

**HISTORY OF ST. BARBARA'S CHURCH
POWELL, WYOMING
1941-1950**

(Continued from date of publishing of "History of The Diocese of Cheyenne" by Most Rev. P.A. McGovern, Jan. 1, 1941)

The year of 1941

The balance in the Bank to the credit of St. Barbara's Church on Jan. 1, 1941 was \$2,677.64. The church corporation had the sum of \$6,000.00 invested in utility bonds.

Special improvements made during the year were made on the rectory. A new roof placed on the rectory at the cost of \$175.

A mission for the English speaking people of the parish was preached by the Rev. Eugene Witte, C.S.S.R., between the dates of Nov. 9th and 16th. Following this mission the Rev. Bernard Rotger, C.R., of Denver held a mission for the Spanish-speaking parishioners from Nov 16 to Nov. 23.

The year 1942

The balance in the Bank on Jan. 1, 1942 was \$2,650.89.

On Feb. 1 an election of new lay trustees was held. The laymen chosen to serve for two years were Albert J. Meyer and Fred Marsh.

On the date of May 17 the Most Rev. P.A. McGovern visited the parish to administer Confirmation. A class of fifty received the sacrament.

About June 1 of this year great activity began to appear at a spot some twelve miles west of Powell. Under the supervision of the U.S. Army a city of barracks began to rise. This was to become a Relocation Center

for about ten thousand people of Japanese origin who were being removed from their homes on the West Coast. The Japanese who were to be incarcerated in the Center for the duration of the war began to arrive on Sept. 1. After several attempts, Father Kimmett finally gained admision to the camp in an effort to seek out those of the Catholic faith. He found that there were a number of very devout Catholic families among the Japanese, and on the first Sunday in October held a Rosary service in the camp which was attended by about 100 very grateful Catholics. The people petitioned for the privilege of Sunday Mass. As the pastor was obligated to say Mass in Powell and Cody each Sunday he was unable to grant the re quest, but promised to say Mass for them on a weekday until provision could be made for Sunday Mass. Father Kimmett wrote to Bishop McGovern about the situation at the Heart Mountain Center and requested that an assistant be sent to Powell to minister to the Japanese. Bishop McGovern made an appeal to the Maryknoll Fathers for help, and on Nov.1 the Rev. Harold Felsecker, M.M., who had labored for ten years in Japan, arrived to take charge of the Catholic faithful at Heart Mountain.

The year 1943

The balance in the Bank on Jan 1,1943 was \$3,393.00. Investments amounted to \$6,740.00.

In January a contract was made with Mr. Theodore Braash, ecclesiastical artist, to decorate the Powell church. The cost of the work was to be \$1,375. Mr. Braash completed the decoration of the church in September. For the additional sum of \$300 Mr. Braash redecorated the Stations of the Gross in the church.

During the month of September Father Felsecker was called from Powell by his superiors to teach the Japanese language at the Catholic University at Washington, D.C. He was replaced by the Rev. Roy Petipren, M.M., a missionary who had spent a number of years in Korea.

The year 1944

Balance on hand Jan.1, 1944 was \$2,224.68. Investments in utility and U.S. bonds amounted to \$8,220.00.

At the opening of the year Bishop McGovern informed Father Kimmett that he was in a position to send Father Francis Penny as pastor to Cody. Father Kimmett requested Bishop McGovern for permission to join the Army as a chaplain, leaving Father Penny in Powell during his absence. The request was granted, and Father Kimmett left Powell on Jan. 27 to await his commission in the Army.

The year 1945.

Balance on hand Jan. 1,1945 was \$2,111.99. Investments in U.S. and utility bonds amounted to \$10,220.00.

To replace Albert J. Meyer and Fred Marsh who had served their term of two years as trustees, Mr. John Kopriva and Mr. Charles Lord were elected as lay members of the church corporation. The election of new trustees was held Feb. 4.

The Rev. Roy Petipren, M.M., was recalled from Powell during the month of September and another Maryknoll Father, Rev. John Walsh, M.M., was sent to take his place to minister to the needs of the Japanese at Heart Mountain. However, as the Japanese were leaving the Center in great numbers to find new homes throughout the country. Father Walsh found that there were few Catholics left at Heart Mountain. After a few months in Powell Father Walsh departed on a new assignment, and the story of St. Francis Xavier Mission at Heart Mountain was finished.

The year 1946

Balance in church treasury Jan.1,1946 was \$7,646.49. Investments held by the church corporation amounted to \$5,104.66.

On April 26 Father Kimmett completed his active duty as a chaplain and returned to resume the duties of pastor of Powell. On the same date Father Penny went to Cody to become resident pastor there.

A mission was conducted by the Rev. Cletus Fitzpatrick, O.F.M.Conv., between the dates of Nov. 17 and 24.

Rubber pads were installed on the kneeling benches of the pews much to the delight of the parishioners during the month of December. The cost of the kneeling pads was \$345.

The year 1947

Balance in bank on Jan. 1, 1947 was \$5,256.72. Investments in U.S. Bonds amounted to \$13,658.00.

On June 12 Bishop McGovern confirmed a class of fifty-three at Powell. On this occasion Bishop McGovern advised the pastor and parishioners to "start plans for a parish school."

