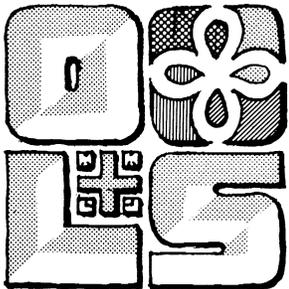
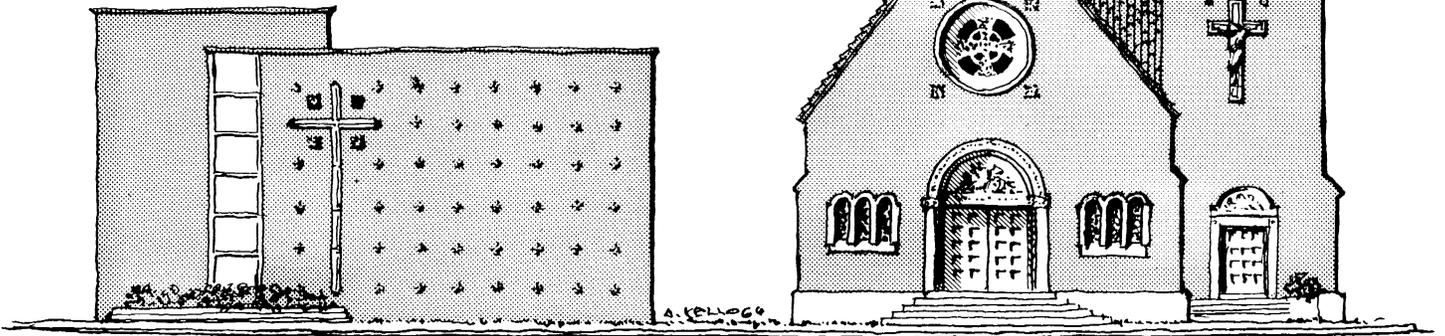


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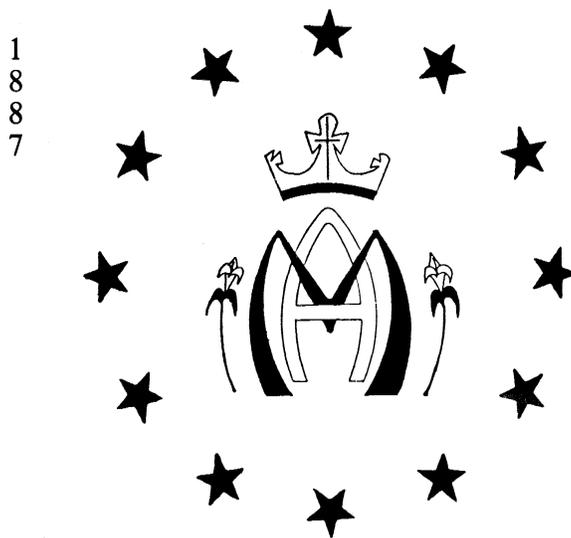
1987



Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church Rock Springs, Wyoming

# OUR LADY OF SORROWS CENTENNIAL

*Special Limited Edition*



by Gloria M. Tomich

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## INTRODUCTION

This history of Our Lady of Sorrows Church is dedicated to all the religious and all the parishioners of the last 100 years, especially those first priests and lay people who worked so diligently to give life to Our Lady of Sorrows.

I want to thank the people who had the confidence in my ability to write the history of our church, especially Nancy Hickerson and Father Eugene Sullivan. At first I was skeptical because of the magnitude of the task, but it became a labor of love for me. No literary effort has been more rewarding. For many months I “lived” the events of Our Lady of Sorrows from 1887 to the present.

I could never have completed the book without many people, and there is no way I can mention all of them, but I would like to recognize Ole Anselmi, David Jelaca, Laurie Hall, Rosalie Getz, Clare Lansang, Stella Noble, Mary and Bud Tebedo, Father Charles Taylor, Joseph Erramouspe, and the other members of the Centennial Committee. Many others contributed time, information, and pictures. The Centennial Committee would like to express its appreciation to all the advertisers who contributed to this publication.

While doing research, I found many discrepancies in dates, events and other data. I tried to include the different information and sources. One date is notably important — the actual beginning of the parish. I used the 1897 article from the *Rock Springs Miner* as the primary source because it was written only ten years after the parish began, while Father Delahunty was still pastor, and I felt it would be the most accurate.

My wishes are that this book will renew memories, rekindle the faith of all of us, and bring us to the realization of how much our church has influenced our lives.

May God continue to bless Our Lady of Sorrows. Gloria Tomich

## PARISH CENTENNIAL LOGO

The A.M. centered in the logo stands for Ave Maria or Hail Mary. The crown with the cross on it represents the reward of victory and a symbol of honor. The lilies are symbols of resurrection and purity.

The twelve stars are symbolic of the 12 sons of Jacob, (Israel) or the 12 tribes of Israel and the signs of the zodiac: Reuben-Taurus Joseph-Pisces Simeon-Gemini Benjamin-Aries Levi-Cancer Dan-Scorpio Judah-Leo Naphtali-Aquarius Issachar-Libra Gad-Sagittarius Zebulun-Virgo Asher-Capricorn

Rev. 12:1: A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

Thus the logo used for our centennial symbolizes our Mother of Sorrows as the queen of the universe. The logo was arranged in its order by David L. Jelaca, and it was drawn by Dale S. Majhanovich.

## CHAPTER I

### Brief History of Wyoming, The Diocese and Rock Springs

#### Father DeSmet

[RS OLS 1987, 14] The early explorers and trappers, the first known white men to enter what is now Wyoming, arrived in 1742-1743. They were French-Canadian Catholics. Other settlers, many of whom were Catholics, came to the region, but no priests were available until 1840, the year when the Catholic Church was instituted in Wyoming.

In 1831 the Nez Perce Indians sent delegates to St. Louis to learn about the white man's religion. Two of the older men became ill and were baptized into the Catholic Church and received the last rites before they died. The Indians then requested that a “Black Robe” be sent to them, but their request was not granted until 1840 when a Jesuit priest, Father Peter J. DeSmet, answered the call to prepare the way for missionaries the Jesuit College of St. Louis planned to send.

[RS OLS 1987, 15] Father DeSmet traveled with the annual caravan of the American Fur Company under the leadership of Captain Andrew Drips. While traveling to his destination, Father DeSmet saw so many names and

messages on the gigantic mass of granite in the Sweetwater Valley; he called it “The Register of the Desert.” His own message on Independence Rock inscribed with his name was, “First priest to reach this remote spot.” Father DeSmet celebrated this first Mass in Wyoming on Sunday, July 5, 1840, at the Green River Rendezvous. He preached in English and French to the traders, trappers and hunters and through interpreters to the Snake and Flathead Indians.

Because Father DeSmet stated in his writings that he said Sunday Mass on missionary trips, it is assumed Mass had already been celebrated in Wyoming at Fort Laramie. However, there is no specific place or date given for earlier Masses until the Green River Mass was recorded. The spot was known for years as *La Prairie de la Messe*.

### Early Religious Life in Wyoming

Fort Laramie was the first permanent settlement in Wyoming. It was recorded that in 1864 a priest heard confessions at the Fort. The building of the Union Pacific Railroad brought the first pioneers who would make the new territory their home. Because some of the pioneers were Catholic, their spiritual needs had to be tended to, so Bishop O’Gorman of Omaha sent Rev. William Kelly to oversee the religious life of all Catholics from Sidney, Nebraska, to Wasatch Canyon, Utah. The faint beginnings of a diocese were on the horizon as Father Kelly visited every point along the railroad that passed through Wyoming.

Not only were priests sent to the area, but the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth opened a hospital at Laramie in 1876. Another religious group, Holy Child Jesus of Pennsylvania, opened a school temporarily in Cheyenne in the old frame church that had been built by Father Kelly. In the early years the Franciscan Sisters, also from Pennsylvania, assisted the Jesuits at St. Stephens Mission by taking charge of a school for Indian girls.

### The Diocese of Cheyenne

The Diocese of Cheyenne was created August 9, 1887. Encompassing all the territory of Wyoming, which included a part of the Louisiana Purchase, part of the Oregon Country, part of the Texas Annexation, and part of the Mexican Cession, the area now known as Wyoming came under the jurisdiction of several sees before the creation of the Cheyenne Diocese: Diocese of St. Louis, Vicariate of the Indian Territory, and the Vicariate of Nebraska.

A priest of the archdiocese of Chicago, Rev. Maurice F. Burke, was named as the first bishop of the diocese of Cheyenne. Bishop Burke was born in Ireland in 1845, but came to America when he was very young. He was later sent to American College in Rome and was ordained in 1875. After his appointment, Bishop Burke was overwhelmed by the vast territory and felt the establishment of the see happened too soon and went to Rome to have it nullified. The proposal was rejected. In 1883 Bishop Burke was transferred to St. Joseph, Missouri. The office of the bishop of the diocese remained vacant for several years until another priest, Rev. Thomas M. Lenihan, was appointed the second bishop of Cheyenne. He, too, was born in Ireland. Consecrated on February 24, 1897, the bishop reached Cheyenne in Passion Week. Bishop Lenihan performed the first Solemn Consecration of the Holy Oils in the Cathedral in Cheyenne.

Named bishop of Cheyenne, June 10, 1902, Bishop James J. Keane, the third bishop of Cheyenne, promoted new church buildings, visited each parish often and established many mission churches throughout the state. When Bishop Keane became the Archbishop of Dubuque, Bishop Patrick A. McGovern became the bishop of Cheyenne. Bishop McGovern was appointed January 19, 1912. Born in Omaha in 1872, he was educated by the Sisters of Mercy and received his college education with the first graduation class at Creighton University. His theological work was completed at St. Mary’s Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio, and he was ordained in 1895. His consecration took place April 11, 1912.

The fourth bishop of Cheyenne encouraged the building of St. Joseph’s Orphanage in 1930. The two initial buildings cost \$138,532. Published in 1940, Bishop McGovern’s book, *The History of the Diocese of Cheyenne*, was the first written history for the diocese. Each parish was directed to write its history, which he included in his book. Updates every ten years were requested.

The next two bishops, Bishop Hubert M. Newell and Bishop Joseph Hart, have their biographies recorded

elsewhere in this history.

## Rock Springs

[RS OLS 1987, 16] In the mid-1800's Captain Howard Stansbury of the U. S. Engineer Department traveled through the area in Southwestern Wyoming now known as Rock Springs. He was guided by Jim Bridger. In his reports he documented the many coal deposits in the region. It was these coal deposits which induced the Union Pacific Railroad to build its line along Stansbury's southern route. Authorized by the Acts of Congress of 1862 and 1864, the Union Pacific Railroad was built between the years 1864 and 1869. The most difficult section of the UPRR was the Red Desert country east of Rock Springs because of the heat during the day and the low temperatures at night.

A large outcrop of coal was discovered thirteen miles from the mouth of Bitter Creek, which later became Number Five Mine.

The Government sanctioned the establishment of the Rock Spring Overland Stage Station, which was built in 1850 near a spring which issued from the rocks. The station, built from native stone, was located a short distance west of Killpecker Creek and was later known as the Number Six area because of the Number Six Mine which opened in the same region. The Blair brothers, Archibald and Duncan, were in charge of the station from 1866 to 1868. In 1868 they opened the initial mine on the south side of Bitter Creek. People of Slavic, Italian, Irish, Polish, Chinese, and a multitude of other ethnic groups poured into Rock Springs to mine coal for the Wyoming Coal and Mining Company and later for the Union Pacific Railroad Company. The camp, which housed the miners in tents and dugouts, was the first camp in the coal fields and was known as Blairtown.

The establishment of the Wyoming Territory and ultimately statehood was the result of the building of the Union Pacific Railroad. The railroad brought settlers to the Rock Springs area, and the mines provided jobs for the settlers. The mines were located near the outcrops of coal, and new camps grew up around the mines. Rock Spring, later Rock Springs, was one of the camps located near a new mine on the Number One seam. This became the Number One Mine. Today the area is known as Number One Hill. In 1870 the first dwelling house was erected for W. H. Mellor, superintendent of the Number One Mine. D. M. Thayer, the first undertaker in the town, came to Rock Springs in the late 1870's. He later became a clerk in the Union Pacific Coal Company office. The Thayer residence on Second Street is still used as a dwelling and is in excellent condition.

[RS OLS 1987, 17] In 1875 Chinese workers were brought in to supplement the labor force in Rock Springs. Ten years later a massacre occurred in which Chinatown was burnt and many of the Chinese were killed or chased out of town. The United States Army stationed soldiers at Camp Pilot Butte (the area where the SCM Parish Hall and the Rock Springs Catholic School are now located) to protect the Chinese.

Starting in 1882, lots were sold, and businesses were established. In November of 1888, Rock Springs was incorporated as a town; William H. O'Donnell was elected the first mayor. He was one of the pioneer Catholics who was responsible for initiating the first Catholic church in Rock Springs.

## CHAPTER II

### 1887-1896 The Beginning

[RS OLS 1987, 18] Almost twenty years after the establishment of Rock Springs as permanent stop for the Overland Stage, the first official Roman Catholic Church came into existence in the mining community.

As more and more people came to Rock Springs in search of work in the coal mines, the need for a place for Catholic worship was realized, especially since many of the new residents were immigrants who were of the Catholic faith: Slavic, Italian, Irish and Polish people.

One source (*Rock Springs Miner*, May 17, 1897) states that the first Roman Catholic church in Rock Springs was built on Number Two Hill in 1884 and was later enlarged in 1890.

Another source (a letter from Edwin E. James, former mayor of Rock Springs) indicates the church was probably built in 1885. Mr. James wrote, "According to my father, Thomas A. James, when he was twenty years old and while living in Salt Lake City, a recruiter for the Union Pacific Coal Company contacted him and a number of

other carpenters to come to Rock Springs to build houses for the Chinese miners. This was in the year 1885. The Chinese had lost their homes in the riot of that year.”

“When the carpenters arrived in Rock Springs by train, they were met by a delegation from the Knights of Labor, the name of the miner’s union at that time. They were asked not to go to work until some difficulties were settled between the union and the coal company. My father noticed the Catholic church under construction and not wanting to be idle, he went over to the construction site and applied for a job. He was hired, so the first work he performed in Rock Springs was on the original Catholic church. He stated he fastened the cross on the church.”

The parish was established in December of 1887, and very likely, a church had already been built. According to church records, however, the first services were not held until January of 1888. Prior to 1888, for a period of four or five years, a missionary from Omaha said Mass once every three or four months in Rock Springs. Before the arrival of the first priest to serve the church in Rock Springs, some of the pioneer Catholics conducted the worship services. These Catholics included the first mayor of Rock Springs, William H. O’Donnell, Dr. Edward S. Murray, Thomas Lafferty, Dennis Murphy, Horace Levesque, Tim Kinney, and [RS OLS 1987, 19] Michael Quealy. Services were held in their homes before the church was built; the first Mass in Rock Springs was held in the home of William H. O’Donnell.

#### Father Delahunty

After the establishment of the parish in December of 1887, Father Delahunty assumed the spiritual guidance of the parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows Church, becoming the first priest of the first Catholic church in Rock Springs. The original name of the parish was Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin and was later given its present name. There is no record as to why the parish was called Our Lady of Sorrows, but it is supposed that Father Delahunty chose this title because of his own liking. The title means the parish is dedicated to Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

According to some records, property was purchased in 1888 with money borrowed from Tim Kinney, and the church, and later a rectory, were erected on this property (*History of the Diocese, McGovern*).

The parish grew rapidly during Father Delahunty’s pastorate (1887-1902). During the first year there were sixteen baptisms, one marriage, and one funeral. The first baptism on January 15, 1888, was for Elizabeth Alien Blonden. On May 16, 1888, the first wedding at our Lady of Sorrows Parish was performed for Lawrence Stanford, son of Thomas Stanford and Mariam (Mary) Stanford, and Mariam (Mary) Byrnes, daughter of Martin Byrnes and Annie White. The witnesses were Michael Byrnes and Lizzie Byrnes.

In 1893 Patrick J. Quealy donated land for a Catholic cemetery. Joseph Zini, on March 17, 1893, was the first Catholic buried in the cemetery.

#### Slavonic People

[RS OLS 1987, 20] In 1894 the Slavonic Lodges donated money to enlarge Our Lady of Sorrows Church. Rev. Cyril Zupan, O. S. B., conducted a mission for the many Slavonic people in Rock Springs in 1899.

#### The Church

During his tenure in Rock Springs, Father Delahunty oversaw the building of the frame church and rectory and acquired the present church property, which, at that time, covered two-thirds of a block. He also installed practically all of the church furnishings for the building. In 1897 the church was replenished with a new carpet and new organ; the walls and ceilings were repapered, and the woodwork was repainted. The Parish Hall was a small room in the basement. At the south end of the church was the altar, which was flanked by two beautiful statues, one placed there by Tim Kinney in memory of his wife. The gallery was at the north end of the church and was used by the choir. Mrs. J. W. Gates was the soloist and Mrs. J. Murray and Mr. William Fett alternated as organists.

*Rock Springs Miner*, May 17, 1897: “The choir is one of the best in the city. The regular attendance at the Catholic Church is very large and there is already a demand for more seats . . . The Rev. Father Delahunty is a man of bright intellect, possessing all the traits and character of the Irish gentleman, combined with the sanctity

and pure exemplary life of the Christian. He sets an example in his every walk in life, and his spotless character supports his eloquence in the pulpit. No one protects his flock from harm more than he.”

### CHAPTER III

#### 1897-1906 The Quiet Years

[RS OLS 1987, 21] The original frame building of Our Lady of Sorrows Church had been altered slightly over the years, with different stained glass window and a new front entrance. The building many have been the oldest church in Rock Springs. The picture, top left, shows the church as it was originally built. The picture, bottom right, is of the church after alterations were made and as it appeared until 1980 when it was torn down. [See Sweetwater County Historical Museum photo originals]

[RS OLS 1987, 22] In January 1903, Reverend Delahunty was succeeded by the Reverend John Nolan, who was pastor for almost a year before failing health forced his resignation. Rev. Delahunty again became pastor and remained until April, 1903, when he was succeeded by Rev. Anton Blahnik, O.S.B., who was acting pastor until June of 1903 when Rev. Nolan returned to the parish and stayed until January, 1904.

The Marist Fathers of Salt Lake City were asked to take care of the parishioners temporarily. Revs. J. F. Guinan and Joseph Dryer regularly visited Our Lady of Sorrows on weekends to hold services and take care of the spiritual needs of the parish.

Rev. Charles O'Connor was appointed pastor in the fall of 1904 and was succeeded by Rev. August Conti in 1905. Rev. Conti paid off the remainder of the debt on the church property and added the sacristies.

#### Joseph Anselmi Family

It was a few years before the turn of the century that Giuseppe (Joseph) Anselmi, then eighteen, decided to leave his home in Brez, Tyrol, Austria in the Val di Non, and come to the New World. Joseph settled first in Cambria, Wyoming, at the suggestion and encouragement of his brother Pietro (Pete), who had come to this country several years previous. It was in the county of Weston, where Cambria was located that Joseph obtained his citizenship papers on October 27, 1898, forever after worrying if they were legal since he obtained them before he had been in the United States the required five years.

