

**PARISH HISTORY OF THE CHURCH
OF OUR LADY OF PEACE
PINEDALE. WYOMING
1950-1960**

The parish of Our Lady of Peace in Pinedale, Wyoming, was formally established on October 9, 1953. Father Charles A. Bartek was appointed the first pastor. It was made up of the two mission churches of Our Lady of Peace in Pinedale and St. Anne's in Big Piney. It comprises the whole County of Sublette in Wyoming.

Before the parish was established Father Albin Gnidovec of Rock Springs took care of the Church in Pinedale and Father John J. O'Connor and assistants of Kemmerer took care of the Church in Big Piney. Mass was said in these two churches once or t a month as the occasion offered itself.

At first the pastor lived in a motel and then was able to rent a home. The Catholic Extension Society of America with headquarters in Chicago, Illinois, helped greatly in furnishing the two Churches.

On April 7, 1955 a log home consisting of five rooms and a bath on three city lots was purchased for the price of \$8,990.00.

On September 16, 1956, the Knights of Columbus Council located in Rock Springs donated a chalice to the parish in memory of their deceased members.

Plans were made to move the Church to the new property and after the foundations were built the Church was finally moved on March 25, 1957.

August 14, 1957 was the completion date of the building of a two-car garage on the parish property.

Soon the need of a new Church was necessary because of the increase of the number of families and the smallness of the old church. So on November 4, 1959, ground was broken for this new building. It will be built at the cost of \$45,000.00 and the builder is Cyril J. Wassenberg Construction Company of Jackson, Wyoming. Kellogg and Kellogg Architects of Rock Springs drew up the working plans. It will be of native stone construction and will seat 200 people. It will be attached to the present church which will serve as a parish hall. The Catholic Church Extension Society of America was a great donor to this Church with a gift of \$10,000.00. Through the efforts of Father William McCormick a good Catholic of the Diocese has donated \$15,000.00. The new Church will be dedicated in July with the Most Reverend Hubert M. Newell, D.D., in charge.

**10 Year History of Parish
1960-1970
Our Lady of Peace, Pinedale
Mission, Big Piney
(for more Big Piney history see separate history)**

July 19, 1960, was the date of dedication of a fine new church in Pinedale. Cost of the new church was \$50,000 of which Extension Society donated \$9,750. Dr. G.B. Savory of Cheyenne donated \$10,000 and Robert Connigan of Cheyenne donated \$5,000. By Aug., 1962 the parish was debt free.

On February 25, 1962, Mass was offered for Rev. Patrick McGovern, killed in a car accident in Colorado, February 23.

On Sept. 28-30, 1962, a parish mission was conducted by Rev. Edmund Placek of Omaha.

June 9, 1963, Mass was offered for the soul of Pope John XXIII.

On Sept. 23, 1963, Pinedale hosted its first DCCW deanery Meeting.

Rev. William Cartwell conducted a parish mission Nov. 13-15, 1963.

Nov. 24, 1963, Mass was offered for President John F. Kennedy shot to death on Nov. 22.

On Oct. 30, 1964, Father Charles Bartek announced that he was being transferred to Douglas. He had served the churches in Pinedale and Big Piney for 11 years.

Rev. Thomas O'Flannigan arrived in September of 1964.

A CCD Teacher Training Course was conducted Oct. 18-22, 1965, by Sister Delores Ann from the Cheyenne office.

Rev. James O'Connell, CSSR, conducted a parish mission Nov. 21-Dec. 4, 1965.

The second part of the CCD Teacher Training Course was conducted by Sister Delores Ann from the Cheyenne office, Jan. 24-28, 1966. The third part of the course was held April 18-22. Receiving certificates for 50 hours training and doctrine were: Dr. E.B. Burgoon, Bernadette Gosar, Lyle Gurney, and Bette Healey. Receiving certificates for the doctrine course were: Vivian Claytor, Dennis Codella, Allene Job, Helen Sheffy, Ivan Sheffy and Robert Linn.