On Sept. 30 Mr. George Gibson and Mr. F.J. Burgener were elected as lay trustees to serve for two years as members of the church corporation.

One of the big events of the year for the parish was the organization of a Council of the Knights of Columbus. On April 27 representatives from nearly every council in the State came to Powell to participate in the formation of Shoshone Council, No 3043, and to witness the initiation of a large class of candidates.

The year 1948

Balance in bank on Jan. 1, 1948 was \$5,349.28. Investments in U.S. bonds were valued at \$16,893.00.

A vacation school was conducted in the parish between the dates of June 14 and 27 by two Sisters of Charity. The total enrollment was 104—57 boys and 47 girls.

On Sept. 13 Bishop McGovern announced that Father Kimmett, who had served as pastor of Powell for twelve years, was to be transferred to Sheridan as pastor of the parish there. Father Kimmett's successor was to be the Rev. Daniel Carroll, pastor at Pine Bluffs. The transfer of pastors was to be effective October 15.

On the last Sunday of October the new pastor was canonically installed by the dean of -the Big Horn Basin, Rev. Philip Krass.

Year 1949

The balance from 1948 was \$5360.36 and the building fund amounted to \$22,000.00.

In the month of May Religious Summer School was held with two Carmelite nuns from Scottsbluff, Neb., in charge. Number of children attending was 100.

During the month of October the devotion of the Forty Hours was introduced into the parish. Father Malachy Kain, O.F.M., of Denver, Colo., was in charge.

The parish recreation hall was repaired and renovated at a cost of nine hundred dollars. The members of the Knights of Columbus and the members of the Altar and Rosary Society gave much time, labor, and financial help towards completing this project.

Fourteen children made their First Holy Communion.

Year 1950

The balance in treasury was \$5190.80 while the building fund had risen to \$24,000.00.

At the beginning of April Bishop McGovern conferred an honor upon the parish by appointing Father Carroll as chaplain for the diocesan Pilgrimage Tour to Rome to take place in September. During the absence of the pastor the Rev. Joseph Fraher was to be in charge of the parish.

Summer Religious School was held for two weeks in May. Carmelite nuns were in charge and close to a hundred children were in attendance. First Holy Communion was received by 16 youngsters.

On May 25, 26, and 27 the Knights of Columbus convention was held in Powell. His Excellency Most Rev. Hubert M. Newell opened the convention with a Solemn Pontifical Mass, assisted by Rev. Francis Penny as deacon, the Rev. John Brady as subdeacon, and Rev. Daniel Carroll as master of ceremonies. Rev. John McDevitt delivered an inspiring sermon while Rev. Philip Krass gave a vivid and beautiful description of the Mass over the radio.

While in the parish Bishop Newell discussed with the pastor the possibilities of starting a school building. After a thorough discussion as to the cost and a survey of the town in search of land suitable and purchasable for such a building, it was found that the cost would be too burdensome at the present time and that land close by the church was not obtainable. The bishop then directed the pastor to use the present building fund for the erection of a new rectory which was badly needed. The cost of the new building was not to exceed \$35,000.00.

At a meeting of the members of the church corporation a motion was made and seconded that plans for a new rectory submitted by Tresler-McCall, architects of Cody, and approved by His Excellency, Most Rev. Patrick A. McGovern, bishop of Cheyenne, be let out for bids. These bids were to be opened on July 28.

On the evening of July 28,1950 in the presence of the members of the church corporation, members of the building committee, the architects and many contractors, bids for the erection of a two storey brick veneer building to be used as a rectory were opened and read by Father Carroll. The Louis B.Welsh Co. of Cowley, Wyo., with a bid of \$33,480.00 was awarded the contract. Construction was to start immediately and to be completed in 120 days. The new building was to be erected, at Bishop Newell's suggestion, on the site of the old church. The moving of the old church together with construction of new foundations cost the parish over twelve hundred dollars. Through the help of the Knights of Columbus who again renovated the hall after it had been moved to its present site, the parish has a fine meeting place for its activities.

The completion of the new rectory has been delayed because heat radiators were late in arriving. Tentative date for completion is January 30,1951.

During the last decade the number of families in the parish has increased greatly. The two Masses on Sunday are filled. The recent opening by the government of a hundred homesteads for veterans has added twelve families to the parish.

HISTORY OF SAINT BARBARA'S PARISH AND MISSION FROM 1950 to 1960

The parish of St. Barbara in Powell, Wyo. and its mission of Our Lady of the Valley at Clark, Wyo. have had a steady growth materially and spiritually during the last decade. In the year 1953 a new church was dedicated at the Clark Mission and given the name of Our Lady of the Valley. It is of frame construction fifty feet by thirty feet and will seat close to a hundred persons. It has a full basement that is utilized for socials and religion classes. Since the men of the parish did most of the building the cost was kept to a minimum of \$8000.00.

For the Powell parish a new rectory was built in 1950-1951. It is a brick veneer structure and has 12 rooms. This provides enough room for two priests.

The year 1957 was eventful in that a new catechetical Center was built and dedicated in Powell. It is a brick veneer structure 80 by 60 ft. and comprises three large classrooms and a full basement. A storey and half house was purchased and renovated for a convent for three Missionary Catechists who would teach religion classes in the Parish and Mission.