Soon Joseph came to Rock Springs, Wyoming, where he worked first for the Union Pacific Coal Company store as a deliveryman, and also as a deliveryman for a local bakery. A few years later, he and a group of friends formed the Miners Mercantile Company, a department store that was in existence in Rock Springs until 1965. It was in Rock Springs that Joseph decided to send for Maria (Mary) Menghini with whom he had been corresponding to become his bride. The Menghini and Anselmi families had been neighbors in the “old country.” Joseph Anselmi and Mary Menghini were married by Father J. Nolan in Our Lady of Sorrows Church in May, 1903. After living for a short while on “M” Street, where the first child was born, they moved to Euclid Avenue where they raised their family — Rudolph, Josephine, who died at the age of 4 of black diphtheria, Madalena (Lena), James, Frances, Ernest and Emma.

The first child, a son, was born May 1, 1904. He was the only Anselmi child not to be named for a relative. Many thought he would be named for his father, but such was not the case. In later years, he was told that all, except his mother who stayed home, were on the way to his baptism, when his godparents selected the name “Rudolph,” perhaps naming the child after the son of Franz Joseph, the beloved emperor of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, and a popular name for children born in that era.

Mary Menghini-Anselmi never did learn to speak much English; she didn't have to because she lived among others of her own nationality. She did not attend church every Sunday, but did attend on various occasions, and for her, and many of the other immigrants, the Latin Mass was a blessing, something good to hear — a link with home. Prayer book pages were divided in half — one side in Latin and the other in the language spoken by the immigrant, so, by listening to the familiar Latin phrases, immigrants could easily follow the Mass.

The elder Anselmi children started school without being able to speak English. There were some 52 different

nationalities living in Rock Springs, and most first graders did not speak English, but were not given any special classes to learn the language of the United States, so were soon speaking fluently in both their native tongues and English. The elder children taught English to their younger brothers and sisters. Joseph Anselmi worked hard and learned to speak the new language without a foreign accent.

The Anselmis made sure all their children received religious training. The mother often worried about how her children would get safely across the railroad tracks to catechism classes, and would ask older children in the neighborhood to help the younger Anselmi children. Kate Britt (later Mrs. Gus Slott) was regularly asked to escort “little” Rudy safely to catechism classes. As Rudy and Jim got older, they helped their younger brothers and sisters.

Mary Menghini Anselmi died at the early age of 45 in 1925. The children never realized how much their father loved their mother until they saw how broken up he was at her death, and how much he really needed and missed her. Although Joseph still did not attend church except on special occasions, he never missed attending Mass on the anniversary date of his wife’s death. He saw to it that his children never missed Sunday Mass. When the priest asked him why he (Joseph) didn’t go with his children, he said he had to stay home and cook Sunday dinner. To this day, all of his surviving children are strong Catholics.

After her mother’s death, the eldest daughter, Lena, then 17, took over the complete care of the household with help and encouragement from her eldest brother. It was she who saw that the youngest Anselmi children attended catechism and received the sacraments. At one time Lena also taught a catechism class.

In 1929 Rudy Anselmi married Louise Shuster in the Church of Sts. Cyril and Methodius. Her parents

[RS OLS 1987, 23] Joseph and Rozalia Zupanciz Shuster had been married in Our Lady of Sorrows Church in June, 1903, after they came to this country from Martin Vrh, Slovenia, Austria (now Yugoslavia). However, they became members of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church once it was completed in 1925.

In September, 1931, Lena Anselmi became the bride of Freeman Huntley in Our Lady of Sorrows rectory, because rules at that time were such that non-Catholics could not be married in the church proper, and Freeman was a non-Catholic. Later he converted to Catholicism.

In July, 1946, Emma Anselmi married Joseph Melinkovich in Our Lady of Sorrows Church. The other Anselmi children were married in various cities, but all by Catholic priests.

Joseph Anselmi died in March, 1931. He had become such a prominent businessman in Rock Springs, that, during the time of his funeral, all local businesses were closed. That year the parish was in the process of building a new church. Joseph had planned to donate a holy water font in memory of his wife. After his death his children decided to dedicate the font in memory of both of their parents.

Written by Mary Lou Anselmi Unguren from interviews with Lena Anselmi Huntley and Rudolph Anselmi.  
January, 1987

## CHAPTER IV

### 1907-1916 Growth Years

[RS OLS 1987, 24] From May, 1907, until July, 1910, Rev. T. J. Barrett was the pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Church. Rev. James Cerne was appointed assistant pastor in June of 1909, necessitated by the steady growth of the parish. Establishing a mission in Superior, Father Cerne celebrated the first Mass on Christmas Day in 1909 in a private home. He also served as a pastor for the Slavic people in the area.

Father Cerne left the parish in 1910, and Rev. Francis J. Keller was appointed pastor, namely for the English speaking Catholics. To serve the Slavic Catholics, Rev. Anton Schifferer was appointed the assistant pastor.

### Catholics Increase

[RS OLS 1987, 25] The census of the parish, taken in 1910, revealed the number of Catholics at 3,200. Many people of foreign birth were coming to Rock Springs and settling on the north side near the mines. Only four percent of the Catholics remained on the south side of the town near the church. Because crossing the railroad

tracks was dangerous, especially for the children, the north side people were left without benefit of the church. Father Keller had the church renovated and also paid off debts amounting to \$600.00. He resigned in July of 1910 because of poor health and was succeeded by Rev. Michael J. Kennedy in September. Six months after his appointment, Rev. Kennedy died at the local hospital on April 25, 1911, and was buried in St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery.

When Father Kennedy was appointed, Bishop Keane also instructed Father Schiffrer to be the assistant at Our Lady of Sorrows as well as pastor at Saints Cyril and Methodius. The Bishop hoped to unite both churches into one parish. It was decided to sell the property of Our Lady of Sorrows and build a new church to serve both parishes. The church would be on the north side of the Union Pacific railroad tracks because of the Catholics who resided on that side of town. It was also decided that Father Schiffrer would be pastor for both congregations. The attempt to unite the two parishes failed. Rev. Michael J. Kelly was sent to take charge of OLS in September of 1911 and stayed until July, 1912. Father Kelly and Father Schiffrer were to share the same rectory and the same church building was to be used for services until the SCM church could be built.

According to the *Rock Springs Miner* (December 16, 1932), "Poor health again took its toll when the Reverend Kelly, successor to Reverend Schiffrer, resigned on account of poor health after remaining here but three or four months."

Partially burned on January 14, 1911, the church was repaired during Father Kelly's pastorate.

At Father Kelly's departure, Rev. Schiffrer was in charge of the parish. He was also pastor of a new parish, Saints Cyril and Methodius, which had been established in 1910. The basement of the church was built and the first Mass was celebrated at Christmas, 1912.

Rev. John A. Mattes was made pastor in November, 1912, and Rev. Ludwig Grycmacher was appointed pastor of Superior at the same time. Father Mattes left in January, 1914. Again, Father Schiffrer took charge until the appointment of Rev. John F. Sugrue in February, 1914. Father Sugrue served as pastor for four and one half years even though he was afflicted with tuberculosis. In October of 1918, he went to Ireland.

#### Bishop McGovern

On January 19, 1912, Patrick A. McGovern was named the fourth bishop of Cheyenne. A native of Omaha, born there in 1872, he attended Creighton University and graduated with the first graduation class in 1891. He was ordained August 18, 1895, after completing his theology studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio. Bishop McGovern served parishes at Jackson, Kearney, and Omaha, Nebraska. On April 11, 1912, he was consecrated as Bishop of Cheyenne. At the time of his appointment, the diocese included fourteen parishes, fourteen priests, thirty-two churches and two schools. St. Joseph's Orphanage was built through the efforts of the Bishop.

## CHAPTER V

1917-1926

### Rejuvenation

#### Rev. Sylvester A. Welsh

[RS OLS 1987, 26] After being ordained to the priesthood at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City for the Diocese of Cheyenne on September 1, 1918, Sylvester A. Welsh was named pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Church in October of 1918.

#### New Life for the Parish

[RS OLS 1987, 27] Because of the short terms of most of the pastors following Father Delahunty's pastorate, the parish of Our Lady of Sorrows was not very active. Attendance was poor and little interest in the church affairs was evident. Only one hundred persons were attending Sunday Mass, and there were only three practical Catholic men in the parish. Father Welsh immediately started new programs in organization and in devotion. He

hoped to rekindle interest in the church.

Although renovation of the church was started, Father Welsh's ambition was to erect a new church for the people of OLS. The improvements on the frame church building in 1922 amounted to \$5000 and \$2000 for the parish house.

Attendance increased and the finances of the church also improved. By 1931 the annual church income was almost \$15,000, and church property increased in valuation from \$18,000 to almost \$100,000. On May 23, 1920, a class of sixty-two was confirmed by Bishop McGovern, and on May 20, 1928, one hundred and eleven were confirmed.

#### Knights of Columbus

A council of the Knights of Columbus originated in Rock Springs, Wyoming, on February 4, 1923, forming the sixth council in the State of Wyoming. The original name, Rock Springs Council 2441, was later changed (1969) to the Frank Plemel Council 2441. Local Knights are responsible for the Mass at DeSmet Monument near Daniel. The monument was erected by some members from Rock Springs and Kemmerer in 1925. Council 2441 sponsors the memorial Mass, arranges for a priest to celebrate the Mass, prepares the site, and publicizes the Mass.

#### Altar Society Organized

St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Society was founded in 1920 with Mary Forndran as the first president. (She was the mother of Eleanor Antwiler, who was also an active member of St. Mary's.) The other charter members were Mrs. Charles Scott, Mrs. Anna Karpan, Mrs. S.S. Yahner, Mrs. John McNulty and Mrs. Mary Devlin.

St. Rita's Auxiliary was the first circle started in 1954. Some of the members included Joan Facinelli, Nan Stanton, Mae Yedinak, Mary Forndran, Mayme Muir and Elizabeth Lyartis.

[RS OLS 1987, 28] In 1958 Father Logue, who was an associate pastor, first initiated the formation of additional circles. Ann Halseth formed St. Ann's Circle that same year. Others that followed were St. Cecelia, St. Theresa, St. Veronica, St. Agatha, St. Catherine, St. Patrick, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Paul, St. Mark and St. Gerard.

Presidents of St. Mary's through 1952 included: Annie Jack, Hattie Kellogg, Mrs. O'Donnahue, Lizzie O'Donnell, Mrs. S. S. Yahner, Mayme Muir, Vera Prieshoff, Bonnie Weppner, Anna Magagna, Lou Naab, Mae Yedinak, Hazel Angelovic, Mrs. Joseph Facinelli, Mary Lawless, Mabel Hafner, Audrey Jorgensen, Ann Uram, Nan Stanton, and Blanche Bertagnolli.

#### Other Goals

Another goal of the new pastor was to work with the children of the parish in order to teach them values of citizenship and Christianity. He also gave a great deal of attention to the mission at Superior, which had been established before Father Welsh's arrival, and to the Winton mission, which he established in 1926.

#### Rectory Renovated

After serving five years at Our Lady of Sorrows, Father Welsh's work increased so rapidly it became necessary to have the services of an assistant. The rectory was renovated in 1925 to accommodate some help, and in March of that year, Rev. John Marley became the assistant at Our Lady of Sorrows. Msgr. John Meyer, "Churches that Once Were," *Wyoming Catholic Register*: "In 1925 an addition was built on the eastside of the dwelling to afford space for an assistant. All in all, it was a cramped kind of operation. There was no office, only a living room, and the pastor's bedroom served also as a 'holy shop,' that is, an abbreviated religious goods room plus a space on the top of a clothes cabinet for the monstrance enclosed in a huge imitation leather case."

In November 1925, Rev. Marley was transferred to be in charge of the Greybull parish and was succeeded by Rev. Daniel O'Sullivan.

#### Thomas P. Cullen — *Growing up in a Wyoming Coal Town*

Thomas P. Cullen was born September 13, 1915, to Thomas and Margaret Cullen who were married November 7, 1909, at Our Lady of Sorrows Church. Tom started to serve Mass at OLS in 1926. The following are accounts

taken from his manuscript, *Growing up in a Wyoming Coal Town*.

My earliest recollections of Our Lady of Sorrows Church center on preparations made getting ready to go to Mass each Sunday. It was often left to Pa to tie my tie before we left for the church.

During the winter months we dreaded the walk up toward the church from the "C" Street crossing facing the icy wind. On arrival we tried to be seated as close as we could to the pot-bellied stove that then provided heat, but we often cried silently from the effects of the cold which left our feet aching. Later a furnace was installed, which more adequately solved the heating problems.

When we were in the lower grades, we sang with the children's choir at the 8 o'clock Mass which was directed by Mrs. James Capen. I don't remember who played accompaniment on the church organ, but Olga Sarcletti added her talents with the violin to our renditions of the hymns.

I began serving Mass for Father Welsh at Our Lady of Sorrows Church when I was about 11 years old, Silvio Giovale, Aldo Deru, Charles Zancanella, and Ed Yori were also serving at that time. Jack Weppener, George Schmidt, Paul Yedinak, Bill Delaney, Narcisso Zancanella, and others joined the list later.

Sunday Mass was celebrated at Winton periodically and Father Welsh often went up there for a 10:00 Mass. Father Schellinger of Green River came up to Rock Springs to say the last Mass at Rock Springs. Oscar Olsen often supplied the transportation on the trips and after Mass we would all be guests of a member of the Winton Parish for breakfast.

During the ride to Winton the conversation often turned to the conditions in early day Rock Springs when Father Welsh first arrived. I heard Father relate many times about his first experience with a barber in Rock Springs. Father said that he went into a barbershop for a shave and removed his Roman collar. The barber asked him if the wearing of the collar backwards was a new style. I suppose the barber had never before seen a clergyman with such a collar.

Father took great delight relating about the times after he first arrived in town when he was subjected [RS OLS 1987, 29] to the indignity of having rotten fruit thrown at him while walking through town.

One Sunday morning before Mass Father Welsh told me to put some more candles in the votive offering stand in the old church. I had my cassock and surplice on prepared for serving Mass, and as I reached across the stand to put additional candles in it, my surplice caught fire from one of the candles which had dropped to the bottom of the stand.

I heard women scream and someone rushed to help me stamp out the flames with their hands. The surplice was made of lace, and I was easily able to stamp out the fire with no serious consequences.

When I got back to the sacristy carrying the tattered and burned remains of the surplice, Father Welsh waited for me to don another surplice and went out into the church for Mass.

At one of the evening services at one of the missions, which were arranged periodically by Father Welsh at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, the missionary priest was giving a sermon. Father Welsh had a lot of nervous energy, and I could see that he was getting fidgety as we waited in the sacristy for the missioner to end his sermon.

Father finally told me to go out on the altar and begin lighting the candles for Benediction. I had just lighted one of the candles on one of the candelabra when the missioner turned suddenly to me and burst out, "Put out that candle. You are not going to rush me."

I retired to the sacristy after putting out the candle and put the candle lighter back in the corner.

I was peeved at Father Welsh for putting me in a "no win" position.

Neither Father Welsh nor the missioner ever mentioned the incident after the service.

During the time I served Mass for Father Welsh and the many assistant pastors at different times at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Frank Plemel always sang and played the Requiem for the funerals.

We were excused from school for the funerals on week days, and Frank Plemel was just two blocks away at his position at the Rock Springs National Bank.

I recall many times when Frank's distinctive voice filled the hushed atmosphere in the church broken only by the wind rattling the windows and doors of the old church.

Father Welsh was great for parish organizations and the kids were not overlooked in this regard. We had the Junior Boys' Club and the Senior Boys' Club. I belonged to both, graduating to the older boys' organization as I

grew older.

Father Welsh once told me that one day while enroute to a sick call he was flagged down by City Patrolman Joe Davenport who jumped on Father's running board and yelled into his ear, "Drive on, Father, I'll help you through the traffic."

Joe had sensed, judging from the speed Father was traveling, that he was, indeed, on his way to a sick call. Father had the well deserved reputation of being a very erratic and reckless driver.

Father also told me later that Chief of Police Charles Kreiger, who happened to be a member of his congregation, warned him that he would issue him a speeding citation if he ever caught Father exceeding the speed limit — sick call or not.

Father Welsh had a pool table in the basement of the church, and I played my first game of pool downstairs in the basement of the old Our Lady of Sorrows Church. (Father Sullivan remembers seeing remnants of this pool table in the basement, which was the Social Hall until the new church was built.)

The cornerstone of the new Our Lady of Sorrows Church was laid by Most Reverend Patrick A. McGovern of Cheyenne on June 19, 1932. I was still serving Mass at that time, and I was given the title and responsibility by Father Welsh of being "Deacon in honor to the Bishop."

The day on which the cornerstone was laid was a beautiful day, but I don't remember any pictures being taken of that day's events, however.

The church, designed by McGinnis and Walsh, Boston architects, was dedicated December 16, 1932.

## CHAPTER VI

1927-1936

### A Dream Comes True

#### New Church Dedicated

[RS OLS 1987, 30] Father S. A. Welsh's dream of building a more fitting place for his parishioners to worship was realized when the beautiful Our Lady of Sorrows was completed at a cost of \$66,000. The cornerstone, which is located in the northeast corner of the church, was laid in June 19, 1932, with Bishop McGovern presiding. Leading fraternal organizations, religious organizations and citizens, the Rock Springs Knights of Columbus headed a parade to the site of the new church where the open air ceremony took place.

[RS OLS 1987, 31] Dedicated and consecrated on December 11, 1932, the new church was blessed by Bishop Patrick A. McGovern who gave the dedicatory address during the first religious service in the new church. His sermon was entitled "The Divine Plan of the Church." Although the weather was cold, the new edifice was filled for the first Mass.

During the solemn high Mass, the guard of honor to the Bishop consisted of members of the Fourth Degree, Rock Springs Assembly, Knights of Columbus: Robert D. Murphy, Joseph P Weppner, T. Joe Cahill, Fred Magagna, Oscar Olson, Frank Plemel, Edward D. Crippa, John Kershishnik, and Frank P. Rogan. Other members in formal attire were ushers: Peter Sartoretto, H. O'Malley, Andrew Travelute, James Anselmi, Rudolph Anselmi, Joseph Facinelli, Edwin Magagna, and Edward Prieshoff.

Rev. Welsh was the celebrant of the Mass. Assisting with the services were the Rev. Henry Schellinger of Green River, deacon; the Rev. John F. Sullivan of Rock Springs, sub-deacon; the Rev. James Hartman of Cheyenne, pastor of St. Mary's Cathedral, master of ceremonies; Rev. Albin Gnidovec, pastor of Saints Cyril and Methodius Church, and Thomas Cullen, Jr., deacons of honor to the Bishop. The altar boys were Paul Yedinak, Jr., cross bearer; William Delaney, Jr., censor bearer; Narciso Zancanella and Joseph Popp, servers.

Under the direction of the parish choirmaster, Leo Hovorka, members of the choir sang for the impressive Mass. Mrs. Virginia Kershishnik was the organist. Orchestra members were Olga Sarcletti, Leno Ceretto, James Sartoris, Thomas Turchan, Walter Oja, John Costantino, and Joseph Rennie. Soloists included Ida Connor, Ted Jacobs, and Tom Jones of Denver.

#### Construction

Local contractors, Kellogg Lumber Company, constructed the building under the supervision of Samuel Kellogg

The Union Pacific Coal Company loaned the services of their structural engineer, James Libby, as supervising architect and engineer.

[RS OLS 1987, 32]It was necessary in the early stages of construction of the church to drive a shaft into the old Union Pacific Mine Number One for reinforcing although the church property is not over the old mine which is just outside the sidewalk on A Street. Once the street in front of the church did cave in, but no damage was done to the church.