Rev. Thomas O'Flannigan directed a Pinedale Little Theatre play, "Blyth Spirit."

Rev. Gilbert Callahan arrived Oct. 21, 1966, replacing Father O'Flannigan. Father Callahan was installed by Rt. Rev. Msgr. Albin Gnidovec, Nov. 6, 1966. (Rev. Owen C. Weitzel, a Paulist from Layton, Utah, attended the parish as Father Callahan's vacation substitute from April 29-May 14, 1967.)

A high point in Big Piney history occurred May 31, 1967 when Rev. Melvin F. Thompson, of Big Piney was ordained a priest at the Big Piney Grade School. Most Rev. Leo C. Byrne of Wichita, Kansas, was the ordaining bishop. Father Thompson's First Solemn Mass was celebrated at St. Anne's Church, Big Piney, June 1, 1967.

In December, 1967, Our Lady of Peace Altar Society, Pinedale, won the Pinedale Christmas Pole decorating contest.

In March of 1968 Our Lady of Peace hosted a World Day of Prayer potluck luncheon for all the churches of Pinedale.

(Rev. Frederick Draeger, Paulist, from Layton, Utah, attended the parish as Father Callahan's vacation substitute from April 20-28, 1968.)

An outside 30inch marble statue (Italy) of Our Lady of Peace with Child, donated by a Boston donor, was blessed Dec. 8, 1968.

The interior of the Pinedale church was painted February 16, 1969.

(Rev. J.A. Farrell, Paulist, from Layton, Utah, attended the parish as Father Callahan's vacation substitute from April 12-20, 1969.)

Rev. John Murray arrived in Pinedale, August 27, 1969, to become the parish's fourth resident pastor. Father Callahan resided at St. Philomena's parish, Denver. He had suffered a nervous breakdown and was an outpatient at St. Joseph's Hospital, Denver.

Oct. 15, 1969, Father Callahan suffered a mild heart attack in Denver.

Returning from an Altar and Rosary meeting in Big Piney the night of Oct. 15, 1969, Father Murray hit a moose with his car ½ mile north of Daniel. He was uninjured, the right side of his car was demolished, and the bull moose was killed.

An historical day was Nov. 16, 1969, when the Blessed Sacrament was reserved in a side tabernacle in St. Anne's Church, Big Piney. Mr. Reuben Quinn made and donated the shrine of reservation. Rev. Gerald Chleborad, visiting Father Murray, assisted at the Mass and reservation ceremony.

Dr. E.B. Burgoon and Father Murray attended a Scripture workshop in Rock Springs, Nov. 28-29, 1969, at Our Lady of Sorrows School. Rev. Donald Murphy, S.J, presented the workshop.

April 12, 1970, was a big day for the George Menzik family who lived two houses south of Our Lady of Peace Church. Sgt. Menkiz returned from Vietnam.

Ray Repp, internationally known folk singer and composer was one of the featured participants of a Religious Education Institute held in

Casper, April 24-26, 1970. Mr. and Mrs. Pat Healey attended from Pinedale.

Judy Forsyth and Mike Badget of Pinedale and Boulder and Judy Duncan, Big Piney, attended a "Search for Christian Maturity" together with Father Murray in Rock Springs April 24-26, 1970. At the Search, Judy was baptized into the Catholic Faith.

Dr. E.B. Burgoon, Big Piney, and Frank Bibin, Pinedale, attended a Cursillo In Christianity together with Father Murray in Cheyenne, May 28-31, 1970.

Catholic Church Extension Society approved a \$10,000 grant to assist in the building of a parish hall and catechetical center at St. Anne's Church, Big Piney, June 27, 1970.