The number of families has doubled within the last decade, necessitating three Masses on Sundays. Since the arrival of the Sisters there is a noticeable increase in Mass attendance and the reception of the sacraments.

The Rev. Daniel B. Carroll has been pastor of St. Barbara's Parish and Mission for the last ten years. To assist him the following priests came to the parish. The Rev. Gilbert Callahan 1956-1957. The Rev. Patrick McGovern 1957 to 1958. In October of 1958 a Columban Father, the Rev. James Conlon was appointed as assistant. Father Conlon remained

until July of 1959. At present time there is no assistant priest in the parish.

The Parish of St. Barbara has been blessed with three vocations to the priesthood and one vocation to the sisterhood. [No names given. Ed.]

St. Barbara's Catholic Church 1960-1970

St. Barbara's parish has continued to grow in the 1960s. One of the main reasons was the new Catechetical Center which was built towards the end of the 1950s. Three Sisters of the Victory Noll Order of Indiana conducted the Parish School of Religion with the help of a few lay people. These Sisters also helped out with CCD work in the parishes of Cody, Lovell and Clark. They traveled about 1000 miles a month.

The year 1961 began with a three month mission conducted by Paulist Father Basil Doyle. He preached at all the Sunday Masses and held Inquiry Classes during the week

There were thirty-four baptisms and three converts, fourteen marriages, thirty-three youngsters made their First Holy Communion, and four members passed away during the year.

St. Barbara's parish was without an assistant priest.

Plans for a new church were started. A building committee was formed with the pastor, the two trustees Peter Kranz and Albert Brunner, and Edward Schaefer as general chairman.

Edward Schaefer was Grand Knight of the local Knights of Columbus Council.

Mrs. Vincent Schiltz served as president of St. Barbara's Altar and Rosary Society for the year 1960-61.

The year of 1962

The Rev. Daniel B. Carroll celebrated his Silver Anniversary. His Excellency Bishop Newell was present along with twenty-five priests.

Bishop Newell gave the sermon during the Mass. A dinner was served to the clergy and a reception was held in the evening at the Catholic Center.

The three Sisters conducted the School of Religion and worked in the parish taking census as well as working in the surrounding parishes.

Again the parish was without an assistant priest.

During the year there were sixty-two baptisms, ten marriages, six converts and forty First Communions. There were six deaths.

James Murphy served as Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus.

Mrs. Les Cloninger, Sr., served as president of the Altar Society for the year 1961-62.

Peter Kranz and Albert Brunner were the trustees of the parish.

The year 1963 was a big year in St. Barbara's Parish. Plans to build a new Church on the site of the old one were formulated. The Community Counseling Service Organization was hired to conduct the drive for finances, in the amount of \$130,000. Building committee was formed. The leadership members were Edward Schaefer, Vincent Spiering, Mark Grosinger, Clarence Kopriva, Albert Brunner, Albert Meyer and John O'Brien. Serving as Team Captains were Raymond Rodriguez, Joseph Valles, Mark Fraker, John Badura, Don Fraker, Ronald Burgener, Edward Althoff, and John McKethen.

This year there were fifty-five baptisms, twenty-one marriages, seven converts, forty-five First Communions, and four members passed away.

The parish was without an assistant priest.

James Kranz was Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council.

Altar Society president for the year 1962-63 was Mrs. Charles Kirkham, Sr.

Trustees were Peter Kranz and Albert Brunner.

The year 1964 saw the construction of the new Church, Roman Gothic with contemporary style. The contractor was Pond & Pond, heating contractor was Heasler Plumbing and Heating, electrical work by Modern Electric. The seating capacity of the new church is 500. A change for the New Liturgy was made with the Altar away from the wall and the priest facing the congregation. The total cost of the Church, which included architect fees and the furnishings, was \$150,391.83. The Building Fund Campaign netted over \$100,000. Masses were held in the basement of the Catholic Center while the new church was being built.

This year 1964, there were seventy-two baptisms, seventeen marriages, seven converts, forty First Communions, and three deceased members.

The parish was still without an assistant priest.

The trustees were Peter Kranz and Albert Brunner.

Don Fraker was Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus.

Mrs. James Kranz was president of the Altar Society for the year 1963-64.

In 1965 the new parish church was completed. The first Mass was celebrated on Easter Sunday, April 17 at Midnight.

Dedication of the new church was held in April by Bishop Newell with thirty priests from throughout the state attending, and the Honor Guard of the Knights of Columbus participating. A large number of parishioners and other members of the community attended the ceremonies.

Total cost of the Building Program came to \$154,391.83. This included the construction of a new garage for the rectory in the amount of \$40,000.00.

Father Cletus Prado became the new assistant in the parish.

During the year there were forty-three baptisms, fourteen marriages, four converts, fifty-five First Communicants, one hundred and twenty-seven confirmations and eight members passed away.

Albert Brunner and Peter Kranz served as trustees of the parish.

Leo Hollcroft was Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council.

Mrs. Joe Toland served as president of the Altar Society for the year 1961-65.

1966 saw no great changes in the parish now that the new church was completed. More people were participating in parish work and the CCD programs along with the Sisters.

Father Cletus Prado was the assistant priest in the parish.

This year there were forty-eight baptisms, fifteen marriages, and eight deaths, forty First Communicants, three converts, and one hundred thirty parishioners were confirmed.

