. July – Two 95 year old parishioners die: Alzire Cross and Charles Bauman. Aug. – Diocese celebrated 100 years in Wyoming at a Centennial Mass in Casper. The diocese was created before Wyoming was even a state. Statehood was achieved in 1890. Sept. – Pope John Paul tours the United States. Phoenix, Arizona, is the closest he gets to Wyoming. The Passionist Fathers hold a parish mission.

1988: March – Funeral is held for Margaret Sullivan, the Governor's mother. The Sullivan family gives memorial to building fund. May – Vision statement is voted in for St. James parish. July – Parish council consists of Bill Klements, Bunny Litzinger, Pierre Nichols, Tony Raba, and Linda Uttenhove. Aug. – The Marian Year closes.

1989: Jan. – AIDS Ministry begun. Feb. – Confirmation is held for 20 students. April – Holy Name Society is formed to foster spiritual growth and activities for men. Aug. – more people are

moving out, including teachers. Nov. – Bellringers come to play music at Mass again. New order of Christian Funeral is promulgated.

1990: Jan. – CCW decided not to secede from Church Women United when it was proven to their satisfaction that CWU did not advocate abortion as some members had thought. July – Alcoholics Anonymous were asked to move to another place after renting the parish Center for weekly meetings for 15 years. July 3 – Fr. Phillip Colibraro left to be co-priest at Our Lady of Fatima church in Casper. July 8 – Farewell open house for Fr. Colibraro. Twelve years under Fr. Colibraro: 86 weddings; 118 funerals; 386 baptisms; 640 Masses for people of St. James; 2,450 weekday Masses. The building debt is now down to \$178,000.

July 11 – Father John Murray came to be our new Pastor (from Saratoga). A.A. continues to rent parish Center for weekly meetings. Sept. – Instituted Candeliers. DCCW Deanery meeting in Douglas; 70 women, 7 priests, and Bishop Hart attended. Oct. – Bible Study organized at the rectory. Men of the Catholic, Episcopal, Congregational, Methodist and Church of Christ met to remodel old City Hall for the White Elephant thrift shop. Adult choir was formed under the direction of Dave Anderson. Nov. – Thanksgiving Ecumenical service was held at St. James. Prayers for service people in the Middle East (on the verge of war). Dec. – Guadalupe Society held a dance and sold Mexican food.

[Table of Statistics about Sacraments not scanned. Ed.]

Douglas 1990-2000
St. James
Rev. Andrew Duncan, Pastor
Betsy Flaherty, Administrative Assistant
July 2000

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

As the year 1990 began, Fr. Philip Colibraro was finishing his service of more than a decade to St. James Parish. Fr. John Murray was assigned pastor of St. James in July of 1990 and remained here until May of 1998; at that time Fr. Andrew Duncan began serving as pastor.

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

Ruth Risha began doing the parish bookkeeping for Fr. John Murray in 1990 and would continue until 1996. William McAnelly took over for Ruth until his transfer in the fall of 1997. Betsy Flaherty volunteered to help out after Bill's transfer and was hired part-time by Fr. Duncan in June of 1998 to be the Parish Administrative Assistant.

In June of 1999, Steve Titus was hired by the parish as Youth Minister. Along with Youth Ministry he worked as Director of Religious Education. But his biggest challenge would come in organizing a state pilgrimage for World Youth Day 2000.

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

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

November 1997 a new steel roof was installed on the Parish Center. In August of 1999, remodeling of the front classroom in the Parish Center was begun. The end wall along the hall was partially removed and moved back to form a reception area and the remaining room was divided to form two offices. The front and larger area was made into an office for the pastor and the Youth Minister would use the second office. At the same time, the existing office once used by the Director of Religious Education., was painted and refurbished as a secretarial office to be used by the Administrative Assistant. A phone system was put into use in the parish center along with provisions for linking the computers.

5. Land acquisitions, (Give dates,)

After hiring a Parish Youth Minister, it was found that housing was in short supply in Douglas. A small two bedroom home was found within a block of the church and purchased for \$22,000.00 in July of 1999.

6. Lay Trustees and term of service for each.

In 1990 the Parish Trustees were Lucille Combs and Gene Payne Jr. Lucille Combs' service began in 1980 and would continue till her death in December 1996. Gene Payne became a Trustee in 1979 and would continue until 1991 when he moved. Then Jim Caldwell was appointed. Jim would serve for only one year; he died in 1993. In 1993 Gene Risha was appointed and he served until 1999. Mary Nachtman was appointed in January of 1997, after

Lucille's death, and would serve until 2000. Billie Engleman was appointed in 1999 and John Pexton in 2000.

7. Pastor's overview of the decade.

It was a good decade, an ecumenical prayer group met weekly in the Church. The Guadalupe Society continued to meet regularly after being reformed in 1990. Weekly Holy Hours were begun during the Desert Storm war and then continued after the war ended. Mass attendance was pretty good; daily Mass attendance also. Two parish missions were held, one, a Franciscan priest from the east and one a charismatic priest with a healing ministry. He was from Canada. Fr. John Murray [?].

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

The burning of the mortgage from the construction of the new church in 1980 took place at the annual Christmas Dinner in 1996, which was held in the church basement for the first time with the completion of the kitchen facilities. Financially the Parish has had a good decade with the retiring of the debt and the investment of \$70,000.00 with the Diocese in July of 1998 to be used in the future for a new parish rectory.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Glendo Mission

Our Lady of Lourdes began the decade as a mission of the Guernsey Parish, St. Anthony. Fr. Bernard Bianco drove twice a month to Glendo until his retirement in the summer of 1990. Our Lady of Lourdes was then assigned to the Douglas Parish, St. James. Fr. John Murray drove down to Glendo the first and Third Sundays to celebrate Mass. When Fr. Murray left Douglas in 1998, Fr. Andrew Duncan continued to drive down for Mass.

Ann Foy and Robert Hytrek are the trustees for Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. Robert Twiford was appointed a trustee in November 1974, and continued until his death in 1995, Ann Foy was then appointed. Robert Hytrek was appointed trustee in July 1988 and continues to serve.

In 1988 a lease agreement was entered into between Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and the Services for Seniors Program of Platte County. The Services for Seniors would provide meals and related services to and for the elderly of the Glendo area, and pay the electricity and gas used by the Catholic Church in lieu of rent.

In the summer of 1999 new wooden louvered shades were installed in the hall to replace the old drapes and new storm windows also installed on the hall.

In 1999, after many years of not having classes, religious education classes began. There were nine elementary students who attended, with two making their First Holy Communion.