### Italian Romanesque Style

The exterior of the structure is of buff colored brick with terra cotta trimming. Red, black, and cream colors are predominant in the tile roof.

The style of the church is Italian Romanesque, which is characterized by the Cruciform church with aisles and transepts, the apsidal chapel, barrel vaulting, rounded arches and pillars. The most perfect examples of this design are found in famous old cathedrals of France. McGinnis and Walsh, famous church architects of Boston designed the building, the altar and the impressive stained glass windows.

### Italian and German Artists

Italian marble from Venice was used in the elegant altar and baptismal font. Well-known New York sculptor, Bernard Steffeta, designed and erected the altar. The new statue of the Risen Christ is also from Italy [RS OLS 1987, 33] and was donated by the Gaston Erramouspe family. The famous Oberammergau wood carvers of southern Germany hand carved the impressive Stations of the Cross which depict Christ's journey to Calvary and His death. Oberammergau is the home of the famous Passion Play where the humble carvers live their parts of the play.

### Memorial Gifts for the New Church

[RS OLS 1987, 35]The altar was given in memory of August Martello, in memory of Robert and Mary Jack and by John Bertagnolli, Frank P. Rogan, and Mary Devlin.

The marble steps to the altar were donated by Joseph Schott and the Winton Altar Society. Mrs. Sebastian Tayo donated the large sanctuary bell; the Senior Sodality of the Blessed Virgin gave the sanctuary lamp and the confessional. The Rose window and the altar railing were gifts of St. Mary's Altar Society.

Windows in the baptistery were given by Mayme Brabazon and Mrs. Rose Freeman. The statue of St. Teresa was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tallmire, and the statue of Jesus was donated in memory of Mrs. Margaret Kinney. One of the holy water fonts at the entrance of the church was the gift of Mrs. Catherine Berta, and the other in memory of Mary and Joseph Anselmi.

The fourteen Stations of the Cross were the gifts of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Prieshoff, I. T. Branch and family, Mr. and Mrs. Gaston Erramouspe (2), Mrs. Pearl Longly, in memory of Henry Mengoni, in memory of Daniel Sullivan, Mr. and Mrs. James Whalen, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Whalen, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bertagnolli and family, in memory of Mrs. Nora Murphy Cody, Superior Altar Society (2), Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Rador, and in memory of Narciso Zancanella.

Beatrice Jack donated the Mass book; the sacristy was the donation of the Winton Altar Society. Many other parishioners gave monetary gifts.

### Stained Glass Windows (English) Glasmalerei (German) By Ole L. Anselmi

[RS OLS 1987, 36] The following is a short history of stained glass windows — telling of their origin and growth. The windows of Our Lady of Sorrows Church are beautiful and the colors emanating from them are beyond description. The sun and clouds as they move create a multitude of colors. However, the intent of this history is not so much about the windows. Rather, the intent is about the donors (the people of “yesteryear”) who gave them to the church.

Stained glass tells the story of man's most subtle skills — his ability to create a feast of light and color — a perfect fusion of art and nature. It is unique among the arts of the world because of the relationship that exists

between glass and light. Stained glass has more to offer than sheer visual splendor. It is a history held up to the light. Stained glass is basically a Christian art. It had no interpreters until the Christian era. The art declined during the 17th and 18th Centuries. The revival of the art occurred during the pre-Raphaelite and the Art Nouveau movement in the 19th Century. The Bible, together with manuals of instruction and critical interpretations written by the early fathers and scholars of the church were the fundamental source of thematic material for artists.

Until the 15th Century, the influence of the church was paramount and secular subjects (with the exception of heraldry) was taboo. Glaziers began to work in secular literature from pagan myths to fables and fairy tales. Spirits of good and evil, pagan festivals, natural calamities and unexplained phenomena began to emerge.

The oldest stained glass windows in the world are in the Augsburg Cathedral depicting the 11th Century Old Testament figures. (Taken from *Stained Glass* by Lawrence Lee, George Seddon and Francis Stephens.)

The windows in Our Lady of Sorrows Church were designed by a Doctor H. Ordunann-Linnih of Rheinland, Germany, and were constructed in Munich, Germany, by the famous Church Glass Works. There are 38 stained glass windows in Our Lady of Sorrows Church. Eighteen of these are in the church proper, three in the Sacristy, three are in the vestibule, three are in the Sanctuary, four are in the Baptismal, four are in the stairwell, and the Rose Window is in the choir loft. The eighteen windows in the church proper are 7 feet high and 2 feet wide with a round top and they commemorate the lives of the Saints. The names of the donors are inscribed on the bottom portion of the window. This portion can be opened for air circulation.

The following are the windows (Saints and donors) as one looks to the back of the church on the Gospel side.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA: Priest and Doctor (1195-1231)

The Gospel call to leave everything and follow Christ was the rule of Anthony's life. Over and over again God called him to something new in his plan. Each time Anthony responded with renewed zeal and self-sacrificing to serve his Jesus more completely.

His journey as the servant of God began as a very young man when he decided to join the Augustinians, giving up a future of wealth and power to be a servant of God. Later, when the bodies of the first Franciscan martyrs went through the town where he was stationed, he was again filled with an intense longing to be one of those closest to Jesus himself: those who die for the Good News.

So Anthony entered the Franciscan Order and set out to preach to the Moors. But an illness prevented him from achieving this goal. He returned to Italy and was stationed in a small hermitage where he spent most of his time praying, reading from the Scriptures and doing menial tasks.

The call of God came again at an ordination where no one was prepared to speak. The humble and obedient Anthony hesitantly accepted the task. The years of searching for Jesus in prayer, in reading Sacred Scripture and in serving him in poverty, chastity and obedience had prepared Anthony to allow the Spirit to use his talents. Anthony's sermon was astounding to those who expected an unprepared speech and knew not the power of the Spirit in giving men words.

Donor — Guy (Guido) Dona:

Guy Dona was born in Trent-Tyrol Austria on January 27, 1876. He came to America as a young man and became an American citizen on October 8, 1900. He married Angela (Arcangela) Magagna on August 14, 1904, in Our Lady of Sorrows Church. They lived in Superior, Wyoming, from 1906 until 1920. They then moved to Rock Springs. Mr. Dona was a cement contractor until his retirement in 1948. To this day, the imprint of his cement contracting company can be found in the sidewalks throughout the city. They had five children: Rose Marie 1907-1907; Guido 1911-1921; Alphonse 1905-1985; Aldo 1912-1978; and Irma who resides in Rock Springs. Mr. Dona died in 1948; Mrs. Dona died in 1956.

ST. DOMINIC: Priest (1170-1221)

[RS OLS 1987, 37] If he hadn't taken a trip with his bishop, Dominic would probably have remained within the structure of contemplative life; after the trip, he spent the rest of his life being a contemplative in active apostolic work.

Born in Old Castile, Spain, he was trained for the priesthood by a priest-uncle, studied the arts and theology, and

became a canon of the cathedral at Osma, where there was an attempt to revive the apostolic common life of the Acts of the Apostles.

Dominic sensed the need of the Church to combat the Albigensians heresy, and was commissioned to be part of the preaching crusade against it. He saw immediately why the preaching was not succeeding: the ordinary people admired and followed the ascetical heroes of the Albigenses. Understandably they were not impressed by the Catholic spokesmen who traveled with horses and retinues, stayed at the best inns, and had servants. Dominic therefore, with three Cistercians, began itinerant preaching according to the Gospel ideal. He continued this work for 10 years, being successful with the ordinary people but not with the leaders.

His fellow preachers gradually became a community and in 1215 he founded a religious house at Toulouse which was to be the beginning of the Dominican order.

Donor — Steve Magagna:

Steve Magagna was born in Brez, Italy, on March 24, 1870, one of 12 children. His wife Clementine was born in 1873. Steve came to the U. S. in 1898. He came alone to seek work to earn enough money so he could send for his wife and daughter Emma. He worked in the mines and later was in the sheep business in the LaBarge area; he owned and operated a saloon on South Front Street with a brother Lewis.

He and his wife had three children. Emma was born in Italy in 1898 and died in 1915. Two sons, Fred and Joe, were born in the U. S. Fred 1902-1970; Joe 1905-1944.

After the death of his daughter, he worked at the Union Mercantile and was one of the originators of that store which operated here in Rock Springs for many years. He retired from the Union Mercantile at age 60. His wife passed away in 1937. In 1939 he then made his home with his son and daughter-in-law, Fred and Mary Magagna at 419 C Street. He resided there until the time of his death in 1954.

ST. BONIFACE: Bishop and Martyr (6727-754)

Boniface, known as the Apostle of the Germans, was an English Benedictine monk who gave up the honors of an abbatial election to devote his life to the conversion of the Germanic tribes. Two characteristics stand out: his Christian orthodoxy and his fidelity to the Pope of Rome.

How absolutely necessary this orthodoxy and fidelity were, is borne out by the conditions he found on his first missionary journey in 719 at the request of Pope Gregory II. Paganism was a way of life. What Christianity he did find, had either lapsed into paganism or was mixed with error. The clergy were mainly responsible for these latter conditions since they were in many instances uneducated, lax and questionably obedient to their bishops. In particular instances, their very ordination was questionable.

These are the conditions that Boniface was to report in 722 on his first return visit to Rome. The Holy Father instructed him to reform the German Church. To fulfill these duties, he was made a Regional Bishop. The Pope sent letters of recommendation to religious and civil leaders. Boniface later admitted that his work would have been unsuccessful, from a human viewpoint, without a letter of safe conduct from Charles Martel. He was finally made a regional bishop and authorized to organize the whole German church. He was eminently successful.

In the Frankish kingdom, he met great problems because of lay interference in bishops' elections, the worldliness of the clergy, and lack of papal control.

During a final mission to the Frisians, he and 53 companions were massacred while he was preparing converts for Confirmation.

Donor — August Crippa:

August Crippa was born in Milan, Italy, in 1865. When but 16 years of age he left his native land for America, settling first in Pennsylvania, where he obtained work on the railroad. A few years later he felt the call of the west and set out for the uninhabited country, which is now New Mexico. He remained there for more than a year before coming to Rock Springs.

Mr. Crippa was 21 years old when he reached Rock Springs and his forty years residence here brought him success and happiness. Here he met and married Miss Charlotta Ziller. The children are Mrs. G. L. Walker and [RS OLS 1987, 38] Edward and Albert Crippa, all of this city. After engaging in business for more than thirty years, Mr. Crippa retired in 1919, his son Edward assuming the management of the Union Merc. Co., and his other active interests.

ST. PAUL: (d. 64?)

Paul's central conviction was simple and absolute. Only God can save man. No human effort — even the most scrupulous observance of Law can create a human good which we can bring to God as reparation for sin and payment for grace. To be saved from himself, from sin, from the devil and from death, man must open himself completely to the saving power of Jesus.

Paul never lost his love for his brother Jews, though he carried on a lifelong debate with them about the uselessness of the Law without Christ. He reminded the Gentiles that they were grafted on the parent stock of the Jews, who were still God's chosen people, the children of the promise.

His experiencing the personal risen Jesus on the road to Damascus was the driving force that made him one of the most Zealous, dynamic and courageous ambassadors of Christ the Church has ever had. But persecution, humiliation and weakness became his day-by-day carrying of the Cross, material for further transformation. The dying Christ was in him; the living Christ was his life.

It is ironic, perhaps, that after a lifetime of suffering for Christ at the hands of his fellow Jews, and working for Gentile conversion, he should be martyred at the hands of Gentile power, the Roman Emperor Nero.

Donor — John Giovale:

John Giovale was born in Foinette, Tyrol, Austria, on June 8, 1870. He married Louise Tossa in 1901 and came to the United States in 1907. He settled in Rock Springs in 1908, after spending some time in Pennsylvania, Illinois, California and Utah. Louise Tessa was born in Selraggio, Tyrol, Austria. Their children were daughter Pierina and son Joseph, a son died in infancy in 1914, and Dr. Silvio Giovale was born in 1915 and at present practices in Cheyenne, Wyoming. John Giovale was a coal miner for 40 years until he retired. He died on June 18, 1954. Mrs. John Giovale died September 24, 1942. The Giovale family were parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish.

ST. PATRICK: Bishop (3897-461?)

Patrick's birthplace is said to be either Dumbarton, Scotland or Cumberland, England. He called himself both a Roman and a Briton. At 16, he and a large number of his father's slaves and vassals were captured by Irish raiders and sold as slaves in Ireland. Forced to work as a shepherd, he suffered greatly from hunger and cold. After six years, Patrick escaped, probably to France, and later returned to Britain at the age of 22. His captivity had meant spiritual conversion. He may have studied at Lerins, off the French coast; he spent 15 years at Auxerre, and was consecrated bishop at the age of 43. His great desire was to proclaim the Good News to the Irish.

In a dream vision, it seemed "all the children of Ireland from their mothers' wombs, were stretching out their hands" to him. He understood the vision to be a call to do mission work in pagan Ireland. Despite opposition from those who felt his education had been defective, he was sent to carry out the task. He went to the west and north, where the faith had never been preached, obtained the protection of local kings, and made numerous converts.

Because of the island's pagan background, Patrick was emphatic in encouraging widows to remain chaste and young women to consecrate their virginity to Christ. He ordained many priests, divided the country into dioceses, held Church councils, founded several monasteries and continually urged his people to greater holiness in Christ.

He suffered much opposition from pagan druids, and was criticized in both England and Ireland for the way he conducted his mission.

There is hope, rather than irony, in the fact that his burial place is said to be in strife-torn Ulster, in County Down.

Donor — Richard Bertagnolli, Jr.:

Richard Bertagnolli was born June 15, 1903. His father was from Trent, Tyrol, Austria. He graduated from Rock Springs High School in 1923 and went to work for Miners' Mercantile and headed the grocery department until his death. He married Rose Tayo in 1928 and they had four children: Rosalie (Mrs. Ronald Christie);

[RS OLS 1987, 39] Johanna (Mrs. William Mau); Richard III; and Roberta (Mrs. Robert Nothorton). He was a

3rd and 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus and state president of the local BPOE Elks. He died on February 16, 1958.

ST. PETER: Apostle (d. 64?)

The New Testament clearly shows Peter as the leader of the apostles, chosen by Jesus to have a special relationship with him. With James and John he was privileged to witness the Transfiguration, the raising of a dead child to life and the agony in Gethsemane. His mother-in-law was cured by Jesus. He was sent with John to prepare for the last Passover before Jesus' death. His name is first on every list of apostles.

And to him only was it said, "Blessed are you, Simon. . . . No mere man has revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. I for my part declare to you, you are Rock, and on this Rock I will build my church, and the jaws of death shall not prevail against it. I will entrust to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you declare bound on earth shall be bound in heaven. Whatever you declare loosed on earth shall be loosed in heaven." It is believed that Peter was martyred in Rome around 64.

Donor — Reverend Sylvester A. Welsh:

Reverend Sylvester A. Welsh was born on December 31, 1890, in south Amboy, New Jersey. He studied at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland, and at St. Joseph's Seminary in Dunwoody, New York. After his ordination into the priesthood at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, he arrived in Rock Springs. He remained in Rock Springs for forty years.

ST. JEROME: Priest and Doctor (345-420)

St. Jerome was above all a Scripture-scholar, translating the Old Testament from the Hebrew and the New Testament from the Greek. He also wrote commentaries which are a great source of scriptural inspiration for us today. He was an avid student, a thorough scholar, a prodigious letter writer and a consultant for monk, bishop and pope. St. Augustine said of him, "What Jerome is ignorant of, no mortal has ever known."

St. Jerome is particularly important for having made a translation of the bible which came to be called the Vulgate. It is not the most critical edition of the bible, but its acceptance by the Church was fortunate. As a modern scholar says, "No man before Jerome or among his contemporaries and very few men for many centuries afterwards were so well qualified to do the work." The Council of Trent called for a new and corrected edition of the Vulgate, and declared it to be the authentic text to be used in the Church.

In order to be able to do such work, he prepared himself well. He was a master in Latin, Greek, Hebrew and Chaldaic. He began his studies at his birthplace, Stridon in Dalmatia (now Yugoslavia). After his preliminary education he went to Rome, the center of learning at that time, and thence to Trier, Germany, where the scholar was very much in evidence. He spent several years in each place trying always to find the very best teachers. After these preparatory studies he traveled extensively in Palestine, marking each spot of Christ's life with an outpouring of devotion. Mystic that he was, he spent five years in the desert of Chalchis so that he might give himself up to prayer, penance and study. Finally he settled in Bethlehem where he lived in the cave believed to have been the birthplace of Christ. On September 30, 420, Jerome died in Bethlehem. The remains of his body now He buried in the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome.

Donor — the family of Margaret "Sister" Cullen:

Margaret "Sister" Cullen, daughter of Thomas and Margaret Cullen, was born February 7, 1913 in Witt, Illinois. Sister of Mary S. Thomas, P. Henora, Kathleen H. Hannah, M. Bernard, Bernice and Robert J.

Margaret died December 14, 1929, at age 16 in her senior year of high school.

ST. AMBROSE: Bishop and Doctor (3407-397)

When the Empress Justina attempted to wrest two basilicas from Ambrose's Catholics and give them to the Arians (a heretical religious sect in the Catholic Church), he dared the court to execute him. His own people rallied behind him in the face of imperial troops. In the midst of riots he both spurred and calmed his people with bewitching new hymns set to exciting Eastern melodies.

In his disputes with the Emperor Auxentius, he coined the principle: "The Emperor is in the Church, not above the Church." He publicly admonished Emperor Theodosius for the massacre of seven thousand innocent people. The emperor did public penance for his crime. This was Ambrose, the fighter, sent to Milan as Roman [RS OLS 1987, 40] governor and chosen while yet studying to be a Catholic to be the people's bishop. Ambrose was a

passionate little man with a high forehead, a long melancholy face and great eyes. We can picture him as a frail figure clasping the codex of Sacred Scripture. This was the Ambrose of aristocratic heritage and learning. Ambrose exemplifies for us the truly catholic character of Christianity. He is a man steeped in the learning, law and culture of the ancients and his contemporaries. Yet, in the midst of active involvement in this world, this thought runs through Ambrose's life and preaching: the hidden meaning of the Scriptures calls our spirit to rise to another world.

Donor — Norma Murphy Cody:

ST. AUGUSTINE: Bishop and Doctor (354-430)

A Christian at 33, a priest at 36, a bishop at 41. Everyone is familiar with the sketch-biography of Augustine of Hippo, sinner turned saint. But to really get to know the man is a rewarding experience.

There quickly surfaces the intensity with which he lived his life, whether his path lead away from, or toward God. The tears of his mother, the instruction of Ambrose, and, most of all. God himself speaking to him in the Scriptures redirected Augustine's love of life to a life of love ("Too late have I loved you, O Beauty so ancient and so new!")

Having been so deeply immersed in creature-pride of life in his early days and having drunk deeply of its bitter dregs, it is not surprising that Augustine should have turned, with a holy fierceness, against the many demon-thrusts rampant in his day. His times were truly decadent-politically, socially, morally. He was both feared and loved, like the Master. The perennial criticism: a fundamental rigorism.

Donor — Felix Devlin:

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT: Pope and Doctor (540?-604)

Coming events cast their shadows before — Gregory was the Prefect of Rome before he was 30. After five years in office, he resigned, founded six monasteries on his Sicilian estate, and became a Benedictine monk in his own home at Rome.

Ordained a priest, he became one of the Pope's seven deacons, and also served six years in the East as Papal Nuncio in Constantinople. He was recalled to become abbot, and at the age of 50 was elected pope by the clergy and people of Rome.