Peter Kranz, long time trustee of the parish died. John McKethen was elected as a new trustee to serve with Albert Brunner.

Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus was Leo Hollcroft, who served a second year.

Mrs. Forrest Cordes served as president of the Altar Society for the year 1965-66.

This year 1967 the parish purchased St. John's Episcopal Church building and hall for \$12,000. The Hall to be used for Catechetical Work. The small church building as storage for used clothing, which will be given to needy families.

Father Thomas Sheridan became the new assistant priest in the parish. Father Prado was transferred to serve in the Sundance area.

There were forty-two baptisms, nine marriages, four deaths, one convert and forty-four First Communicants.

Albert Brunner and John McKethen served as trustees of the parish.

Mrs. Gene Hayes served as president of the Altar Society for the year 1966-67.

Albert Brunner was Brand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council.

In 1968 there were thirty-three baptisms, twenty-two marriages, seven deaths, two converts, fifty-six First Communicants, and fifty confirmations.

Father Carl Beavers served for three months in the parish as assistant priest, after Father Thomas Sheridan was transferred to Sheridan. Father Ronald Stolcis became an assistant after Father Beavers was transferred to Laramie. Father Beavers is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Beavers of Powell. He was ordained to the priesthood at St. Barbara's Church on May 24, 1968 by Bishop Newell.

Trustees for the year were Albert Brunner and John McKethen.

Leonard Schaefer was Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council.

Serving as president of the Altar Society for the year 1967-68 was Mrs. Mark Grosinger.

The Parish Council was instituted in 1969. The board members were Mrs. Vincent Spiering, Mrs. Peter Kranz, Eugene Dunleavy, James Rodriguez, Erwin Funke and Mike Kopriva. The first business of the Council was to draft a Council Constitution.

Three CCD teachers retired and were honored at a dinner. They were Mrs. Albert J. Meyer who taught for twenty-one years in the parish, Mrs. J.C. Stahn who taught fifteen years, and Mrs. Jeff. L. Metzler who taught fifteen years.

During the year there were forty baptisms, twelve marriages, three deaths, one convert, and forty First Communicants. There were no parishioners confirmed.

The assistant priest was Father Ronald Stolcis, who came to the parish in September 1968.

Trustees for the parish were Albert Brunner and John McKethen.

Mrs. James LaFollette served as president of the Altar Society for the year 1968-69.

Leonard Schaefer served as Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council for a second term.

In 1970 the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Wyoming Knights of Columbus was held in Powell, May 1-3. Mr. Frank Byrd was re-elected as State Deputy. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Newell. The Homily was given by the Rev. James Power, State Chaplain.

The Thermopolis Deanery Council of Catholic Women held their Fall meeting in Powell on September 25.

During the year Father Ronald Stolcis served as assistant priest in the parish.

In 1970 the parish had fifty-four baptisms , ten marriages, five deaths, five converts, fifty-two First Communicants, and seventy-three parishioners were confirmed.

Trustees in the parish were Albert Brunner and John McKethen.

Serving as Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council was Justin Kilness.

Mrs. Justin Kllness served as president of the Altar Society, May 1969 to May 1970. Mrs. Marvin Weatherman was elected to serve as president, May 1970 to May 1971.

Powell 1970-1980

St. Barbara

1970: St. Barbara's Parish Council was organized late in November, 1969, after Vatican II consisting of Clergy, Sisters, and lay men and women to care for the needs of the parish. By-laws and committees were set. The following officers and committee members were elected to serve until September 1970: President: Lois Spiering; Vice-president: Jim Rodriguez; Secretary: Mike Kopriva; Pastors: Rev. D. B. Carroll and the Rev. Ron Stolcis, co-pastor. Committee members were Edna Beavers, Gene Dunleavy, Babe Funke and Mildred Kranz. Various parish chairmen were Tom Kosta, John McKethen, Mary Meyer, Albert Brunner, Mrs. L. W. Hall, Ann Easton, Barbara Cloninger, Jr., Jean Funke, Rosemary Weatherman, George Pfau, John Van Heule, Sr., Vincent Schiltz, Mrs. Don Hagen, Mrs. Dave Williams, Carlin Murphy, Mrs. Larry Thompson, Mrs. Bud Linton, and Mrs. Servo Chapa. On September 29, 1970, new officers were elected to serve on the Parish Council. Ed Daugh[t]erty, president; Mary Jean Grosinger, vice-president; and Jim Rodriguez as secretary-treasurer. New committees names to serve were Jim Murphy, Lillian Schiltz, Tom Singer, in addition to the 1969-70 committee members.

1971: At the January 19, 1971, meeting of the council, Father Carroll stated that the original debt on the church was \$190,890.83; and [by 1980] the church had paid off approximately \$117,000 plus interest of \$18,900, leaving a total debt of \$73,000. On March 19, Mrs. Servo Chapa presented a large picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which was placed in the Church. On April 15, the new Migrant Workers program was inaugurated with Mary Chapa as chairperson of the Mission Committee. Altar and Rosary Society President Margaret McWilliams presented a proposal that A&R society be made a part of the Parish Council. It was accepted. On May 19, there were 875 migrant workers in the community. Father Angel Ornelas, three Sisters and Brother are working with NOWCAP on this program. New officers were elected to

the Parish Council on October 21. Mary Jean Grosinger was elected president; Mark Grosinger, vice-president; Jane Swenson, secretary. Fred O'Reagen was named the new financial chairman of the parish.