During the summer of 1970 Rev. Adrian van Kaam, professor of psychology at Duquesne University, and editor of the Review of Existential Psychology and Psychiatry, was a guest at the Otis Carney ranch. Father Van Kaam, C.S.Sp., a native of Holland, is the author of several books and is a contributing editor of Insight.

Trustees and proxies of the Pinedale and Big Piney parish during 1960-1970 were: George Gilligan RIP, A.W. Travelute RIP, Arnold Olson RIP, Frank Korfanta, John Poljanec, Paul Hanson, Paul Coughlin. Steve Kanski, Walt LaCasse, Walt Sondgeroth, Joe Murdock, Pete Olson and Dr. E.B. Burgoon.

During the years 1960-1970, although growth has been slow in terms of numbers, a status quo has been maintained and Mass has been celebrated every Sunday and Holyday without exception both in the church in Pinedale and the Big Piney mission, some 35 miles away, as well as annually in July at the Father DeSmet Monument near Daniel, to commemorate the first Mass offered in Warning at the site July 5, 1840.

Summer school sessions were conducted in the parish each summer 1960-1970 under direction of Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth.

Pinedale 1970-1980
Our Lady of Peace
Fr. Charles Bartek

The parish history for Our Lady of Peace Church of Pinedale, Wyoming, for the years 1970 - 1980 follows:

In 1970, Father John Murray was still the Pastor of Our Lady of Peace Parish. During his tenure, he had built the new parish hall in St. Anne's Mission in Big Piney, Wyoming.

In September of 1972, Father William Gianola was named the Pastor. He had the ceiling lowered in the Parish Hall in Pinedale; also built the new rectory, which was so badly needed in Pinedale. Also during his time, he had a very successful Renewal for the Parish with two priests and also two Sisters taking care of the renewal.

In June 1975, Father William Gianola was transferred to the Newman Center in Laramie. Father John Wright was named the new Pastor. He had to have the roof of the Pinedale Church reroofed because of the damage that the heavy snows had caused.

In May 1978, Father John Wright was moved to Jackson to become the Pastor of Our Lady of the Mountains Parish. Father Charles Bartek was named the new Pastor of Our Lady of Peace Parish. During his years' stay in the parish, he had to put in two new furnaces in Our Lady of Peace Church, and also carpet in the church, and the bathrooms and kitchen in the hall. His biggest job was to put steel siding on the Church and hall to make it look like one building, and also to cover a multitude of sins as the wood and the logs were both in poor shape.

Pinedale 1980-1990
Our Lady of Peace
Fr. Robert G. Lynch, S.J.

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

1979 - 1983: Fr. Charles Bartek

1983 - 1984: Fr. MacLellan

1984 - 1987: Fr. Fred Wendel

1987 - 1989: Fr. William Caspers

1989 - present: Fr. Robert G. Lynch, S.J.

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

Lay Ministry: 1989 - Kay Buston, Barbara Lauger and Marlene Caton, Pinedale. Rose Dickie and Dorothy Marinicic, Big Piney. (The groups that began the Lay Ministry Program in 1989 have graduated.)

1990 - Karmen Marincic, Jill Tegeler and Kathy Larson, Pinedale.

Diocesan Pastoral Council: Sept. 1988 - Marlene Caton, Rock Springs Deanery. Dec. 1990 - Marlene Caton, Secretary DPC.

Dec. 1991 - Marlene Caton elected Secretary DPC.

Local School Board: Bernie Gosar elected to School Board. Jay Majhanovich elected to School Board.

Director of Religious Education: Marlene Caton - 1987 - 1990. Bernie Majhanovich - 1990. Kathy Larson - 1990 (high school).

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

1987 - Fr. Fred Wendel in charge of Liturgy for Centennial Celebration in Casper (August).

1989 - Fr. Robert G. Lynch - Diocesan Board of Education.

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

Pledge campaign for CCD addition was begun in 1990. The building was started in 1991.

5. Land acquisitions: (give dates)

None.