He was direct and firm. He removed unworthy priests from office, forbade taking money for many services, emptied the papal treasury to ransom prisoners of the Lombards and to care for persecuted Jews and the victims of plague and famine. He was very concerned about the conversion of England, sending 40 monks from his own monastery. He is known for his reform of the liturgy, for strengthening respect for doctrine. Whether he was largely responsible for the revision of "Gregorian" chant is disputed.

Gregory lived in a time of perpetual strife with invading Lombards and difficult relations with the East. When Rome itself was under attack, it was he who went to interview the Lombard king.

His book, *Pastoral Care*, on the duties and qualities of a bishop, was read for centuries after his death. He described bishops mainly as physicians whose main duties were preaching and the enforcement of discipline. In his own down-to-earth preaching, Gregory was skilled at applying the daily Gospel to the needs of his listeners. Called the "Great", Gregory has been given a place with Augustine, Ambrose and Jerome as one of the four key Doctors of the Western Church.

Donors — Tom and Hugh Lafferty:

Tom was born in Scotland in 1882 and died in Washington D. C in 1950. Hugh was born in Rock Springs in 1891 and died in a shooting fray in a cafe in Rock Springs on October 12, 1912.

Looking to the back of the church on the Epistle side, one sees the following windows (Saints and donors).

ST. AGNES: Virgin and martyr (d. 258?)

Almost nothing is known of this saint except that she was very young — 12 or 13 — when she was martyred in the last half of the third century. Various modes of death have been suggested — beheading, burning, strangling.

[RS OLS 1987, 41] Legend has it she was a beautiful girl whom many young men wanted to marry. Among those she refused, one reported her to the authorities as being a Christian. She was arrested and confined to a house of prostitution. The legend continues that one who looked upon her lustfully lost his sight, and had it restored by

her prayer. She was condemned, executed and buried near Rome in a catacomb that eventually was named after her. The daughter of Constantine built a basilica in her honor.

Donor — Ettore Allais:

Ettore Allais was born August 18, 1880, to Joseph and Rosa Allais in Coazze, Provincia Torino, Italy. He enlisted in the Italian Army after his schooling, and played in the Army Band. At the age of 27 he came to the United States and worked in Newhouse, Utah, in the quartz mine. He later came to Rock Springs and worked in the mines, and then later worked with a beer and ice distributor. He also worked as a bartender, and then bought his own place of business. He married Savina Bonomo and they had three sons, Oreste, Emil and Albert, all of whom were baptized in the old Lady of Sorrows Church. Ettore died February 26, 1959, exactly two weeks after Rev. S. A. Welsh died. Mr. Allais was a self-taught musician. He played the trumpet in the Rialto (pit) Orchestra during the silent pictures and vaudeville era. Savina died July 16, 1982.

ST. BRIDGET: Religious 1303-1373

From age seven on, Bridget had visions of Christ crucified. Her visions formed the basis for her activity — always with the value on charity rather than spiritual favors. She lived her married life in the court of the Swedish king, Magnus the Second. Mother of eight children (the second eldest was St. Catherine of Sweden), she lived the strict life of a penitent after her husband's death. Bridget constantly strove to exert her good influence over Magnus; and while never fully reforming, he did give her land and buildings to found a monastery for men and women. This group eventually expanded into an order known as the Bridgetines (still in existence). In 1350, a year of jubilee, Bridget braved a plague-stricken Europe to make a pilgrimage to Rome. She never returned to Sweden, and her years in Rome were far from happy, being hounded by debts and opposition to her work against Church abuses. A final pilgrimage to the Holy Land, marred by shipwreck and the death of her son, Charles, eventually led to her death in 1373.

Donor — Catherine Berta/Mother of Joseph Berta:

Catherine came to Braidwood, Illinois, from Italy in 1877. She had eight children of which Tom, Mary, Dominick, John and Joseph eventually came to live in this area. Catherine's maiden name was also "Berta".

ST. ANN: The mother of Mary

In the Scriptures, Matthew and Luke furnish a legal family history of Jesus, tracing ancestry to show that Jesus is the culmination of great promises. His mother's family is not only neglected, but we know nothing factual about them except that they existed. Even the names of Joachim and Ann come from a legendary source written more than a century after Jesus died.

The heroism and holiness of these people, however, is inferred from the whole family atmosphere around Mary in the Scriptures.

The strong character of Mary in making decisions, her continuous prayer, her devotion to the laws of her faith, her steadiness at moments of crisis, and her devotion to her relatives — all indicated a close-knit, loving family that looked forward to the next generation even while retaining the best of the past.

Donor — Pete Menghini:

Peter Menghini was born in Brez-Tyrol, Austria, on February 21, 1866. He left Austria in 1894 and went to Pence, Wisconsin. Angela Marchetti Menghini was born in Castelfondo, Tyrol, Austria, on July 27, 1869. She left Tyrol on March 16, 1896 and arrived in Pence, Wisconsin, on Easter Sunday, April 5. Peter and Angela were married in Hurley, Wisconsin, on April 22, 1896. They left Wisconsin in the early 1900's and came to Rock Springs.

Mr. Menghini worked for the Union Pacific Railroad until his retirement. The Menghins were the parents of six children: Mary, Ermon, Lena, Emmett, Leno, and Dr. Renaldo Menghini. Peter died September 1, 1943, and Angela died April 10, 1944.

ST. GERTRUDE: Virgin (12567-1302)

St. Gertrude was one of the great mystics of the 13th century. Together with St. Mechtild, she practiced a spirituality called nuptial mysticism, i.e., she came to see herself as the bride of Christ. Her spiritual life was a deep personal union with Jesus and his Sacred Heart, leading her into the very life of the Trinity.

[RS OLS 1987, 42] But this was no individualistic piety, Gertrude lived the rhythm of the liturgy, where she found Christ. In the liturgy and Scripture, she found the themes and images to enrich and express her piety. There was no clash between her personal prayer life and the liturgy.

Donors — Joe and Victor Berta:

JOSEPH BERTA — Born 1875-Died 1928

Joseph Berta was born in Pragossano, Italy, and came to Braidwood, Illinois, at the age of two. He came to the Rock Springs area when he was about twenty years old. He married Marietta Ghia at age twenty-four. He worked in the coal mines and was Chief of Police in Rock Springs. He went to Superior in 1909, where he was in the wholesale business and eventually built and owned Alberta Hotel and other properties. Joseph Berta was Mayor of Superior for about twelve years before moving back to Rock Springs in 1918.

VICTOR BERTA

Born November 11, 1905, in Rock Springs. He was raised in this area and was agent for the *Denver Post*. One year after he married Frieda Forbes, he contracted pneumonia and died at the age of twenty-one.

This window was purchased in memory of Joseph and Victor by Marietta Berta, wife and mother.

ST. BASIL THE GREAT: Bishop and Doctor (329-379)

Basil was on his way to becoming a famous teacher when he decided to begin a religious life of Gospel poverty. After studying various modes of religious life, he founded what was probably the first monastery in Asia Minor. He is to monks of the East what St. Benedict is to the West, and his principles influence Eastern monasticism today.

He was ordained priest, assisted the Archbishop of Caesarea (now southeastern Turkey) and ultimately became archbishop himself, in spite of opposition from some of his suffragan bishops, probably because they foresaw coming reforms.

He was tireless in pastoral care. He preached twice a day to huge crowds, built a hospital that was called a wonder of the world (as a youth he had organized famine relief and worked in a soup kitchen himself) and fought the white slave market.

Basil was known best as an orator. His writings, though not recognized greatly in his lifetime, rightly place him among the great teachers of the Church. Seventy-two years after his death the Council of Chalcedon described him as “the great Basil, minister of grace who has expounded the truth to the whole earth.”

Donor — Mike Toresani:

Mike Toresani was born in Ruma, Tyrol, Austria, on February 23, 1869. He died on October 13, 1951.

Celestina, his wife, was born in Barco, Tyrol, Austria, on August 28, 1872. She died on July 7, 1955. They were married in Rock Springs in 1892. They had one son, Fred James, born on June 24, 1910. Mr. Toresani owned and operated a bar in Colorado before coming to Rock Springs.

ST. ATHANASIUS: Bishop and Doctor (295-373)

Born of a Christian family in Alexandria and given a classical education, Athanasius entered the priesthood, became secretary to Alexander, the Bishop of Alexandria, and eventually was elevated to bishop himself. His predecessor, Alexander, had been an outspoken critic of a new movement growing in the East — Arianism.

When Athanasius assumed his role as Bishop of Alexandria, he continued the fight against Arianism. At first it seemed that the battle would be easily won and that Arianism would be condemned. Such, however, did not prove to be the case. The Council of Tyre was called and for several reasons which are still unclear, the Emperor Constantine exiled Athanasius to Northern Gaul (France). This was to be the first in a series of travels and exiles reminiscent of the life of St. Paul.

Constantine died, and his succeeding son restored Athanasius as bishop. This only lasted a year, however, for he was deposed once again by a coalition of Arian bishops. Athanasius took his case to Rome, and Pope Julius I called a synod to review the case and other related matters.

Five times he was exiled for his defense of the doctrine of Christ's divinity. During one period of his life, he enjoyed 10 years of relative peace — reading, writing and promoting the Christian life along the lines of the monastic ideal to which he was greatly devoted.

Donor — Michael Britt, Jr.

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM: Bishop and Doctor (d. 407)

[RS OLS 1987, 43] Ascetic, unimposing but dignified, and troubled by stomach ailments from his desert days as a monk, John began his episcopate under the cloud of imperial politics.

If his body was weak, his tongue was powerful. The contents of his sermons were never without a point. Sometimes the point stung the high and mighty. Some sermons lasted up to two hours.

Aloof, energetic, outspoken, especially when he became excited in the pulpit, John was a sure target for criticism and personal trouble. He was accused of gorging himself secretly on rich wines and fine foods. His faithfulness as spiritual director to the rich widow, Olympia, provoked much gossip attempting to prove him a hypocrite where wealth and chastity were concerned. His action taken against unworthy bishops in Asia Minor was viewed by other ecclesiastics as a greedy, uncanonical extension of his authority. John was exiled and died in 407.

Donor — Anton Mengoni:

ST. GREGORY NAZIANZEN: Bishop and Doctor (329-390)

Gregory gladly accepted his friend Basil's invitation to join him in a newly founded monastery after his baptism at 30. The solitude was broken when his father, a bishop, needed help in his diocese and estate. Gregory, it seems, was ordained priest practically by force, and only reluctantly accepted the responsibility. At 41, he was chosen suffragan bishop of Caesarea and at once came into conflict with Valens, the emperor, who was supporting the Arians. An unfortunate by-product of the battle was the cooling of the friendship of two saints. Basil, his archbishop, sent him to a miserable and unhealthy town on the border of unjustly-created divisions in his diocese. Basil reproached Gregory for not going to his See.

Gregory was called to rebuild the faith in the great See of Constantinople which had been under Arian teachers for three decades. He began giving the great sermons on the Trinity for which he is famous. In time, he did rebuild the faith in the city, but at the cost of great suffering, slander, insults and even personal violence.

His last days were spent in solitude and austerity. He wrote religious poetry, some of its autobiographical, of great depth and beauty. He was acclaimed simply as "the Theologian."

Donor — Mr. and Mrs. Joe Weppner:

There are three windows in the Sacristy. Two were donated by Honora Barry. Prayer is the common theme of this grouping. The theme is carried out by a representation of a Chalice and Host (the Sacrifice of the Mass) in the center window, flanked by representation of the Bible (the Word of God) and a smoking thurible (our prayers rising like incense before the throne of God). The "Bible" window was donated by the Altar Society of the St. Ann Mission Church in Winton. The following ladies were active in the Winton Altar Society in the 1930's: Mrs. Ray Dodds, Mrs. Catherine Warriner, Mrs. William (Gladys) Lowe, Mrs. Helen Anderson, Mrs. Anne Uram, Mrs. John Nigra, Mrs. Jarbo (Mary) Welsh, Mrs. John Kobler, Mrs. Frank Tardoni, Mrs. John Nesbit, Mrs. Carl Krueger, Mrs. Bert Williams, and Mrs. Mike Brock.

In the side vestibule on the north side of the church and the stairwell leading downstairs, there are three windows. One contains a small, delicate Rose centered. It, too, was donated by the Winton Altar Society. The second has the letter "Alpha," first letter of the Greek alphabet, centered and was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Yedinak. The third, with the letter "Omega," the last letter of the Greek alphabet, was donated by Richard J. Britt.

Richard J. Britt was born in 1892 and died in Rock Springs in 1904.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Yedinak donated the Alpha window. Paul G. Yedinak, son of John and Anna Yedinak, was born in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. The Yedinak family moved to Rock Springs when Paul was a young boy.

At the age of 14 he began working at the *Rock Springs Miner* and became publisher of that paper in 1939. He was later employed as a linotypist on the staff of the *Rock Springs Rocket-Miner* until his retirement. He was a veteran of World War I, having served aboard the USS Huntington as the ship's printer.

He returned to Rock Springs after World War I, and was married to Mae C. Ralph, daughter of Edward and Catherine Ralph of New York City, New York, in Rock Springs, Wyoming, at the SS. Cyril and Methodius parish.

After their marriage, they became members of Our Lady of Sorrows parish where Mrs. Yedinak was active in St. Mary's Altar Society, and St. Jude's and St. Rita's altar societies. Mr. and Mrs. Yedinak were parents of [RS

OLS 1987, 44] two children; Dr. Paul R. Yedinak and Kathryn (Kay) Yedinak Ketcham.

Following the death of Mrs. Yedinak in 1963, Mr. Yedinak was married to Katherine Ribovich. Mr. Yedinak died in 1971 in Rock Springs.

All of the windows in the former Baptistery (currently the Cry Room) are related to the Sacrament of Baptism. One window highlights an oyster shell, an obvious reference to water and used as an instrument in the Rite of Baptism itself for pouring water. No donor is listed. The trio of windows pictorially represents the incident of Our Lord's own baptism in the River Jordan by St. John the Baptist. The center window of the three depicts the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove hovering over the figures of Jesus and St. John the Baptist. It was donated by Pete Sartoretto.

Donor — Mr. and Mrs. Pete Sartoretto:

Pete was born in Italy on December 1, 1889. He came to America at the age of seventeen and worked in the coal mines in Illinois, Colorado, and Wyoming. He worked in the coal mines in Diamondville, Wyoming, in 1911.

Jennie Botero was born in Rock Springs on May 18, 1893. The Boteros moved to Diamondville a few years later. Pete and Jennie were married in 1912. Their son Paul was born in 1913.

After World War I, they bought a hotel in Salt Lake City and lived there two years. They bought the Belmont Hotel in Rock Springs in 1920. They sold the Belmont Hotel and built the Verna apartments in 1928. Pete then went into a partnership with Howard Kellogg and started Howards Cafe-Bar and Lounge.

Their son Paul graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a PHD in 1937.

Pete retired at the age of seventy, and they moved to New Jersey to be near their son. Pete died in 1986 and Jennie died in 1985.

The other two windows framing the center scene complete the symbolizing of the Most Holy Trinity. One contains the letter "P" (Pater) for God the Father, and the second, the letter "F" (Filius) for God the Son. These windows were donated by the Frank Plemel Knights of Columbus Council 2441.

There are three windows on the stairwell leading to the choir loft. This grouping clearly demonstrates the victory of Christ, the Incarnate Word of Wisdom, over the Prince of Darkness. Two panels, each with a lamp, symbol of Wisdom, frame the center panel with its figure of Dragon being pierced with a spear. Each lamp is surmounted with a figure. The first with a Serpent (Jesus said, "Be wise as serpents and guileless as doves." Matt. 10:16) and the second with a "Chi-Rho," the symbol for Christ. Thomas Whalen was the donor of this grouping.

Another window in the stairwell shows an organ (symbolizing music in the church). The donor was Mr. and Mrs. John B. Endrizzi. John was born in Brez, Tyrol, Austria in 1877. Maria (Magagna) Endrizzi was born in Fondo, Tyrol, Austria, in 1877. Mr. Endrizzi purchased Sam Sorenson's Sheet Metal Works. He renamed it the Wyoming Sheet Metal Works. He sold mining supplies, sporting goods, new and used furniture, and sheet metal workings. They had four children: Marie, Emma, John and Joseph.

The circular Rose Window is located in the back of the church in the choir loft. The circular Rose Wheel Windows represent one of man's profoundly sacred symbols. The circle (Rose) as a symbol of eternity has persisted into Christianity. The design of a rose window often involved a compromise between abstraction and realism. The imagery in most Rose and Wheel Windows is inevitably subordinated to the radiating lines of the interlocking tracing. This window is seven feet in diameter and has a curved stone Celtic Cross in the center.

Saint Mary's Altar Society donated the Rose Window.

## CHAPTER VII

1937-1946

Progress

Sacraments

[RS OLS 1987, 45] Records for the year 1938 indicated that there were 136 young people confirmed, including 28 from Superior and 12 from Winton; 43 baptisms, four at Winton and 14 at Superior; 12 weddings were performed in Rock Springs and five at Superior. By 1938 Rev. Welsh's health improved, and he was able to resume the children's meetings.

Rev. Adolph Pate was named assistant pastor, and in 1939 he was succeeded by Rev. James Power. By 1940, Our Lady of Sorrows was clear of debt, and Father Welsh was starting to plan for a parochial school for the parish.

Very few records exist of activities in the parish from 1940-1950; however, they were years of progress and growth under the leadership of Father Welsh. Bishop McGovern's *History of the Diocese* concluded with the year 1940.

#### Parish Hall

When Msgr. John Meyer visited Our Lady of Sorrows parish to collect for St. Joseph's Orphanage, he recollected the original church being used as a parish hall.

[RS OLS 1987, 46] "It was a nice white structure with steeple. Within, it was bare. In the back was a kitchen. It was set up for parish activity and seemed to serve well as a Multiple Purpose Basis. I recall that the heat was of boiler-kind and I believe that one plant heated both the hall or ex-church and the rectory. (This area was the domain of Ed Delaney, Msgr. Bill's father, who was the parish engineer, a job he filled with style and competence.)"

#### Trustees

During this time period, trustees of the church met often. Those present at the meetings (according to the official minutes) were Robert D. Murphy, Frank Tallmire, and Rev. S. A. Welsh. Financial reports were always given, and praise for Father Welsh's fine work was recorded.

In January of 1944, Lot Four, block thirteen was purchased by the church in order to prepare for expansion. Samuel Kellogg was elected as a lay trustee and was appointed treasurer at the same meeting in October of 1945.

### CHAPTER VIII

1947-1956

#### More Dreams Come True

##### Fund Raising For Catholic Schools

[RS OLS 1987, 48] On November 13, 1949, the first fund raising campaign for the building of two schools was announced by Rev. Sylvester Welsh and Rev. Albin Gnidovec. Headquarters were set up at Zak's Nash Garage show rooms (now Skip's) for this purpose. Louis Boschetto was named chairman for the OLS fund drive. Boschetto commented, "Everyone familiar with the crowded conditions in the Rock Springs schools will recognize that the proposed parochial schools are of community wide importance, quite aside from the significance to those of Catholic faith."

Addressing the members of both parishes in the auditorium of the Old Timers' Building, Bishop Hubert M. Newell, on November 27, 1949, initiated the campaign for funds to build the parochial schools.