1972: In September, Mark Grosinger was named as president of the Parish Council. On December 14, \$1,000 was donated to the Parish for a sign in front of the Church to designate Mass times. The donors were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kirkham, Sr.

1973: On February 21, a film on abortion was shown at a special meeting to approximately 250-300 people, with viewers from Cody, Lovell and Powell. In March, the roof of the Center was repaired. A new sign in front of the Church was completed at a cost of \$400. Several trees were removed. On August 15, a car (a Ford Torino) was purchased for the Sisters at a cost of \$3,325 plus trade. Three rooms of the Convent were painted. In September, James Murphy was elected as president of the Parish Council. On November 14, Rodney Weed was named as Deacon in the parish. Permission was given to Katherine Christensen to organize the Catholic Daughters of America.

1974: On January 16, Father Carroll reported at the council meeting that the St. John's building was given to Dennis Zlomke to dismantle. On February 20, Rodney Weed sent in his resignation as Deacon. On March 15, Rev. Msgr. Daniel B. Carroll was honored by Investiture as Prelate of Honor to His Holiness Pope Paul VI by His Excellency Most Rev. Hubert M. Newell, D.D., Bishop of Cheyenne. On April 18, the Organization of Our Lady of the Rosary Court #2093, Catholic Daughters of America, was formed with 66 charter members. To institute the Court, present were the State Regent from Billings, Montana, and Court and State Regent from Nebraska. Msgr. Carroll was named the First Chaplain and Katherine Christensen as Regent. In September, Janet Kopriva was elected as president of the Parish Council

1975: The Sisters present in Powell are: Sr. Marcella Poydock, Sr. Marie Schene, and Sr. Mary Lawrence Rochel. On Feb. 3, the carpeting on the Catholic Center stairs was completed. On March 18, the Thermopolis Deanery spring meeting was held at the American National Bank Building. On May 15, Anthony (Tony) Diemel was found dead from a heart attack. He had been the custodian of the Parish for many years and lived in the little house behind the convent.

St. Barbara's Parish gave a farewell reception for Sisters Marcella Poydock and Marie Schene. On June 3, we gave a farewell reception for Msgr. Carroll, who is leaving the parish for a new assignment in Thermopolis. On June 12, Father Charles Taylor arrived in Powell as Pastor of St. Barbara's, and a reception for Father Taylor was held at the Catholic Center on June 15. Father Taylor held his first meeting with the Parish Council on June 27. On September 8, the sound system was corrected in the Church, and renovation of the living room and front office in the rectory was accomplished. Harley Bright was elected as president of the Parish Council. Lois Spiering was elected as Regent of Catholic Daughters for 1975-1976. Father Taylor was named Chaplain for CDA. On December 1, the stained glass windows were repaired, and black topping of the parking lot was completed.

1976: Sisters present in Powell are: Sr. William Ann Maloney, Sr. Delores McGinley, Sr. Mary Lawrence Rochel. The Sisters discontinued serving the parishes at Greybull and Lovell at the end of the school year 1975-76. This will enable them to spend more time in Powell and Cody. When they taught in five places, they did not have time to visit the hospital or nursing home or do any home visiting.

In March, Paul Rodriguez, Jr., was the first recipient of the plaque given by the Catholic Daughters of America Court #2093 as the outstanding citizen in the community for his work as president of the Big Horn Basin Beet Growers Association. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Rodriguez and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rodriguez, Jr., donated an automatic dishwasher to the

Catholic Center. On August 15, parish representatives at the Centennial Celebration in Casper were Mrs. Mary McLaughlin and Mr. and Mrs. Ken Mackey. In July and August, Father Taylor and Albert Brunner attended the Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia. In September, Burl Gonion was elected as president of the Parish Council.

1977: In May, Diane Meidiniger was installed Regent of the CDA for the years 1977-78. A Lenten Mission was given by Fr. Gerald Doucher, CSSR. On June 1, Msgr. Francis Penny, pastor of St. Anthony's Parish in Cody for 33 years, resigned because of ill health. In July, Msgr. Penny took up residence at St. Barbara's rectory with Father Charles Taylor. Msgr. helped with pastoral duties and offered Mass daily. In May, the Catholic Daughters of America Plaque this year was awarded to Katherine Christensen for her outstanding work as chairman in Powell for the Bi-Centennial Celebration and was instrumental in obtaining funds for the community building at the park County Fair Grounds. In September, James Kopriva was elected president of the Parish Council. On December 1, Confirmation was conferred by the Most Rev. Joseph Hart, Auxiliary-Bishop of Cheyenne. On December 19, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Rodriguez donated a carillon in honor of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rodriguez.

1978: Sisters present in Powell are: Sr. William Ann Maloney and Sr. Mary Lawrence Rochel. There were two Sisters in Powell this year because they will serve only in Powell and the Clark Mission.

In May, Lois Spiering was elected president of DCCW. The Catholic Daughters of America Plaque was awarded to Lois Spiering for her work in the community, Church, and as an ideal Catholic mother. As this was the "Year of the Child", the Catholic Daughters adopted a girl from Lebanon. The CDA will send \$15.00 per month for her care. Mildred Marsh was also presented a Community Award Plaque by the CDA in recognition of her work for many years as a Red Cross Gray Lady at the local hospital.