6. Lay Trustees and term of service for each:

St. Anne's, Big Piney: 1980-1990--Richard Chandler and Robert Linn.
Our Lady of Peace, Pinedale: 1980-1990--Anton Gosar. 1980-1986--
Ivan Sheffy. 1986-1988--Gene Bidon. 1988-1990--Carl Winters.

7. Pastor's overview of the decade:

I have been at this parish only since May of 1989, so most of the events of the decade occurred before my arrival.

Probably the major event, in terms of impact on the parish, was the transfer of care for St. Christopher's, Eden, from Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Rock Springs, to Our Lady of Peace, in 1983.

The Special DeSmet Mass on July 4, 1990, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the first Mass in Wyoming Territory, was probably the event that generated the most public attention.

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

1983 - Transfer of St. Christopher's Mission at Eden from Sts. Cyril & Methodius of Rock Springs to Our Lady of Peace of Pinedale.

1985-1989 - Fundraisers held at Stockman Restaurant.

1984-1987 - Renew Program held in all three parishes.

1987-1989 - DeSales Program held in all three parishes.

1989 - Vandalism of Tabernacle at St. Anne's in Big Piney.

1990 - Bar-B-Q held at Stockmen's after the 150 year celebration at the DeSmet Monument

Our Lady of Peace
Pinedale
1990-2000
Robert G. Lynch, S.J., Administrator
May 6, 2000

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

Robert G. Lynch, S.J. May 1989 - present

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

Marlene Caton, parish secretary, represented the deanery on the Diocesan Pastoral Council until she moved away in October of 1993. Otis Carney, a summer parishioner, produced several published novels and television scripts. He still works as a professional writer.

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

Fr. Lynch wrote a column Noises from an Ivory Tower for the Sublette County Journal from November 15, 1996 to March 25, 1999, a total of 55 columns. Also published were three portraits drawn by him of individuals: two for the obituaries of parishioners, and a self portrait for a profile of him written by one of the reporters, as well as three poems. Over the course of years he has built four woodstrip canoes, three 17 ½ feet in length which were raffled off for different fund-raising purposes*, and one 13 feet long for his own use.

*The first was to raise funds for the new classroom annex; the second for the Green River Knights of Columbus, in their fund raising efforts to erect a monument to the Unborn, and the third to help finance the Rome 2000 Youth Pilgrimage of the parish.

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

In 1991 a much needed catechetical wing was added to the hall. A fund raising drive Began in November of 1990, and virtually all the costs -

about \$50,000 were raised. Much volunteer labor was contributed to hold down the final cost.

In 1999 the crumbling front steps of the church were replaced by a gentle ramp, and the sidewalk was replaced at the same time. Also, parishioner Dan Kosteic washed and repainted the entire interior of the church.

5. Land acquisitions. (Give dates.)

6. Lay Trustees and term of service for each.

Anton Gosar was a trustee from 1977 until November 3, 1995; Carl Winters from about 1987 until November 3, 1995. On that date Kathy Larson and Dan Kosteic became trustees, and remain so to this time.

7. Pastor's overview of the decade.

The enrollment of the parish has grown over the last ten years, probably at a faster rate than that of the town, with the welcome consequence that income has increased as well. The spirit of the parish is good; people are alert for and respond to one another's needs. The religious education program flourishes; participation in diocesan youth events is good, and the results seem to be a genuine commitment to their faith on the part of most.

As is probably true for most parishes during the decade, much of the financial and other clerical work is now done on a computer, and a fax machine has been installed on a separate telephone line

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

On July 5th 1990 the 150th anniversary of Fr. DeSmet's first Mass in the Wyoming territory was celebrated at the DeSmet Monument south of Daniel. Principal celebrant was Cardinal John O'Connor, Archbishop of New York; concelebrants were Bishop Joseph Hart and several other bishops, and most of the priests of the diocese. A plaque was erected at the monument, naming all the priests present in the diocese on that day.