Bishop Newell's address was broadcast November 28 on KVRS. "The Catholic people of Rock Springs are engaged in a great and thrilling campaign in which they are prepared to demonstrate anew their interest in Catholic education and to pledge their time, their best efforts and their means to aid in realizing a Catholic school education for their children.

"Our concern for religious education is based upon what we believe to be the primary and fundamental purposes of all life.

"... The history of the church in this community is a history of glorious accomplishment in behalf of God and country. . . . this is not a campaign for the people who have children of school age. This is a [RS OLS 1987, 49] campaign of the church that involves all Catholics who are worthy of the name."

Key workers for the fund raising included: H.A. O'Malley, Mary Berta, John Arambel, Gaston Erramouspe, Sam Kellogg, Joe Radosevich, Leno Menghini, Louis Genetti, J. T. Lane, Jack Smith, Ed Naab, and Ann Mengoni. The minimum goal for OLS was \$40,000. Designed by Kellogg and Kellogg, the modern and fireproof structure

would be constructed next to the church.

Additional comments were made by Bishop Newell concerning Catholic education.” It is understandable that a child is not fully trained in his faith if he has an occasional lesson in the catechism in addition to the regular public school programs. Catholic schools are not and were never intended to be public schools with a religious program added. Catholic schools . . . remind him (the child) constantly that he is a future citizen of heaven as well as a citizen of the world.

By December 17, 1949, the OLS campaign exceeded the goal of \$40,000 by \$31,000.

#### School is Built

The foundation was laid during the autumn of 1950, and the construction of the superstructure was commenced immediately.

Modern construction, tone and colors, and furnishings enhance the architectural scheme of the two story structure of buff brick which has a gravel top and is fireproof. The exterior is impressive with the masonry cross on the east side and the glass enclosed entrance on the south. Three large classrooms, painted in light green, with woodwork and furnishings all in blond wood, and an office for the principal were located on the first floor; three classrooms and a music room occupied the second floor.

The heating, plumbing, and lighting were the most modern in school equipment. In consideration of the age and size of the pupils who would attend the school, sinks, drinking fountains, and other facilities were placed at a convenient level for their use. Even the double handrails on the stairs were designed for use by adults and children.

#### OLS School Dedicated

[RS OLS 1987, 51] Parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows participated in the dedication of the new \$140,000 grade school designed and erected by Kellogg and Kellogg, architects and contractors.

The Most Rev. Hubert M. Newell dedicated the new structure on August 24, 1952. The ceremony opened with the presentation of an American flag by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, during which the flag was blessed and raised while the congregation sang “God Bless America.” Blessing the exterior and each classroom inside, the Bishop was assisted by Rev. Albin Gnidovec and the Rev Henry Schellinger. Rev. William Delaney translated and narrated the entire dedication ceremony over a loud speaker system.

On behalf of the city of Rock Springs, Mayor Edwin James extended congratulations to the pastor and parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows.

After the principal address by Bishop Newell, Rev. S. A. Welsh thanked the Bishop, the visiting clergy and sisters. He thanked especially the parishioners for their generosity, paying special tribute to the building committee.

#### New Convent-Sisters

In addition to the new school, the new convent for the sisters was also dedicated. The two-story frame building contained five rooms and a chapel on the first floor and six bedrooms and a storage room on the second floor.

Four Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas, arrived August 19, 1952, to teach in the new parochial school. Those sisters were Sister Mary Aloysius, Sister Lorraine, Sister Anna Mary and Sister Irene. Sisters Mary Francesca and Mary Baptista arrived August 22.

The Sisters of Charity have served Wyoming for over a hundred years. They staffed a hospital in Laramie in 1876 and then directed grade schools in Sheridan, Laramie, and Rock Springs. A hospital in Cheyenne is also administered by Sisters of Charity.

Founded by St. Vincent DePaul, the French Daughters of Charity gave birth to the Sisters of Charity, whose roots are American, particularly western America. The French nuns were the first nuns to ever work in the streets among the poor. The American founder, Mother Xavier Ross, acted to comfort the sick, the orphans and the children without schooling.

On November 13, 1952, the Sisters of Charity in Rock Springs were honored at a reception on their 125th

anniversary.

[RS OLS 1987, 52] The Sisters of Charity missioned to Our Lady of Sorrows from 1952 to 1971 included Sisters Anna Mary Lawrence, Irene McGrath, Lorraine Leist, Lavonne Guidoni (James Catherine), Mark Friday, Mary Faith Schmitz, Marie Helen Grieshaber, Mary Kenneth Messina, Barbara Aldrich (Frances Maureen), Eileen Harley (Ann Stephen), Irene Hanley (Jean Mary), Frances Juliano (Angelina), Jean Anne Panisko, Jean Martin Dawson, Ellen Marie Gibb, and Ann Cecile DeDonder. Sister Angela Rose Barbieri was principal from 1973 to 1977, and Sister Dolores Erman was principal from 1971 to 1973. Sister Catherine Ann McCormack, who was principal from 1960 to 1963, and Sister Brenda Boyle are both deceased.

When grades 7 and 8 were eliminated in 1970, Our Lady of Sorrows Convent was closed. The Sisters all began living at SS. Cyril and Methodius Convent in August of 1970. In September, 1971, the two schools were incorporated into Rock Springs Catholic School.

The Sisters who served after the schools were incorporated were Patricia Marie Johannsen, Elizabeth Youngs, Ann Patrick Callahan, Katherine Mary Westhues, Mary Kenneth Messina, and Mary Siefken. Sister Marjorie Feuerborn was principal from 1977 to 1979. Sisters Dorothy Henscheid, Diane Hurley, and Linda Dean served in parish work.

Those Sisters who are now at the Mother House in Leavenworth, Kansas, are Sisters Jean Carmel Guth, Agnes Ann Kneib, Rose Linus Manley, Mary Patricia Walsh, Mary Jacinta Teets, Agnes Rita O'Neill, Mary de Lourdes Schuelle, Mary Coletta Michaud, and Mary Anita Doleshal.

#### PTA Organized

Our Lady of Sorrows Parent-Teacher Association was organized September 11, 1952. The purpose of the Association was to act as a link between the parents and teachers. The first officers were Mrs. Renaldo Menghini, president; Mrs. Harry Parker, vice-president; Mrs. John Larrabaster, secretary; Mrs. Albert Toth, treasurer.

A food shower was held for the sisters in October. As a money making project of January, the members sold silver polish, and in February a game of chance on hosiery was held.

[RS OLS 1987, 53] A drive for foreign and domestic stamps was carried out by the children of Our Lady of Sorrows Parochial School. Money derived from the sale of the stamp contest for the 1952-53 school year were Dorothy Menghini, Queen, and Robert Elliot, King. Second place winners were JoAnn Radosevich and Stephen Schmitz. *Rocket-Miner* [photo].

#### Altar Boys

The altar boys of Our Lady of Sorrows were received into the National organization of the Knights of the Altar on January 5, 1952. The boys made their pledge of loyalty to the Knights on February 11, 1952.

#### Bishop

Bishop Hubert M. Newell became the fifth bishop of the Diocese of Cheyenne at the death of the Most Rev. Patrick A. McGovern on November 8, 1951. Bishop Newell had been named bishop-elect for the Diocese in 1947.

[RS OLS 1987, 54] A native of Denver, Bishop Newell is one of three priest brothers. A twin, Father Raymond Newell, was director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Pueblo, Colorado, prior to his death in an automobile accident in 1944. A third brother, Father John Newell, a member of the Jesuit Order, had been a missionary in Central America.

Bishop Newell is a graduate of Regis College, Denver, and made his theological studies at St. Thomas Seminary in Denver. He was ordained a priest in 1930, and after six years of pastoral work, he undertook graduate studies in education at Catholic University, Washington, D. C. He served ten years as superintendent of Catholic education in both the Archdiocese of Denver and the Diocese of Pueblo.

#### Changes

[RS OLS 1987, 55] A farewell party was held for Rev. Charles Bartek who left OLS to assume his duties at Our Lady of Peace in Pinedale. Rev. Michael Butler, newly ordained in Ireland, became the assistant at the parish. When he left in 1955, Father Joseph Fraher was named the assistant pastor. In a letter written to Our Lady of Sorrows he said, "I came to the Parish in the fall of 1955 and stayed till the fall of 1957. I came to the Parish from being an assistant at Holy Name Parish in Sheridan. Some of the kids of Our Lady of Sorrows will remember that I talked quite a bit about Sheridan! They always said that was all I talked about.

"Although I was only two years at the Parish, I made some very close friends during that time, and still keep in touch with some. I remember Rock Springs as one of the best experiences I have had in my priesthood.

"Of course, no one can recall being in Rock Springs without remembering his experiences with Father Welsh! He had been there a long time before I came, and was known as being good to his assistants. This was certainly the case with me. One of his favorite things he liked to do for his assistants was to treat them to an ice cream malt at some time they were not expecting it. It was just one of the little things he did for me.

"From Rock Springs, I became the pastor of Ranchester and Dayton, but always remember my time in Our Lady of Sorrows with fond memories/' •

### St. Mary's Altar Society

St. Mary's Altar Society was an integral part of the parish at this time. In 1954 Margaret Yedinak was elected president. The Society was organized into circles in 1958. Ann Halseth was president at this time.

St. Patrick's Circle was started in August of 1958. The charter members were Mrs. John Little, chairman; Mrs. Charles Blasko, reporter; Mrs. John Marushack; Mrs. Carl Nordstrom; Mrs. John Endrizzi; Mrs. Joe Caller; Mrs. Emil Zueck; Mrs. Edwin Dunn; Mrs. Ed Yori; Mrs. A. L. Barker; Mrs. Richard Bertagnolli; Mrs. Mary Magella.

St. Veronica's Circle was first organized in 1958 as part of St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Society. The members were Josephine Demshar, Betty Demshar, Odessa Shuster, Vera Elich, Katie DeCora, Caroline Bellu, Edith DeCora, and Evelyn Bertagnolli. The group disbanded and the circle was reorganized in 1961. Members included Pat LeFavre, Johanna Mau, Jan Huntley, Rosemary McRoberts, Jean McCrann, Helen Irons, Pat Radman, Shirley Hruska, Zona Easton, Karen Arambel, Evelyn Bertagnolli, and Ann Strand. In 1987 the circle remains active and meets once a month. Current members include Mary Lou Kershisnik, Jeanne Ruffini, Mary Arambel, Mary Pat Perkins, Sheila Hamm, Mary Lou Lavery, Doris Bath, Pat Radosevich, Ann Strand, and Evelyn Bertagnolli.

[RS OLS 1987, 57] The first meeting of the arts and crafts circle was held at the home of Mrs. Charles Blasko in September of 1975. The circle voted to be called the St. Elizabeth Seaton Circle. It was decided to hold the meetings in the basement room of the rectory.

Attending the first meeting were Mrs. Jose Archuleta, Mrs. Stephen Babel, Mrs. David Bertagnolli, Mrs. Charles Blasko, Mrs. Toivo Korhonen, Mrs. James Lane, Mrs. Victor Magagna, Mrs. Norman Piner, and Mrs. Richard Robertson.

Mrs. Blasko was elected chairman, and Mrs. Bertagnolli, secretary-treasurer. The first project was decorating candles for the church to be placed in the windows at Christmas.

At the November meeting, the group decided to change the name to St. Martha's. Some of the projects completed were articles for the bazaar, covered hangers for the altar boys' robes, afghan, rosaries for the Deanery meeting favors, banners, tatting, string art, and crochet work.

St. Martha's initiated the idea for a religious goods store in 1977 and called it God's Little Corner. Later it became a church-wide project with all the circles participating.

The project for 1986 was bandages, hospital shirts, and slippers for Catholic Medical Missions. In 1987 St. Martha's group is making rosaries for the missions through Our Lady's Rosary Makers.

Members at this time are Jean DeCora, Minnie Dolinar, Ellen Flaim, Rosalie Getz, Chris Hamilton, Doris Jelaco, Pat Korhonen, Norma Russold, Virginia Tominc, Bertha Zampedri, and Eve Meeks.

Saint Christopher's Circle originated approximately twenty years ago. Some of the original members were Leona Garnick, Mary Zotti, Beverley Evanoff, Mary Guadagnolli, Teresa Potter, Virginia Ruhaak, and Shirley Connor.

Susanne Grosso, Lois Zebre and Nancy Hickerson joined the circle shortly after it began.

The circle participates in church activities and also plays bridge at their meetings, which take place the second Monday of the month.

Present members are Lois Zebre, Susanne Grosso, Shirley Connor, Sue Kearns, Margo Kos, Clare Lansang, Nancy Hickerson, Alice Paul, and Eleanor Whistler. Shirley Connor is the only remaining original member.

## CHAPTER IX

1957-1966

Remember

### School Flag

[RS OLS 1987, 58] Our Lady of Sorrows Parochial School received a new American *flag* in 1958 which had special significance because it had flown over the capitol building in Washington, D. C. The flag was sent to Paul Melinkovich, 11, a student at OLS, by U. S. Senator Joseph O'Mahoney. Through the efforts of O'Mahoney and State Senator Rudy Anselmi, the flag was obtained for the school. Paul presented the flag to Sister Catherine Ann, Principal.

### Father Welsh - 40 years

[RS OLS 1987, 59] On October 5, 1958, the parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows Church, assisted by many other townspeople of Rock Springs, honored Father Welsh on the anniversary of his fortieth year as pastor of OLS. He was presented a plaque commemorating this anniversary. The Rock Springs parish was the only church Father Welsh served.

Many improvements for the church and advantages for the parishioners were accomplished during the lengthy service of Father Welsh. He promoted and worked for the building of the new church, which was dedicated on December 11, 1932; a parochial school, which was dedicated August 24, 1952; a convent, built in 1952; and a new \$54,000 rectory built in 1957.

Very Rev. Sylvester A. Welsh died on February 12, 1959. He was buried in the family plot in South Amboy, New Jersey. As a special tribute to Father Welsh, all businesses in Rock Springs were closed on February 17 from 10 a. m. to 12 noon by proclamation issued by Mayor Paul Wataha. In memory of Father Welsh, a marble altar railing was installed in Our Lady of Sorrows Church.

### Father Marley

The Rev. John Marley, well-known in Southwest Wyoming, was appointed pastor of OLS after the death of Father Welsh. He had been ordained a priest September 5, 1924. On November 7, 1964, Father Marley was elevated to office of Domestic Prelate.

### CYO Organized

[RS OLS 1987, 61] The Wyoming CYO was organized in 1959, and some members attended their first convention in Kansas City. At the Second Annual Catholic Youth Convention in Cheyenne, delegates elected officers for the first Diocesan CYO Board. Paula Zancanella of OLS parish was elected secretary of the board, which would determine the policy for the future of youth programs in Wyoming.

### Faculty

In 1960 the faculty of OLS Parochial School included Sister Marie Cecile, Sister Angela Rose, Sister Mary Joesetta, Sister Rose Patrice, Sister Catherine Ann, principal.

### Father Bartek

Monsignor Marley died on August 30, 1966, and was succeeded by Rev. Charles Bartek on October 16, 1966.

## Assistant Pastors

[RS OLS 1987, 63] From October 1960 to October 1966, four priests were assistants at Our Lady of Sorrows Church: Rev. Philip Colibraro, Rev. Cletus Prado, Rev. John Brady, and Rev. William Gianola.

## Father Gianola

Father William Gianola, a native of Kemmerer, Wyoming, served as an assistant pastor to Msgr. Marley from 1962 to 1963. OLS was his first assignment, and he has fond memories of the support he received as a newly ordained priest. He always felt welcome and especially enjoyed working with CYO. Some of the young people he recalls working with were Judy Yedinak, Bill Kellogg, Jim DeBartolo and Nancy Perry.

[RS OLS 1987, 64] Pope John XXIII died June 3, 1963, at the age of 81. He was the spiritual leader during the Vatican II Council which wrought some changes in the universal church. In addition to liturgy changes in the Mass, optional changes of attire for the sisters were approved by the Council.

## CHAPTER X

1967-1976

### Rejoice

#### Growth and Change

[RS OLS 1987, 65] From 1974 to 1978 Rock Springs experienced an unnatural growth caused by an energy boom. Thousands of people converged on the coal town, seeking jobs mainly in the newly developed trona fields 30 to 40 miles northwest of the city, as well as newly discovered oil and gas fields.

With a lack of housing and lack of available land, most people purchased mobile homes and soon Rock Springs became known as "Trailer City." The population grew from 12,000 in 1970 to an estimated 25,000 in 1980. Although the economy was raised and Jobs were plentiful, the impact also brought the usual increase in crime and other related problems.

Father Bartek, who was pastor from 1966 to 1972, had as a goal, greater parish unity. Out of this philosophy, several organizations were initiated or altered. At this time there were approximately 630 families in the parish.

#### Council of Catholic Women

In 1968 the OLS Council of Catholic Women was "born." The Council Board selected included Jerry Lee, president; Leona Garnick (president of St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Society); Joan Araas (president of the Home and School Association), vice-presidents; and Mary Arambel, secretary. The remainder of the Board consisted of five deanery commission chairwomen: Mary Radosevich, Edith Dunn, Sydell Miller, Teresa Penoff, and Mary Carmine. JoAnn Tate submitted an emblem for the Wyoming Council of Catholic Women. Her entry, which appears above, was selected.

[RS OLS 1987, 66] The Apostles of Good Will became a part of the CCW. This group entertains the elderly twice a year at a luncheon, visits the sick, shut-ins, and elderly and takes them treats. At their luncheon for the elderly in 1974, prizes were awarded to Ed Riley, the oldest man present; Annie Rykk, oldest woman; door prizes to Elizabeth Nimmo, Olga Schlacter, Mike Hruska, and Rev. William Delaney.

Another activity which originated during this period, with Ann Strand as president and under the direction of Father Bartek, was Duplicate Bridge. Started as a money-making project, it continues today.

#### Home and School Association

The OLS Home and School Association also became a stronger organization at this time. After a very successful food concession project at the Sweetwater County Fair, the group donated \$100.00 for school basketball uniforms, \$500.00 for the building fund for the proposed parish hall, and \$500.00 to the school for the new Open Court Reading Program.

The first annual Turkey Dinner was held at the Rock Springs Civic Center. The Home and School Association

donated \$700.00 of the profits for the First Communion Breakfast, the Graduation Breakfast, and the throat culture program in the school.

### Trustees

Trustees during this decade were Paul Yedinak and Joseph Erramouspe until 1969; Joseph Arambel and William O'Farrell from 1969 to 1971; Michael Arambel and Leno Menghini, 1971-74. After the death of Mike Arambel in 1974, Leroy Abbott was named trustee.

### Rock Springs Centennial

Our Lady of Sorrows actively participated in the Rock Springs Centennial Celebration in 1968 by sponsoring a booth depicting Italian customs and serving Italian foods. The booth featured one of the ships of [RS OLS 1987, 67] Christopher Columbus, the Santa Maria, on which sat Italians in native dress and two accordion players who played Italian folk songs. The Italian Singers was organized for the OLS Centennial Celebration and is still in existence today. All fourteen original members were of Italian descent and some of those members are still in the group. The original members were Elena Faccini, Leona Garnick, Naomi Zueck, Pauline Brotherton, Mary Bertagnolli, Minnie Dolinar, and Bruna Granaas, accordionist. Also, Adolph Onisto, Quinto Costantino, Aldo Costantino, Joe R. Wilmetti, Louis F. Barto, John Case, and Herman Prevedel, director.

### Parochial Schools

The parochial program also experienced changes. Nineteen hundred and seventy was a year of transition, change and progress.