On May 30, Rev. Charles Taylor, pastor of St. Barbara's Parish celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. Bishops Newell and Hart were present as well as Fr. Carl Beavers, who celebrated his tenth anniversary in the priesthood. Also on May 30, the church debt was paid in full and Msgr. D. B. Carroll was present at the "Burning of the Mortgage" ceremonies.

In August, the Sisters started a door-to-door census in Powell shortly after their arrival. In the census several adults were found who wished to receive instructions. On September 19, at the Deanery Meeting in Greybull, Sister Mary Lawrence took part in the program by giving a talk about her work in Powell in the corporal works of mercy. Pauline Darling was elected president of the Parish Council.

On September 4, Father Taylor and the two Sisters and approximately 25 parishioners attended a retirement dinner for Msgr. Daniel Carroll in Thermopolis. Msgr. Carroll had been pastor in Powell for 26 years. A celebration was held in the Parish in September for Sr. William Ann Maloney who celebrated her Silver Jubilee of first vows at Victory Noll, the Mother House of the Victory Noll Sisters in Huntington, Indiana. The parish gave Sister a Plaque with praying hands.

In October, the statues and cross in the church were painted by a firm from Colorado. In November, the convent living room and dining room were painted and wall-to-wall carpet was installed. A few weeks later, the Sisters held an open house with many parishioners and friends attending.

1979: The Sisters in Powell are: Sr. William Ann Maloney and Sr. Mary Lawrence Rochel. In March, a Lenten Mission was conducted by Fr. Donald Berkdiger, C.M. A Parish celebration was held on May 9 to honor Ernest Chabot on his 72 years in the Knights of Columbus and his 93rd birthday. Mr. Chabot is the oldest Knight in Wyoming, and the 5th in the U.S. He was presented with a plaque from the Supreme Secretary

of the Knights. In May, Sally Montoya was presented the CDA Community Award Plaque for her work among the Mexican-Americans, with the Christmas Baskets, and with the Girl Scouts. Claire Smith was elected as Regent of the Catholic Daughters.

In September, Bernadette Coughenour was named president of the Parish Council. In October, those representing the Diocese of Cheyenne at Philadelphia for the visitation of Pope John Paul IV included Father Taylor along with Fathers Hmelovsky, Sheridan, Chleborad, Espenshade, and Msgr. O'Neill. Father Taylor was named president of the Protestant Ecumenical Council. A Baldwin organ from St. Mary Magdalen Church in Worland was installed in St. Barbara's church. Due to the death of Fred O'Reagen, Leonard Schaefer was named as trustee of St. Barbara's in November.

1980: Dennis Zlomke was named State Chairman of "Right to Life." In January and February, one room in the rectory basement was renovated by Ed Strahan with the addition of paneling and a new rug. Gary Moody renovated the kitchen in the rectory. In April and May, Father Taylor, accompanied by his mother and sister, Msgr. Penny, Bill and Maye Jones, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Rome and Athens. Msgr. Carroll and his two sisters came to take care of the parish during Fr. Taylor's absence. St. John's Hall was renamed Carroll Hall in honor of Msgr. Daniel Carroll.

On May 19, the CDA Community Service Plaque was presented to Sisters William Ann and Mary Lawrence to show the appreciation for all the Sisters do in the parish for the sick, elderly, and lonely, both Catholic and non-Catholic. Another plaque was presented to Dr. Deiss for all his work for the sick in the community.

In September, Leonard Schaefer was named president of the Parish Council. In November, new tables were purchased for the Catholic Center. The Wurlitzer organ from St. Barbara's was donated to

Wamsutter church. In December, a new Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, was blessed by Father Taylor at the Christmas dinner of the Catholic Daughters. The new statue will visit the homes of parishioners in 1981. The first statue started to visit homes in 1957 for the purpose of reciting the rosary by families while in their home. The old statue was retired to the home of Mrs. Paul Rodriguez, Sr. Parishioners make a small donation to the Madonna Plan at the end of each visit.

ST. BARBARA'S CHURCH -- POWELL, WYOMING PARISH HISTORY OF KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #3043

Through the wish and efforts of Father Fred, now Msgr. Kimmett, the Knights of Columbus was organized in St. Barbara's Parish on April 27, 1947. The first officers were appointed as follows: Grand Knight, John Kopriva; Deputy Grand Knight, Paul Grosinger; Financial Secretary, Albert Meyer; and Treasurer, Fred Marsh.

Serving as Grand Knight the past ten years (1971-1980):

Justin Kilness (1971-72)

Ray Alvarez (1973-74)

Jim Rodriguez (1975-76)

Frank Gonzales (1977-78)

Robert Mackey (1979-80)

Present officers are: Dennis Zlomke, Grand Knight

Vincent Spiering, Deputy Grand Knight

Kenneth Mackey, Financial Secretary

Allen Skalsky, Treasurer

Powell's First State Meeting was held in 1949. The Broadcast of the Mass for the State of Wyoming was a first. KPOW at that time was owned by Albert Meyer, a member of the Knights. The State Chaplain at the time was Msgr. McDevitt.

In 1962, the Fourth Degree Knights were formed to act as Honor Guard for church functions.