In order to strengthen the existing elementary program at OLS and SCM, both schools discontinued their junior high programs.

The two vacated rooms at OLS were converted into a combination central library-music room and faculty lounge. Volunteer help spent many hours processing about 1500 books and organizing the central library. A book fair held at the end of the school year gave an increment of over 120 new volumes to the library.

In September of 1970, the two Catholic schools were unified. One principal, appointed by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, would serve as administrator of both schools. Consolidation of the schools would enhance the teaching of special programs, such as science, classroom music, band, chorus, art and physical education.

Policies, administrative regulations, and general school procedures were slightly modified so that both schools could be regarded as one system. However, classroom instruction would still be centered on the Holy Eucharist. Our Lady of Sorrows School became the primary school, grades one through three; Saints Cyril and Methodius, grades four through six.

A consolidated school board to advise the pastors on all matters pertaining to the education of the children was formed. The members of the first school board were Mary Arambel, Betty Jean Bertagnolli, William Bonini, Jerry Murray, John Pernich, Joe Wilmetti, and John Yerkovich.

### School Faculty

By 1973 the Rock Springs Catholic Home and School Association had become a well-established organization. On May 20, 1973, the group hosted an open house reception honoring sisters being transferred and for Mrs. Kenneth Parry, who was retiring.

The sisters remaining in Rock Springs for the 1973-74 school term were Sister Agnes Rita O'Neill, Sister Brenda Boyle and Sister Renee. They would be joined in September by Sister Angela Rose Barbieri, principal; and Sister Eugenia Flaersch, fourth grade; Sister Mary Patricia Walsh, sixth grade; Sister Patricia Marie [RS OLS 1987, 68] Johanssen, third grade; and Sister Mary Elizabeth Strecher, first grade. The new lay teacher would be Kathleen Tominc.

Sister Brenda commented on the role of the teacher: "Perhaps the most frustrating part is all the necessary evils like collecting lunch money, misplaced books and necessary interruptions throughout the day. The most rewarding part of my job is the feeling that I have sparked some of the potential within the child, especially the

creative ability in writing and independent study.”

#### Frank Sinatra

The Rock Springs Catholic School children, particularly the first and second graders, became “celebrities” in 1976 because of their support for Frank Sinatra’s stand against atheism.

Newsweek and Time magazines had carried a story about singing star Frank Sinatra refusing to participate in a benefit program for Atheist Madeleine Murry. Ms. Murry’s idea was to have the name of God and all reference to Him banned from all public communication systems.

Sister Agnes Rita’s first and second grade religion students wrote Mr. Sinatra thank you letters for taking such a positive stand against Ms. Murry’s philosophy. A copy of the letter Mr. Sinatra sent to the students is shown on the following page.

The school also received a phono-cassette stereo radio from Sinatra. The donation was made in response to their letters.

#### Twenty-fifth Anniversary

The twenty-fifth anniversary of parochial schools in Rock Springs was observed in 1976 with a reception and a reunion of some of the sisters who taught at the schools. Some who attended were Sister Catherine Ann McCormick, former principal of OLS; Sister Dolores Erman, former principal of SCM school; and Sister Angela Rose Barbieri, principal during the twenty-fifth year anniversary.

Other special guests included Rev. Gerald Sullivan, former assistant pastor of both Rock Springs churches; Sister Sheila Karpan, graduate of Catholic school in Rock Springs; Rev. Charles Hardy, former pastor at SCM. U. S. Representative for the state of Iowa, Thomas Harkin and Sister Shirley Koritnik also attended. Both were students in the first eighth grade class in the Catholic school.

[RS OLS 1987, 71] Some changes had taken place in the schools during the 25 years. During the 1975-76 school year there was a faculty of fifteen in two separate buildings. The enrollment was 260. Some team teaching was utilized in the primary building, but most classes were self-contained. The departmental approach was used in grades four through six. As they were from the beginning in 1951, the schools were staffed by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. Seventy-five volunteers assisted in various areas.

Tuition in 1976 was \$150 per year for a child of registered Catholics and \$300 per year for non-registered Catholics. Bus fees were as follows: one child, \$13.00 per month; two children, \$16.00 per month; three children, \$19.00 per month.

A Sister of Charity, Sister Brenda Boyle, died in February of 1977. She was a teacher for 39 years and principal for 11 of those years. She taught in the Rock Springs school for six years, worked as a volunteer at the Crisis Intervention Center for two years and was principal of CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) for three years.

#### Parishioners honored

For their outstanding achievement in the parish and community during 1971, the annual Layman Awards were given to Silvio Zancanella, Leno Menghini, Edith Dunn, and Mary Bertagnolli.

In 1976 another individual associated with the Catholic schools received recognition. June G. Just, science, art, and P. E. teacher at the Rock Springs Catholic Intermediate School, was given “Outstanding Educator” Jaycee Award.

The spiritual needs of the parish would be better served by the addition of seven new lay ministers: David Fedrizzi, Art Fermelia, Louis Ruffini, John Larson, Joe Melinkovich, John Zebre, Wilfred Carrier, George Giovanini, and Alex Maser. These men distribute Communion, not only at Mass, but to parishioners in the hospital, Kimberly Manor and in private homes. The newly appointed lay ministers joined those who had already been designated as ministers: Lee Abbott, Joe Erramouspe, Ken Araas, Rudy Lansang and Ole Anselmi, who has been called the oldest altar boy in Wyoming. In addition to being a minister, he is also a lector, and serves Mass daily.

## Changes and Additions

New cabinets were built in the church sacristy in memory of Father S. A. Welsh and Monsignor John Marley. Because of the poor condition of the church floor, carpeting was installed wall to wall. The carpeting [RS OLS 1987, 72] was installed by many friends in the parish.

On July 23, 1969, St. Joseph's Cemetery, which had been donated to the Rock Springs Catholics by Patrick J. Quealy in 1893, was deeded to the city of Rock Springs. The parishes were finding it difficult to take care of the upkeep of the cemetery.

The financial report accepted by the trustees on January 2, 1970, gave the estimated worth of the parish property to be \$600,000 with no debt on the property.

In order to conform to the liturgical norms proclaimed by Vatican II, the marble altar was moved from the front wall of the sanctuary and moved to the center of the sanctuary in 1975. During the tenure of Father Delaney, the church was remodeled and renovated for the first time since it was built in 1932.

A gift shop was opened in the basement of the church in 1977. After suggestions were asked for, concerning the name of the shop, God's Little Corner Store was selected.

Several other innovations were made in 1977. The grounds near the rectory and school were cleared, leveled, black topped and fenced to provide a playground for the school children and some parking area for parishioners. Plans were finalized and contracts were let out for the erection of a ramp at the side door of the church for the handicapped members.

[RS OLS 1987, 73] The spiritual program also underwent some changes. The privilege of receiving Communion in the hand was one of those changes. Father Hoodack, associate pastor, began two Bible classes in June of 1977.

## Associate Pastors

Between 1968 and 1977, many priests were appointed to Our Lady of Sorrows.

In August of 1968 Rev. Robert Marko became the associate pastor. He stayed for one year and then Rev. Patrick Trujillo was delegated as associate.

## Rev. William Delaney

Rev. Charles Bartek left OLS in 1972, and Rev. William Delaney, a native of Rock Springs, became the new pastor. Father Delaney was born December 18, 1917, in Rock Springs and attended both grade and high school there. His parents were both lifelong members of Our Lady of Sorrows parish, and his father worked in and around the mines in Rock Springs.

After graduating in 1936 from Rock Springs High School, he began his studies for the priesthood at St. Thomas Seminary in Denver and was ordained for the Diocese of Cheyenne by the Most Rev. Urban J. Vehr in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on June 4, 1944. On the following day he offered his first Solemn Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows church.

Rev. Delaney's first assignment was as assistant pastor at St. Mary's Cathedral in Cheyenne and after that he served as assistant for six months at St. Anthony's Parish, Casper. He was assigned his first pastorate in June of 1951 and he supervised the building of St. Vivian's Church where he was pastor for seven years. In 1957 he was made the first pastor of Holy Name Parish in Cheyenne. During the seventeen years he was there, he supervised the building of the parish church and the Catechetical Center.

He was made pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Church in June of 1973 and remained there for two years until he was made pastor of Holy Name Parish in June of 1975.

On March 8, 1985, Rev. Delaney was named a prelate of honor (monsignor) to his Holiness, Pope John Paul II, and received the honor from Bishop Joseph Hart at ceremonies celebrating the 100th anniversary of Holy Name Parish on July 5, 1985.

Assistants for Father Delaney were Rev. John Flannigan and Rev. Gerald Sullivan.

## Father Gerald Sullivan

[RS OLS 1987, 75] Father Gerald Sullivan was born July 12, 1932, in Casper, Wyoming. His Irish parents had a family of nine children. Gerald and his twin brother, Eugene, went to St. Anthony's Grade School and to Natrona County High School. They entered St. Thomas Seminary September, 1951, and were ordained May 23, 1959. Father Gerald's first assignment was with Msgr. A. Gnidovec of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Rock Springs. He also served in Newcastle, Rawlins, and St. Joseph's Children's Home in Torrington. A master's degree in social services was earned at Catholic University in Washington, D. C. Later he served at St. Patrick's in Casper and was also assistant director of Catholic Social Service. Other parishes served were Glenrock, pastor; Our Lady of Sorrows, associate pastor; St. Laurence O'Toole in Laramie; St. Anthony's, Casper; Our Lady of Fatima, Casper; and St. Patrick's in Kemmerer in 1981 to the present. He was director of Catholic Social Services from 1974 to 1981.

In 1975 Monsignor George Stoll was sent to serve OLS Parish. His associate was Rev Tom Tracey Monsignor Stoll wrote, "Many times a priest's stay in a parish is highlighted by the different things he has built. Father Tracey and I are famous because the convent almost burned down while we were there. As all priests who have been in Rock Springs, we enjoyed the warmth and the friendship of the people."

Father Eugene Sullivan

[RS OLS 1987, 76] On September 21, 1976, Father Eugene Sullivan was installed as new pastor of OLS and St. Vivian's Church in Superior. This marked the first time Rev. Sullivan was assigned to either church in Rock Springs. Before coming to Rock Springs, he served in Kemmerer, Rawlins, Casper, St. Joseph's Children Home, Torrington, Saratoga, Guernsey and Jackson.

When Father Eugene arrived in Rock Springs, he realized what his twin brother had told him." The surroundings of Rock Springs won't be as pretty as Jackson Hole, but you will discover the friendliness of the people can't be beaten anywhere. Father Eugene found that was and is so.

His first major decision was what to do with Ebony, his dog. He was used to rural parishes (Saratoga, Guernsey and Jackson) and now he was faced with the railroad trains about 100 yards away, busy streets, and a school in the back yard. In October, Father Sullivan decided to give the dog up and let the humane society find him a home in Green River. He heard very little about the decision until the following March when he was told that they thought his dog was running loose in South Green River. When Father Gene was attending a CCW meeting there, he decided to drive around the area looking for the dog. He saw a small, black dog running between some apartments and recognized Ebony right away. He yelled the dog's name and clapped his hands, and the dog turned on a dime and ran to his feet. Ebony was very close to death by starvation and mange. He remembered Father. Later it was found out that the dog had run away and spent the entire winter living out of garbage cans in below zero weather. The dog is now 14 years old and still living at the rectory with Father.

Some of Father Sullivan's memories include the ordination of Rev. Edward Dolinar, a native son of Rock Springs on May 29, 1978; and the ground breaking ceremonies for the new parish center. Also, Archbishop Jean Jadot visited Rock Springs as a guest of Bishop Hart and stayed at the rectory. He was the Apostolic Delegate of the United States from Rome. Father remembers Bishop Hart coming downstairs for breakfast and [RS OLS 1987, 77] remarking, "There was Father Sullivan and the Apostolic Delegate very informally eating a bowl of cereal for breakfast!"

According to Father Gene, "I will always treasure the tremendous assistance I received from the associate pastors: Father Fred Wendel, Father John Hoodack, Father Gary Ruzicka, and Father John Murray. Also the invaluable help from Sister Joseph Eileen who was loved by all the parish for her dedication. In 1984 another native, Terry Hruska, was ordained and gave special blessings to the parish. I will always have fond memories for the people in St. Vivian's in Superior for their many kindnesses."

New Parish Hall Planned

When Father Eugene Sullivan was named pastor in 1976, he felt one of the first priorities was a facility for parish gatherings. Seeing the inadequacy of the old hall (original church build in 1888) for parish functions, he canvassed the parish to see if a new parish center was desired. The vote was unanimous.

Chaired by Ole Anselmi and Joseph Erramouspe, a building committee was formed to direct the building of a

parish hall for OLS. Approval for the proposed \$324,000 structure was given by Bishop Newell on December 12, 1977. A fund raising drive chaired by John Zebre was held, and approximately \$222,000 was pledged.

#### Diocesan Change

The diocese experienced a change when the Rev. Joseph Hubert Hart, pastor of St. John Francis Regis Parish in Kansas City, Missouri, was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Cheyenne by Pope Paul VI. He would assist Bishop Newell in the administration of the Catholic Church in Wyoming.

Rev. Bishop Hart is a native of Kansas City. He entered St. John's Seminary in Kansas City and transferred to St. Meinrad's Seminary and was ordained a priest in 1956.

The first eight years of his priesthood were parish assignments in Kansas City. He was on the faculty of Bishop Lillis High School and St. Pius School for Special Education.

In 1964 he was appointed assistant Chancellor of the diocese in Kansas City, and for six years he headed the extensive radio and television apostolate. In 1969 he was appointed to St. John Francis Regis Church.

## CHAPTER XI

1977-1986

### Renew

#### Ordinations to the Diaconate

[RS OLS 1987, 79] Of special note to Our Lady of Sorrows members was the ordination to the diaconate of Edward Dolinar and Fred Wendel on April 5, 1977. Edward Dolinar is a native of Rock Springs, and Fred Wendel was assigned to OLS after his ordination to the priesthood in May, 1978. Father Dolinar was the first priest ordained in Rock Springs.

#### CYO Convention

The 18th Annual State CYO Convention was held in Rock Springs September 24, 25, and 26 of 1977. Sunday morning workshops under the direction of Father Michael Tuit of Regis Team Ministry were concerned with the theme "Lord Teach us to Pray." The opening address was given by Anne Burke of Casper, a member of the Diocesan CYO Board.

[RS OLS 1987, 81] Probably the greatest improvement of the church was the building of the Parish Family Center. According to Father Sullivan, "The proposed Parish Family Center will complement and enhance the aesthetic and architectural beauty of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish." Clare Lansang, Parish Council president in 1978, stated that the parish fund raising effort would run from April 19, 1978, to June 16, 1978.

The Parish Center was dedicated August 25, 1980, by Bishop Hart. Two bishops, twenty priests, and two seminarians attended the dedication and the reception in the new hall. The open house was not held until February 8, 1981.

[RS OLS 1987, 82] The \$325,000 Center includes a basement with two kindergarten classrooms, an office, a large meeting room and a smaller room. The upstairs is the main hall with a full kitchen. In addition to social events, many other activities take place in the Parish Hall. First, second, and third grade students eat lunch daily in the Center during the school day. Adults of the parish hold meetings or attend classes in the basement rooms.

#### Original Church Demolished

[RS OLS 1987, 83] Because the original Our Lady of Sorrows Church, which had been used as the parish hall since 1932, was no longer needed, plans were made to give the building away or to demolish it. The building was the oldest Catholic church in the city and one of the oldest buildings in Rock Springs. It was hoped that the state would make it an historical landmark, move it, and restore it. It would cost \$6,000 to move the structure and the church did not have the money to do so. Father Wendel explained, "We don't want to wipe it out, but it is a fact that we don't have the space to hold it." The church was demolished in 1980.

## Rosary Marches

[RS OLS 1987, 84] One of the beautiful traditions of the Catholic churches is the International Rosary March. On May 7, 1978, the March was observed for family spiritual unity.

A statue of the Blessed Mother was carried from OLS to SCM. Father Sullivan led the procession of school children, grades four through six. The living rosary was followed by the crowning of Mary. Baskets of roses were placed on either side of the statue. In the last few years, the May observance has taken place at Our Lady of Sorrows Church with the recitation of the rosary, hymns, litanies and Benediction.

In 1976, Mr. Joseph Sherry of Anaheim, California, conceived the idea of the Rosary March to thank God for our country's first 200 years and to petition for blessings on our next 200 years.

The International Rosary March has not only spread throughout the United States, but is also held in many countries around the world. Coordinated to take place at exactly the same time throughout the world, tens of thousands of people participate. The prayers are said at 3 p. m. on the east coast of the U. S, noon on the west coast, 8 p. m. in Italy, and 10 a. m. in Hawaii. The only requirement to participate is to pray the rosary when it coincides with the time zone one lives in, being sure to include the intention each time.

## Church Burned

[RS OLS 1987, 85] On March 15, 1978, Our Lady of Sorrows experienced a traumatic event when the church sustained extensive damage from a fire which filled the church with smoke. The firefighters were forced to chip tile off the roof of the church to expose the fire.

Father Eugene Sullivan's account of the fire: "The first memory that comes to mind about my ten years at Our Lady of Sorrows was the fire on the Ides of March, 1978. I was there only two years when it happened. The fire was started by a transient (who later committed suicide in California) and caused over \$70,000 worth of damage.

"I was standing in the playground of the school when I smelled smoke about 3:00 p. m. Some teachers in the school came out and said they thought the school was on fire, but after a thorough search, no sign was found. Then I looked up and saw smoke rolling out from under the eaves of the church. I rushed in the rectory and called the fire department. They arrived in a short time and set up their hoses. By this time black smoke was coming out everywhere. I thought of saving the Blessed Sacrament and began going in the side door. A fireman yelled at me not to open the door for fear of an explosion. We did not know at the time where the origin of the fire was; it could have been in the boiler room.

"Meantime, in front of the church, a frantic Charles Tate ran up to the fireman and said, 'You've got to save my church. The fireman, thinking he was pastor, said, 'We'll do our best, Father!'

"There was extensive damage done to the interior of the church because of smoke, fire and water. Although the fire was a tragedy, it was an opportunity to make a few interior design changes. We could not use the church until June, so all Masses were at SCM, to whom we were most grateful.

"Some of the changes were the pulpit was built, new carpet laid, the entire interior was painted, a new organ was installed, the cry room was rebuilt, and the Confessional was redesigned for the new rite of reconciliation.

[RS OLS 1987, 86] "Good can come from every evil, they say. The good from this fire was the bonding together of the parishioners as they worked and sweated together and watched a new and better church building arise from a devastating fire, and a new and better church 'of people' arise by working together.

[RS OLS 1987, 88] In 1979 an open house at OLS Church was held after the renovation of the church. Guides were provided to explain the different parts of the church while a guest organist gave a recital.

## 50th Anniversary of the Church

Our Lady of Sorrows Church was rededicated December 16, 1982, on the 50th anniversary of the present church. Most Rev. Joseph Hart was the main celebrant. Concelebrants included Rev. Charles Bartek of Pinedale- Rev Angel Ornelas, Rawlins; Rev. James Godley, Green River; Rev. William Espenshade, Evanston, Rev Gerald Sullivan, Kemmerer; Rev. Edward Dolinar, Casper; Rev. Gerald Chleborad, SCM parish; Rev. Gary Ruzicka, associate pastor of OLS; and Very Rev. Eugene Sullivan, pastor of OLS.

The Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Honor Guard was provided for Bishop Hart. Under the direction of Rudy Pershin, a 25-member choir rendered music during the Mass. During the Mass, six Ad-Alteri-dei Boy Scout medals were blessed by Bishop Hart and then presented to the scouts and their mothers \_ Those receiving the awards were Tom Canestrini, Doug Kennedy, Patrick Surline, Daniel Prevedel, Lloyd Welty and Brian Welty. The scouts were members of Troop 8 of the Boy Scouts of America and were sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The highest medal in Catholic scouting for an adult, the St. George Medal, was awarded to Donald Garrey.

[RS OLS 1987, 89] At the reception following the Mass, Father Sullivan cut the anniversary cake. The Italian Singers and the Basque Dancers entertained the guests.” Though we’re 50 years old, there’s a lot of new life happening here,’ said Father Sullivan. He was very enthusiastic about the growth in community spirit taking place.

#### Papal Leadership Experiences Changes

Pope Paul VI, died on August 6, 1978, at the age of 80. He had reigned for 15 years.

Pope John Paul I became the 263rd leader of the Catholic church. The first address of the 65-year-old Pope included a special greeting to “those who suffer at this time - the sick, the prisoners, the exiled, the persecuted, the unemployed.” He warned of the temptation “to substitute God” and then turn the world into “a desert, the human into an atom, fraternal living into planned collectivization.”

After reigning only 34 days, Pope John Paul I died in his sleep on September 28, 1978. His reign was the shortest since that of Leo I, who died after 17 days as Pope. However, five other Popes had reigned less than a month. The shortest term was that of Stephen II in 752 A. D., only three days after being elected.

[RS OLS 1987, 90] John Paul II, his predecessor, was elected on October 16, 1978. Of Polish descent, Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, became the first non-Italian Pope in 455 years.

The Pope’s first words were “May Jesus Christ be praised.” News that the Pope chose the name of his beloved predecessor cheered the Italians even though they were still stunned by the news of a foreign Pope.

As he addressed the large crowds, the Pope’s voice showed great control as he spoke Italian, one of the many foreign languages, including English, which he knows well.

Bishop Joseph Hart commented, “The fact that Pope John Paul II is a non-Italian points in a special way to the universality of the Church. The Church lives in all countries and in people of many nationalities.”

#### Pope John Visits U. S.

In September of 1979, Pope John Paul II visited the United States. When he went to Iowa, many parishioners and priests from Wyoming went by bus to see and hear the Pope. One of those going to Iowa was Father Eugene Sullivan. The account of his experience appeared in the Wyoming Catholic Register under the title “One Wyoming Priest’s Papal Experience.”

“When I planned to go to Des Moines and see Pope John Paul II, I passed up a chance to go to Philadelphia and attend Mass with several Wyoming priests. The week before I left Rock Springs, I told my congregation at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, I hoped to concelebrate Mass with Our Holy Father at Living History Farms near Des Moines, even though I had no invitation. This began a week of great excitement. Our bus arrived at the History Farms site about 12 noon and I found, after walking about one mile and a half to the site, that we were still about half a mile from the altar. I walked up a roped off path and found we could not get any closer because of the crowds and could not venture nearer the altar unless we had a special ‘papal visit’ pass. I returned to the Wyoming delegation somewhat disheartened. I then saw a number of priests vested in albs and stoles seated near the altar. I decided to go ahead with my plans.

“I put on my alb and stole and started to look for a gate leading to the altar. I casually walked to the gate and met an Iowa Highway Patrolman standing there blocking the gate. I started walking through with my alb blowing in the wind.”

When asked for his pass, Father Sullivan showed his Wyoming name tag with the bucking bronc and stated that he was representing the priests from Wyoming. He was permitted to pass through the gate.

“Immediately I ran into a procession of about seven bishops. I followed them for a hundred yards and thought, ‘This looks weird, a priest following seven bishops.’ As I passed them, I bowed and bid them a good day; one returned the salute. Getting past the marshals and patrolmen was a bit easier now since I used the large line of choir and music people as interference. As I finally got close to the area where the helicopter was to land and the last 100 yards to the altar, I felt every marshal and patrolman was looking at me. I continued to walk confidently toward the altar. Soon I joined the 250 priests from the four Iowa Dioceses who were here by special invitation. When I told one or two who I was, they were quite surprised since they were told security was very tight and passes were given to them personally by the chancery.

“After waiting three hours, the great moment came and the Pope’s helicopter landed in full view; a stone’s throw from where I stood.

“It was a great joy to concelebrate the Mass. I noticed each priest had a ciborium for Communion. I didn’t have one, but I volunteered to help a priest with several containers of hosts. After giving out Communion, I returned to our delegation thrilled at the thought of having concelebrated Mass with the Holy Father. I offered it for all the people of Wyoming.”

### Attempted Assassination

[RS OLS 1987, 91] An event which shocked and saddened all Catholics and people of all faiths all over the world was the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II in May of 1981. He was shot down by a Turkish gunman as he greeted 15,000 tourists and faithful at the weekly audience in St. Peter’s Square. The Pope slumped in the white jeep as the shots were fired. Blood stained his white garments. He had six wounds and was in surgery for five and one half hours.

Millions of the faithful lit candles in their churches and joined in the prayers of the witnesses to the shooting who immediately knelt in St. Peter’s Square to pray for the Pope’s recovery.

Father Fred Wendel, assistant pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows, led the congregation in prayer at a special Mass said for the Pope.

Taken into custody after the shooting was a Turkish right-wing terrorist who had vowed to kill the Pope. The gunman’s bullets also wounded two women in the crowd, one an American.

### D. J. Jelaca

The attempt on the Pope’s life distressed a seven-year-old student at Rock Springs Catholic School. David Jelaca wrote a two-page get-well letter to Pope John Paul. He received a reply to his letter from Msgr. A. Lanzoni.

Dear D. J.,

The Holy Father was happy to receive the message and gift of fifty-three cents that you sent him after he was shot. It was very kind of you to write to him and to assure him of your prayers. He, too, prays for you and your family, and he sends his blessing.

Sincerely yours, Msgr. A. Lanzoni Department Head

### Bishop Newell Resigns

[RS OLS 1987, 92] The resignation of the Most Rev. Hubert M. Newell, D. D., as Bishop of the Diocese of Cheyenne, was announced January 3, 1978.

Bishop Newell said he submitted the resignation because he felt the time had come for a younger man to take over the administration of the growing diocese. He headed the diocese since 1951 when Bishop McGovern died.

During the three decades of his episcopate, he saw the establishment of 13 new parishes. He founded the Catholic Register, a diocesan newspaper. He also established the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women; the Diocesan Pastoral Council, a group of representative priests, sisters and laity who advise on matters of diocesan policy; set up the Board of Education, Wyoming Catholic Social Services, and the Priests’ Senate.

From Governor Herschler at the resignation announcement of Bishop Newell: “Bishop Newell’s ministry has reached beyond his own parishioners and touched the lives of countless Wyoming people. He is an articulate friend of man, never afraid to raise his voice for honesty, truth and compassion. Over the years I have

appreciated his words as well as the brevity with which he employed them. I know he will continue to share his learning, his faith, and his wise counsel, and I wish him well.”

#### Bishop Joseph H. Hart

Most Rev. Joseph H. Hart, auxiliary Bishop of Cheyenne, became head of the Catholic Church in Wyoming, the sixth prelate to head the diocese, the fourth largest jurisdiction in area in the United States. The diocese was established in 1887. His predecessors were Bishop Maurice Burke, 1887-1893; Bishop Thomas Lenihan, 1893-1901; Bishop John J. Keane, 1902-1912; Bishop Patrick A. McGovern, 1912-1951; Bishop Hubert Newell, 1951-1978.

#### Father Fred Wendel

[RS OLS 1987, 93] Father Wendel was assigned to OLS as associate pastor, effective in July of 1978. One of his goals was to begin a Young Adults Group for single persons between 18 and 30 in the Rock Springs community. In 1979 he was honored at a Jaycee Banquet as “Outstanding Young Religious Leader” of the community. Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, Father Wendel graduated from Georgia State University in 1974. After attending St. Thomas Seminary, he was ordained in June of 1978.

Father Fred feels OLS will always be home to him. He especially remembers the real care of the people and the friendships he developed with many of the parishioners.

#### Father Edward A. Dolinar

A native of Rock Springs, Edward Dolinar was ordained to the priesthood May 29, 1978. The son of Minnie and Ed Dolinar, Ed was born and grew up here. He attended the Catholic School and Rock Springs High School. He earned a BA degree in social studies at St. Thomas School of Theology.

In April of 1977, Father Dolinar was ordained to the Order of Deacon at St. Mary’s Cathedral. He was also a part-time faculty member of St. Mary’s High School. After completing a Masters of Divinity degree, he was ordained by the Most Rev. Hart, Bishop Designate of the Diocese of Cheyenne. The Most Rev. Hubert Newell, retired Bishop of Cheyenne, presided at the ordination Mass on May 30, a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving in Our Lady of Sorrows Church.

In a recent letter from Father Dolinar, he made the following comments about Rock Springs. “Rock Springs is called so many things by so many people. Years ago it was even nicknamed ‘Sin City.’ For me and others it’s ‘HOME.’ There really isn’t anything like ‘HOME.’ Rock Springs is unique in so many ways. It isn’t the most beautiful spot in Wyoming, but in its own way it is beautiful to me.”

[RS OLS 1987, 94] I’m so grateful for the deep roots of my heritage. Rock Springs has been such a “melting pot” for all nationalities. For that I’m really grateful as well. Where else could a person find such richness of culture and varieties of food. I think that Rock Springs is world famous for the varieties of foods — all we have to do is look at the cookbooks which have been printed in Rock Springs. I learned a lot about the world in this small town in Southwestern Wyoming. I learned to be accepting and loving of all types of people. I didn’t really know what prejudice was until moving to the city. The warmth and signs of caring have been very evident in my life, particularly did I experience this in the time of Ordination. I can remember people pulling together for the Ordination as I remember so many other times when there was the need.

I remember too how fun loving people were in my period of “growing up.” There are not quite any Ordination or Wedding Celebrations like those in Rock Springs. I find that our ancestors have given us a very valuable gift in our ability to laugh and to enjoy life. I have been in many places since being born in Sweetwater County Memorial Hospital 35 years ago, but there just isn’t anywhere quite like Rock Springs.

When asked where I’m from, I tell them, and then they get a rather peculiar look on their faces. I even had a T-shirt once that was given to me as a joke. It read, “People from Rock Springs are living proof that there is life on other planets.” That is how some people react to my origins. Rock Springs and Nazareth are compared often in that they are out of the way places and had reputations. In the time of Jesus, when asked his place of birth, people often looked at him the same way. It was even said of him, “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”

Just look who He was — He proved them wrong. I think all of us born with coal dust in our veins can be proud of our heritage. Many great people have their roots here. What more can a person say? ROCK SPRINGS IS “HOME.”

## People

[RS OLS 1987, 95] Sister Agnes Rita O’Neill observed her Golden Jubilee as a Sister of Charity in April of 1978. Sister entered the convent in Leavenworth, Kansas, from Butte, Montana. She was past president of the Day Care Training Center and taught first grade in the Rock Springs Catholic School.

Associate pastors who served during the last decade of the 100 years included John Hoodack, Fred Wendel, Gary Ruzicka, John Murray, and Gerald Guida.

## Father Gary Ruzicka

Reverend Gary J. Ruzicka served as associate pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish from June 1981-June 1983 at which time he was appointed pastor of the parish at Pine Bluffs. During those years, in addition to assisting Rev. Eugene Sullivan, pastor, he taught sixth grade at the Rock Springs Catholic School and attended the missions at Superior and Wamsutter.

Fr. Ruzicka, the son of John and Frances Ruzicka of Sheridan, Wyoming, was born in Rock Springs in 1950 while his father taught high school math in Green River. His maternal grandparents were Anna and Gaspar Krek who resided in Reliance, Wyoming. When Gary was one year old, the Ruzicka family moved to Sheridan. There Fr. Ruzicka attended Holy Name Grade School and graduated from Sheridan High School in 1968. In the fall of that same year he began his studies for the priesthood at St. Thomas Theological Seminary in Denver, Colorado. In 1975 he was ordained a deacon and assigned to St. Mary’s Cathedral in Cheyenne. Bishop Newell ordained him a priest in Sheridan on June 1, 1976, and extended his assignment at the Cathedral for the next five years during which time he taught at St. Mary’s Junior and Senior High School. At the conclusion of that assignment in 1981, he came to Rock Springs. Since that time he has served in Pine Bluffs and the University community in Laramie. One of Fr. Ruzicka’s favorite memories of his time in Rock Springs concerns the pastor’s dog, Ebony. It seems that Fr. Sullivan had a black “poodle-type” dog which often times misbehaved while Fr. Sullivan was away. During those times the assistant had the responsibility of looking after the pet. Fr. Sullivan was quite affectionate toward the dog and every spring recalled its birthday. The exact date was unknown, so March 25, the feast of the Annunciation, was assigned as the day to commemorate the hound’s birth. Each year, after the 9:00 a. m. Mass many folks would gather in the dining room of the rectory to commemorate the birth in style. There was a cake, the traditional birthday song and Fr. Sullivan’s retelling of the tale of the dog’s birth in Saratoga with full color pictures of the said dog and its mother from the family album. Even though it was not a religious event, that “feast” was kept religiously in the parish and provided a great deal of amusement and light-[RS OLS 1987, 96]-hearted healthy fun. Not only that, but Fr. Ruzicka recalls that it helped to build community among folks as they would come together for a little nonsense and humor.

Even though Fr. Ruzicka served the Rock Springs parish for such a short time, he always speaks of the kindness and generosity of Rock Springs people.

In 1980 Sister Joseph Eileen was named pastoral assistant. She was honored by the Rock Springs Jaycees as the “Outstanding Religious Leader” for 1979-80.

Sister Catherine Ann McCormick, principal of Our Lady of Sorrows School from 1957 to 1963, died February 16, 1984, at Leavenworth, Kansas. She attended St. Mary’s College before entering Sisters of Charity as a novice on September 1, 1944. She made her vows on March 10, 1946. Sister completed her BS degree at St. Mary’s and later earned an MS in education at St. Mary’s.

## Father John Murray

[RS OLS 1987, 97] Rev. John Murray served as an associate pastor at OLS from January, 1985 to November, 1985. While he was in Rock Springs, he was honored at a 25th Anniversary dinner and reception.

He gave the homily at the 1985 Super Sunday Mass at Rock Springs High School auditorium.

Father Murray remembers rescuing Father Sullivan's dog Ebony from the vet after the dog had an altercation with the UPS driver.

### Many Cultures

Because so many of the parishioners of OLS are of various ethnic groups, many of the traditions of other cultures have been retained in church activities. The Italian Singers originated through a church related project.

Many of the priests in the diocese are of Irish descent or are natives of Ireland so St. Patrick's Day has become a prominent annual observance. The picture of Father Eugene Sullivan was taken during the 1979 celebration.

[RS OLS 1987, 98] In 1981 the Parish Center was decorated in green shamrocks and streamers in observance of St. Patrick's Day. Cornbeef and cabbage was served. Sarah Burkett and children entertained with songs, and Father Wendel sang "Danny Boy"

Special Masses are held every year in December to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, patron Saint of Mexico and the Americas. Parishes in the area alternately observe the Mass, which is offered in Spanish and commemorates the appearance of the Virgin Mary to an Indian Convert Juan Diego at Guadalupe near Mexico City in 1531. The Virgin Mary left him a picture of herself impressed on his cloak. The cloak is still preserved and honored at the Guadalupe Basilica. Many miraculous cures have taken place at Guadalupe.

[RS OLS 1987, 99] The Basque people also have an annual celebration which retains the culture of the people. A traditional Basque Mass is followed by a dinner featuring Basque food. During the Mass young people, in native costumes, participate and later entertain at the feast. Some of the dancers and musicians come from Salt Lake, but many are local parishioners.

### Catholic Education

Through Catholic education in the parochial school, CCD, and CYO, the young people in the parish receive instruction in their faith and participate in many activities.

In 1979 Father Eugene Sullivan accompanied Kathy Chadey, Mary Jo Chadey, who had been elected vice-president of the state CYO, and Lisa Tarufelli to the National CYO Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. The 100-member Wyoming delegation were dressed in yellow jackets with a "bucking bronc" logo on the backs. Kathy Chadey, former president of the Cheyenne Diocese CYO, was elected to the National Board, the Executive Council of the National Catholic Organization. She was the first Wyoming individual and the farthest western representative to be elected to the Council.

[RS OLS 1987, 100] Bishop Hart gave the homily at the closing liturgy. Over three thousand people applauded his words, and the excellent behavior of the Wyoming delegation was noted.

Because of a blizzard, the Rock Springs group was forced to stay in Cheyenne through the Thanksgiving holiday. Msgr. O'Neill and Bishop Hart housed the group and treated them to a Thanksgiving Day dinner.

### Home and School Awards

On April 12, 1978, the Catholic Home and School Association sponsored an honor awards pot-luck supper and polka dance. The following awards were presented: Sister of the year, Sister Agnes Rita; Teacher of the year, Joan Pivik; Sportsmanship Award, Sister Mary Eugenia; Outstanding Officer, Sharon Anselmi; and Volunteer of the Year, Liz Soule.

### Catholic School Week

Catholic School Week was observed in 1982 by the Rock Springs Catholic Schools. A special project of the students was their contributions to purchase a stained glass window for the new chapel on the grounds of the Wyoming Training School at Lander. The theme of Catholic School Week was "Good News in Education: Catholic Schools."

The 1982 sixth grade class purchased and donated a statue of the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima to the school. The dedication was made during Catholic School Week on February 6, 1983.

## Prayer Sponsors

Under the direction of Sister Joseph Eileen, a new program was instituted in 1982 which was associated with Catholic education.

The Prayer Sponsors Program allowed anonymous volunteers to pray daily for CCD teachers, faculty and staff of Rock Springs Catholic School and students preparing for confirmation. Prayer sponsors prayed "The Memorare" each day for the person or persons they were sponsoring and let them know they were being thought about through notes and cards.

Over 160 people participated, including grade school children and senior citizens. The prayer sponsor program for the first year concluded with a prayer service and social.

## Stations in Still Life

[RS OLS 1987, 101] Another program initiated by CYO was the Stations in Still Life, presented for the first time on Palm Sunday evening at East Junior High auditorium in 1984. Father Eugene Sullivan produced the program. Making the Stations of the Cross is like making a pilgrimage to the actual places where Jesus suffered and died for us. For centuries Christians have traveled at great expense and risk in order to walk along the streets where Jesus made the first Way of the Cross.

## Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima

[RS OLS 1987, 103] The Blue Army Cells in Rock Springs were organized in 1981. In the beginning the Rock Springs group met every week with the members from Green River in the Immaculate Conception Church. Two years ago the group was divided into two Cells: one meeting in Green River and the other in Rock Springs at Our Lady of Sorrows Church. At the present time there are two Cells in Green River, two in Rock Springs and one in Farson. Book racks are maintained in the three churches.

Mmgr. Harold Cofgan, founder of the Blue Army of Our Lady, was near death when he conceived the idea of the Blue Army. He recovered from his illness and kept his promise to make known the conditions of Our Lady of Fatima for the conversion of Russia.

Persons wishing to join the Blue Army simply sign a pledge (which was largely drawn up by Sister Lucia, sole survivor of the three children who saw Our Lady of Fatima), in which they promise to fulfill the conditions of peace which she stipulated at Fatima.