Work for the good of the Order and parish by the Knights included: renovating the parish hall (the old white church), furnishing sixty percent of the labor for the new Catholic Center, paying one-half of the black top for the parking lot, helping in all financial drives for the parish and furnished public address systems for the old church, the new church, and the Catholic Center.

ST. BARBARA'S CHURCH -- POWELL, WYOMING
PARISH HISTORY OF CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY COURT #2093

April 18, 1974 - January, 1981

Work done in the Parish:

We have completed 60 quilts for the children of St. Joseph's Home in Torrington; held retreats; participated in: World Day of Prayer, Parish census, Presbyterian Fellowship Luncheons, "Project Handclasp" (tools for under developed countries), Madonna Plan, Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima (to promote the Family Rosary in the home and pray for peace in the world), Bicentennial float in county parade, Parish Fiesta, a Chair in American Catholic Church History at Catholic University of America (National CDA Bicentennial Project), a special education scholarship, visitations to ill members, new parishioners, lapsed Catholics, poetry and poster contests for Catholic youth, petition and letter campaigns (Right to Life, anti-obscenity, and right of astronauts to say prayers in space).

Programs were held on Catholic Social Services, Northwest Child Development Center, Saint-of-the-Month Anniversary study, and changes in liturgy. The group has donated cookies for the nursing home and the Senior Citizens, Clothes to the Lander School, funds to OLV Sisters in Bolivia, St. Joseph's Children Home, St. Stephens Mission,

Girls State, Christian Ministry at NW Community College Campus, Dance Marathon for Muscular Dystrophy, and to national disasters. Canned goods donated for Community Christmas Baskets, used clothing to migrant workers, and to Girl Scout's clothing drive. An Outstanding Community Service Plaque is awarded annually (without regard to race, creed or sex).

St. Barbara, Powell
Our Lady of the Valley, Clark
1980-1990
Rev. John Wright
Judi Buckingham, Parish Secretary

Names of Clergy & Religious serving during the decade and dates of service.

Rev. Charles Taylor 1975-1982

Msgr. John Meyer 1982-1988

Rev. Fred Wendel 1988-1990

Rev. John Wright 1990 - Present

Notable Accomplishments by Lay Leaders and Parishioners.

St. Barbara's Parish celebrated their 75th Anniversary on August 26, 1984. Msgr. Daniel Carroll was the main celebrant. Mass and a picnic were held at Washington Park.

Lois Spiering was the State Council of Catholic Women's President 1989-1990.

Shoshone Council 3043 of the Knights of Columbus hosted the State Convention in Powell in April of 1987.

Notable Accomplishments by the Clergy and Religious during the decade.

Msgr. Daniel Carroll celebrated his 50th Anniversary to the Priesthood on May 1, 1987. A Mass and reception were held honoring Msgr. Carroll.

Sister Mary Lawrence celebrated her 50th Anniversary in September 1987- A Mass and pot-luck supper were held honoring Sister.

Sister Mary Lawrence and Sister William Ann retired as directors and teachers of the Religious Education Program. They continue to live in Powell in the Convent at 350 N. Bernard.

Construction - new or remodeling.

August 1981 a grotto of Our Lady was constructed in front of the Church

March 1982 the basement of Our Lady of the Valley Church was completed renovated.

June 1982 Renovation of St. Barbara's Sanctuary which included new carpet throughout the Church, purchase of a Baldwin Organ, Stained Glass Windows in the Sanctuary and rock work in the Sanctuary.

1984 Addition to Newman Center at 674 N. Absaroka.

September 1989 Remodeling of the Rectory-new carpet, drapes and furniture.

Land Acquisitions

June 1982 purchased house at 674 N. Absaroka for Newman Student Center.

Lay Trustees and Terms of Service

I. J. Frank October 1971 to present Leonard Schaefer November 79 to June 90 Mark Grosinger July 90 to present

Pastor's overview of the decade

In general the 1980's were one of spiritual growth for St. Barbara's Parish. At least outwardly, the numbers receiving the Sacraments continued to increase.

This, in spite of the fact that there was not too much continuity of leadership in the parish during this time. Four, very different personalities, were pastors during this time. But the faith of the people gave the parish the continuity that it needed.

It was a time of spiritual growth rather than material growth other than the redecorating of the Church, part of the Rectory and acquiring the Newman Center. Keeping the parish plant going was of prime importance rather than building new things.

Significant parish events and program

1982 - Families for Prayer.

1982-89 Fiesta Dinner held as a parish money maker.

1989-1991 Sugar Beet Classic was sponsored by St. Barbara's and other Powell Businesses. This is a 5K, 25K, 5K run bike, run race.

1985 - St. Barbara's was instrumental in forming a food bank for the community. 1985 - Renew was started in Powell

1987-1990 a Fall Festival (craft and bake sale) was held by the Council of Catholic Women.

First Sunday in November the Masses honor those who have died during the past year. A rose is presented to each family who has lost a loved one.

Mass with Anointing is held in December. A luncheon is served following Mass.

The last Sunday in April is set aside for honoring our graduating Seniors. A reception for the seniors and their families is held in the Parish Center following Mass.

Powell also has a Summer Migrant Worker Program. Sisters come from Texas to help the migrant farm workers prepare for the Sacraments.

Confirmation is usually held during July for the migrant workers.

St. Barbara's, Powell
Our Lady of the Valley, Clark
1990-2000
Judi Buckingham, Parish Administrator
September 27, 2000

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

Rev. Fred Wendel 6/88 - 6/90

Rev. John Wright 6/90-9/99

Rev. Thomas Ogg 9/99 - Present

2. Notable accomplishments by lay leaders and parishioners.

St. Barbara's CCW hosted Deanery Meetings 3/90 and 9/98.

Pat Moody, Marge Cruz, Sally Gonion, Kathy Lauer and Rod Kunze completed the Lay Ministry Program, 7/91

Janet Flynn involved in Rainbow for All God's Children, 3/90 13 youth attended World Youth Day in Denver, 8/93

Shoshone Council 3043 of the Knights of Columbus, 1st place in Powell Country Christmas Parade, 12/95.

State Knights of Columbus Convention was held in Powell, 4/98. Kelly Spiering appointed to the Diocesan Pastoral Council, 3/2000.

3. Notable accomplishments by the clergy and religious.

Rev. Peter Johnson was ordained 8/91.

Rev. John Wright celebrated his 40th Anniversary to the priesthood, 5/96.

Msgr. Daniel Carroll celebrated his 90th birthday, 10/99.

Sister Mary Lawrence and Sister William Ann, who had retired in Powell, returned to their Mother House at Victory Noll, 4/92.

4. Construction - new or remodeling.

Rectory was remodeled, 1991 New Furnace in Parish Center, 3/91

Remodeled house at dark, 3/98

New sewer system and septic tanks, Our Lady of the Valley and dark House 6/2000.

Remodeled Newman Center, 6/98 Our Lady of the Valley, new windows 5/98

5. Land acquisitions.

Sold Convent on Bernard Street, 4/93

Sold Carroll Hall on Bent Street, 1/95

Parish was given property at 655 N. Bernard by Raymond and Marina Rodriguez. Property was sold 12/94.

St. Barbara's received a house located next to Our Lady of the Valley.

The house was left by the Badura Family. It is presently being used as an additional Rectory. Received house on 4/96.

Purchased Convent at 425 N. Division, 6/00.

6. Lay Trustees and term of service for each.

L J.Frank 6/92-6/96

Mark Grosinger 6/92 - 6/96

Wesley J. Metzler 6/96 - present

Michelle Edgell 6/96 - present

7. Pastor's overview of the decade

The past ten years has been a growing period for St. Barbara's Parish.

Father Wright was gone from the Parish for extended periods of time for health reasons, and the Parish was able to function without a priest on a day-to-day basis. This was a very growing experience for the Parish.

Mass attendance continues to increase and the number of people receiving the sacraments continues to grow. The Parish may have to look at adding another Mass, if the numbers continue to go up.

The Migrant Program, which operates for 2 months in the summer, saw a decline. Farmers were using other methods of planting, so there is not the need for the migrant farm workers. There still is a significant number

of families who come to the Powell area to work in the fields, so the program continues.

The program at the Newman Center started an upward trend. We have had three different young women living at the Newman Center and the reply from the students has been very positive.

The Parish sold several older buildings as they were requiring extensive maintenance work.

8. Significant Parish events and programs.

Parish Mission, "Problems of a Modern Catholic," by Rev. O'Brien, 5/90.

Parish Mission, by Rev. Joe Roy, 10/94.

Parish Sponsored "Sugar Beet Classic" a run-bike-run race, 9/90, 9/91, 9/92, 9/93, 9/94

Picture Directory was published, 9/90.

Summers 90-present time: St. Barbara's sponsored a migrant program for the migrant workers in the Powell area.

Parish Picnic held in August 90-93.

St. Barbara's Parish continued to support the Powell Valley Loaves and Fishes, a local food bank, for the needy in the community.

Fiesta Dinners were held in March of 90, 94 & 99 as a Parish fund raiser. Harvest Dinners were held in November of 91 & 92 as a Parish fund raiser.

Vacation Bible School was held during July of each year.

Parish participated in Diocesan Synod in 1991.

First Sunday of each month, coffee and donuts were served following Mass.

Family Fun Night was held in March 1990.

St. Barbara's Foundation established 11/99 to fund various Parish ministries.

Net Team was in the Parish 2/92, 11/95 and 3/2000

Retreat for High School and Northwest College Students was held at Sunlight Basin Camp, 4/92.

Women's "Mini Retreat Enhancing the Women's Role in Living the Beatitudes" was held 3/93.

Evenings for the Engaged were held in 93,94 & 95.

Christian Giggle Gang, a social club for 4th - 6th grade girls, was held in 94, 95,96.

A Remembrance Book was placed in the sanctuary for parishioners to put the names of loved ones to be remembered at all the Masses. This practice started in 1994 and is still in use.

The Hispanic Community of St. Barbara's organizes the Guadalupe Day Mass and Potluck Dinner each December.

St. Barbara's CCW held a Mothers/Daughters Salad Dinner and awarded scholarships to high school seniors and also awarded a Community Service Award. This was held in May of each year through 1997.

Five youth and four adults attended "Youth for Christ" in Washington, D.C. in 6/97.

A Christmas Party for Parish Council Members, Finance Council Members, Parish Trustees and Parish Staff was held each year beginning in 1997.