## Knights of Columbus

The National Knights of Columbus observed its 100th anniversary in 1982. The Knights is a fraternal order of Catholic men which was chartered March 29, 1882, in New Haven, Connecticut. There were approximately 1.25 million members in the centennial year.

Named for the late Frank Plemel, the Rock Springs Council has been in existence for more than 60 years. Frank Plemel had been a member of the Knights for more than 40 years until his death. He belonged to the SCM Parish, but he helped both Father Welsh and Mmgr. Gnidovec.

Today Council No. 2441 boasts a membership of almost 200 active brothers. A sizeable bank account and title to property which accommodates its Council chambers attest to the leadership and cooperation which the Council has had during the years. The first Grand Knight was Bert Corollo in 1923. John Larrabaster is the present Grand Knight. The Council has had only three financial secretaries in its 64-year history: Robert D. Murphy, John Eusek, and John Case.

[RS OLS 1987, 104] Council No. 2441 has sponsored a Boy Scout Troop for over 25 years. Many outstanding Scouts have been members of this troop. In past years the Council has sponsored an annual trip to St. Thomas Seminary in Denver for Catholic boys to encourage them to enter the religious vocations.

Annually, the group observes an outdoor Mass at the DeSmet Monument. In 1940, the centennial of the first Mass by Father DeSmet, a special celebration was held with two bishops, many priests and over 1000 people

in attendance.

The 1985 celebration of the Mass at the DeSmet Monument honored Jesuit priests, past and present, who have served the Indians with the operation at St. Stephens Indian Mission near Riverton. Also, the 145th anniversary of the first Mass, held on July 5, 1840, was commemorated.

The bingo program has been a great fund raiser since 1962. It provided for the payment of the mortgage on the K of C building which was purchased in 1960 and has been the source of other donations to the parishes of Rock Springs.

### Programs For People

A state-wide Diocesan appeal for Wyoming Catholics, Programs For People, was initiated in 1979. The fund raising campaign would encompass five areas of concern: adult education, family life, problems of divorced and separated Catholics, youth ministry, and evangelization. Bishop Hart was the chairman, and retired Bishop Newell was the honorary chairman. Local chair people were Millie and Aaron (Swede) Zuehlsdorff. This diocesan appeal was organized as a result of a state-wide survey of the needs and concerns of Wyoming Catholics. The annual fund-raising efforts will benefit every parish in the state.

### Other Programs

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish was directly or indirectly influenced by other programs, locally or diocesan. One Sunday in January of 1978 was set aside as the first Respect for Life Sunday. Gil Marsh and Mike Yedinak were the chairmen.

Nineteen hundred and eighty-two was designated as the "Year of Eucharistic Splendor." The purpose was to intensify and renew our devotion to the presence of the Lord in the Holy Eucharist.

### Super Sunday

[RS OLS 1987, 105] It was in anticipation of the "Year of the Family" in 1980 that Super Sunday was celebrated by both Rock Springs parishes at a joint liturgy. On the first Sunday of Advent, December 2, 1979, over 900 parishioners attended the Mass in the Rock Springs High School auditorium. Celebrants were Fathers Charles Hardy, Eugene Sullivan and Fred Wendel. Under the direction of Sarah Burkett, a 50-voice choir led the congregational singing. A social was held in the high school cafeteria after the Mass. The idea of "Super Sunday" was given to Father Sullivan at a Marriage Encounter meeting in Kansas City by a couple from Midland, Texas, whose two parishes do this each summer.

### Renewal Weekends

[RS OLS 1987, 106] Another type of spiritual program encouraged by Father Sullivan was the Renewal Weekends for participation by adults.

"Renewal implies that we have something good, and we want to make it better. It means that we all need to get together with Jesus and pay special attention to Him and to one another . . . and when we do, we will find that He can touch our lives and bless us in ways far greater than we might imagine." (Taken from a letter sent to all families in the parish.)

Small group meetings to study and discuss the liturgy and spiritual concerns were the basis for Renewal programs throughout the diocese. The renew process started in 1983 and would continue for three years with two six-week sessions each year beginning in October of 1983. Parish Council President Bob Boysen stated, "The Renew process is meant to bring spiritual growth to God's people through study, discussion and the formation of spiritual community, starting with small neighborhood groups."

### CCW

[RS OLS 1987, 107] In addition to the many activities of the Council of Catholic Women, they also complete special projects. In 1978 CCW cut 1000 small crosses out of felt fabric which were given to each parishioner on Ash Wednesday as a reminder of the meaning of Lent. To show appreciation to the priests for accepting a life of

celibacy, the Council of Catholic Women and OLS parishioners observed Appreciation Day April 10, 1982. The intentions of this Mass were Rev. Eugene Sullivan and Rev. Gary Ruzicka.

#### Monsignor Gnidovec

The Right Reverend Monsignor Albin Gnidovec, a resident of Rock Springs and pastor of Saints Cyril and Methodius Church since 1931, died June 19, 1984.

Born in Austria, which later became Yugoslavia, Msgr. Gnidovec was ordained in 1918 and came to the United States in 1925. He was sent to Rock Springs specifically to minister to the Slovenian People. He was appointed Monsignor in 1964, and the investiture with the monsignoral robes was held January 3 J, 1965-

#### Father Bartek

Former pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows, Father Charles A. Bartek died August 11, 1984. He was an assistant in 1952 and was pastor from 1966 to 1972. Father Bartek was ordained in Illinois in 1945. He moved to Wyoming and began his ministry under the Diocese of Cheyenne.

#### Father Hruska

After being ordained to the Diaconate May 18, 1984, in St. Mary's Cathedral, Terrence A. Hruska was ordained a priest November 29, 1984, at Rock Springs High School Auditorium. He attended OLS grade school and completed high school at Hays Military School in Kansas. After completing service in the U. S. Navy, he attended Western Wyoming College and was manager of the Green River Gibson's Store. For two years he trained at Conception Seminary in Missouri and then transferred to St. Thomas Seminary in Denver for four years, receiving a degree in theology.

#### Sullivans: 25 Years

A concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving on May 23, 1984, commemorated Rev. Eugene Sullivan's 25 years in the priesthood. Three bishops and 35 Wyoming priests participated. A reception was held at the OLS Parish Center.

Gerald and Eugene Sullivan, identical twins, were ordained May 23, 1959. Father Gerald celebrated his 25 years in the priesthood in Kemmerer May 22. He, too, served OLS in 1974.

The seventh and eighth of nine children of Jack and Margaret Shea Sullivan, the brothers attended St. Anthony's School in Casper and graduated from Natrona County High School.

Father Gerald recalls their decision to attend St. Thomas Seminary College. "We worked in the Midwest oil fields the summer we graduated from high school. One day Msgr. O'Reilly called us in to meet Bishop Newell. Msgr. O'Reilly said we were thinking about being priests, which we had never told him before."

On January 7, 1986, Father Eugene was transferred to Green River. During Father Sullivan's tenure, many new programs were instituted, including the semi-annual rosary marches and the first of several "Super Sunday" liturgies.

#### Eagle Scout Awards

Patrick Surline and Daniel Prevedel were honored by receiving their Eagle Awards in an Eagle Court of Honor on January 19, 1986, in the Parish Center of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church.

Rev. Eugene Sullivan, former pastor of OLS, gave the invocation. Donald Garrey, scoutmaster of Boy [RS OLS 1987, 108] Scout Troop 8 since 1982, introduced representatives of the Knights of Columbus, sponsor of the troop. Speakers were Louis Ruffini, Council president, and Terry Sell, district chairman.

Each Eagle Scout presented his mother with an Eagle pin and his father with an Eagle tie tack. A reception followed the award ceremony. Both young men are members of OLS.

In December of 1983, Thomas Canestrini was the first recipient of the Eagle Award under the leadership of Don Garrey, and in February of 1984, Doug Kennedy was honored by receiving the Eagle Award. Chris Herne earned his Eagle Award in November of 1984, and Abdon Friend was made an Eagle Scout in October of 1985. All of

these young men were honored at an Eagle Court of Honor and a reception.

George Herne was the scout leader from 1979-82 when the Catholic troop was reinstated. Don Garrey was leader from 1982 to 1986. David Netterfield is the present leader.

### Catholic School Week

[RS OLS 1987, 110] In February of 1986, Rock Springs Catholic School celebrated Catholic School Week. The theme of the National Catholic Education Association was "Catholic Schools —a Rainbow of Excellence." Students enrolled in the Rock Springs School participate in the curriculum which includes religion, language, arts, math, science, social studies, computer, physical education, music and band.

The school began the week with a Mass celebrated by Rev. Gerald Chleborad at SCM Church on February 2. A reception followed in the Parish Center.

Each class took part in a field trip during the week. The children in the school selected as a charity for 1986, The Fireman's Burnout Fund. Aluminum cans were collected and money earned from recycling was donation to families suffering loss from fire.

Celebration of a Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows church culminated the week's activities. Rev. Charles Taylor officiated.

"Rainbows for all God's Children," a program to support children from families that have experienced a death or divorce, was added to the curriculum at Rock Springs Catholic School. Norma Jordan and Sheila Zotti were commissioned as facilitators for the program.

### Ray Repp

Rock Springs Catholic Churches scheduled a concert with Ray Repp March 8, at the Rock Springs High School auditorium.

Ray Repp, a nationally known liturgist and contemporary inspirational composer and performer, had been in Rock Springs in 1985 to present a concert, "Sunrise in the Dead of Winter." The theme of the 1986 concert was "Share the Sunlight."

Many of Repp's songs were incorporated into the local Catholic music ministry. While in Rock Springs, Repp conducted a mini-retreat on Discipleship. The Renew Core Team at OLS sponsored the retreat and a dinner for all Catholic laity and non-Catholics. The retreat was designed to promote Christian discipleship and community.

### CCW Officers Installed

Rev. Charles Taylor officiated at a Mass in May of 1986 when officers of OLS Council of Catholic Women were installed. Past President Jerry Fraher installed the 1986-87 officers: Jeanne Kellogg, president; Veronica Taylor, vice-president; Aggie Wenig, secretary; and Evelyn Bertagnolli, treasurer.

Chairpersons for church committees were also installed. St. Anne's Circle hosted a reception at OLS Parish Hall to honor the newly installed officers and chairpersons.

### Bishop Hart's Anniversary

Bishop Hart celebrated his 10th year as Bishop of Cheyenne and his 30th year as a priest during the Wyoming Council of Catholic Women's annual convention in May of 1986. He was honored at the convention banquet and presented a sculpture of Mother Teresa.

Father James Hart of Kansas City made a surprise visit for Bishop Hart's Anniversary. In addition to his mother and brother, 34 of the diocesan priests, several women religious and more than 300 delegates to the convention were in attendance.

A spiritual bouquet from women all across the state was also presented to the Bishop. At the closing convention luncheon, Bishop Hart was given a cake with ever-burning candles, and a bouquet of 30 balloons.

### Sisters honored at Receptions

Our Lady of Sorrows honored Sister Joseph Eileen Shea at a farewell reception on May 21, 1986, at the Parish

Center. The Council of Catholic Women hosted the reception.

Sister Joseph Eileen came to Rock Springs in 1979. She worked for the Rock Springs Catholic School for four years as school secretary. For the next three years she served as pastoral assistant at OLS.

[RS OLS 1987, 111] Sister Linda Dean, who served as religious education director for three years in Rock Springs and Superior, was honored at a reception May 18 at OLS Parish Center. Sister Linda left to take a new position as religious education director at St. Patrick's Parish in Billings, Montana.

#### CROP Walk

Parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows participated in a CROP (Community Hunger Appeal of the Church World Service) Walk, raising funds for ministering to the needy. Those taking part were Sarah Burkett, Clare Lansang, Duane Feick, Markia Matthews, Rico Zampedri, Penny Boysen, and Robbie Boysen.

#### Irish Youth Visit

Twelve teenagers from Omagh in Northern Ireland were entertained at a picnic at Ft. Bridger on July 12, 1986. The visit to the Wyoming area, followed by a float trip down the Green River, was a result of the efforts of Kathy Simek of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Father Eugene Sullivan of Immaculate Conception Parish in Green River, and Jackie Shuster.

The Ulster Project was founded in 1974 so Irish youth can spend time in America. The international organization hopes to combat the inbuilt prejudices between Protestants and Catholics. Each youth is matched with an American teen, and lives with the American family for the duration of the trip.

#### Parish Council Elections

Elected to serve for the next three years on the Parish Council were Mike Lopiccio, David Piaia, Richard Surline, John Radosevich, and Leno Zancanella. They Join Fred Abeyta, John Zebre and Rosalie Getz who were elected in 1985.

#### OLS Mission

[RS OLS 1987, 112] Dominican Father John Victor Kane of San Francisco conducted a parish-wide mission October 6-10, 1986. Mission services were conducted at 9 a. m. and at 7:30 p. m. The services consisted of a Mass and address by Father Kane. The rosary was prayed 20 minutes prior to the service.

Father Kane is director of Western Dominican Preaching and was given an honorary degree of Doctor of Theology from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. Father Kane is one of four Dominican Kane brothers, and he has two sisters who are nuns.

#### Campaign for Human Development

The Campaign for Human Development, November 22-23, is the Catholic anti-poverty program which, for the past 16 years, has funded self-help projects organized and controlled by groups of poor and disfranchised (not given help by any governmental agencies) people in our nation.

To the thousands of poor people in the United States, CHD has meant the difference between entrapment in a cycle of poverty and self determination. CHD attacks the causes of poverty — unjust social policies and biased attitudes that keep people poor. CHD is the largest national funding program for self projects of poor and low-income groups aimed at social change.

#### Golden Age Group

Catholic Golden Agers had a very busy year in 1986. In February they presented speaker Rev. Francis Crowley, a Vincentian priest, at their meeting.

Officers for the 1986 year were Cecilia Gatti, president; Marge Kudar, vice-president; Cecilia Chapman, financial secretary; Rudy Pivic, recording secretary; Jennie Fortuna, historian; Anna Fortuna, three-year trustee; Joe Melinkovich, two-year trustee; Mike Duzik, one-year trustee.

Trips in the spring and summer included a trip to Jackson in March. They attended Mass at Our Lady of Peace in Pinedale. In June they visited Dinosaurland in Vernal, Utah, and attended Mass at St. John's Church. A tour of South Pass City was made on a trip to Lander in August. Mass was attended at Holy Rosary Parish. The Golden Agers attended the annual Mass at the DeSmet Monument on July 13. Father John Apel from St. Stephens Mission was celebrant. Father Apel teaches high school in St. Louis and spent part of the summer at the Mission.

The officers elected for 1987 are Sister Dorothy Henscheid, president; Dorothy Phillips, vice-president; Rose Pevic, secretary; Frances Renter, treasurer.

#### Apostles of Good Will Luncheon

[RS OLS 1987, 113] Four ladies in their nineties were guests of honor at the May, 1986 luncheon hosted by the Apostles of Good Will at Our Lady of Sorrows Church.

The four included Mary Taucher, 92; Maria Pancheri, 91; Helen DeWulf, 91; and Emma Bertagnolli, 91. In addition to those four guests, many other seniors were also in attendance.

Mary Taucher was born in Skofia Loka, Yugoslavia, in 1894 and came to Rock Springs in 1911. She was married to the late Arthur Taucher, Sr. and they were the parents of seven children. Her son, Leonard Taucher, resides in Casper and son, Raymond, in Pinckneyville, Illinois. She has three daughters, Gertrude Taucher of Sun City, Arizona, and Mary Ann Yerkovich and Lois Arambel Zebre, both of Rock Springs. A son Tony Taucher, and a daughter, Elsie Taucher Subic, are deceased. Mrs. Taucher has 16 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Maria Pancheri was born in Fondo Province of Trento, Italy, in 1895. Her daughter, Elena Faccini, brought her mother to the United States as a tourist in July, 1952, and she stayed here to become a United States citizen.

Mrs. Pancheri and her daughter moved to Rock Springs in July 1958. She has one grandson and one great-grandchild.

Helen Brown DeWulf was born in Spalding, Nebraska, in 1895, and came to Rock Springs in 1925. She was married to the late Joe DeWulf, and they were the parents of three daughters, Delores O'Farrell of Salt Lake City; Pat Radman of Rock Springs; and Peggy Evans of California. Mrs. DeWulf has six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren and maintains her own home in Rock Springs.

Emma Bertagnolli was born in Innsbruck, Austria, in 1895, came to Superior in 1913 and moved to Rock Springs in 1944. She was married to the late Joe Bertagnolli, and they were the parents of four children; Emil Bertagnolli of Denver; Ada Whitehead of Phoenix, Arizona; Aldo Bertagnolli, deceased, U. S. Navy, 1943; and one stillborn. Mrs. Bertagnolli has five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

#### Sweetwater County Right to Life

[RS OLS 1987, 114] The Sweetwater County Right to Life began in February, 1973. Several members of the St. Francis Circle of Our Lady of Sorrows were so appalled at the Supreme Court decision of January 22, 1973, that they decided to start a Right to Life group. They were joined by other members of the community who had been opposed to this decision of abortion on demand. The first officers were members of OLS parish: Barbara Erramouspe, Catherine Canestrini, Lois Zebre, and Clare Lansang. Members added to the ranks were from the Baptist, LDS, Lutheran, and Catholic churches.

The purpose of the group was to educate others regarding this issue of abortion and the related issues of euthanasia and infanticide. Secondly, the group wished to inform legislators about the issue and express to them their opposition.

In order to purchase material for education, the group has conducted, over the years, raffles, bake sales, and garage sales. There are also a good number of dues-paying members and generous donations. Since 1977 a group of members have cleaned OLS Church for a salary for the organization. Also since about 1980, members in Green River have earned money by running bingo at Immaculate Conception Church.

The goal of education has been carried out through displays at the County Fair since 1973, mall fairs, panel discussions, conducting classes when invited into classrooms, both junior and senior high. Before elections there have been radio spots to keep the issue before the public.

In 1977 Sweetwater County Right to Life was able to inform others in the community that the Sweetwater Memorial Hospital was planning to change the policy and allow non-therapeutic abortions, abortion on demand, in the hospital. At a subsequent meeting held December 15, 1977, a majority of people attending that meeting expressed their pro life views. The hospital board voted not to allow abortions in the hospital. The local CHAPTER supports the Wyoming Right to Life by monthly contributions, plus active participation on the state board. In 1983 the 5th annual Right for Life dinner was held in Rock Springs. It was planned by the Sweetwater County Right to Life under the direction of Glenise Wendorf, a county member. Sweetwater County has supported the National Right to Life through donations, and for several years the representative from Wyoming to the National Board has been a member from Green River, Larry Hell. Over the 14 years of its existence, Sweetwater County Right to Life has contributed to funds in the community begun for individuals in need because of pregnancy or unusual medical expenses. October 5, 1986, was Respect for Life Sunday, the day the Catholic community throughout the United States commits itself to the struggle of protecting the lives of those endangered by abortion, euthanasia and neglect.

### Gifts

Through the years many gifts have been given to Our Lady of Sorrows Church. Some of these include the Sanctuary Lamp in memory of Edward Crippa by Isabel Crippa and Albert Crippa, 1960; a large Crucifix in memory of Guy and Angela Dona by Irma Dona, 1960; in memory of Celestina Toresani and Franzo Leonardi by Emma Gottina, the Baptismal font; lectern and sound system, a gift of Myfanwy Thomas-Goodnough, 1963; candlesticks in memory of Virginia and Mary Mengoni by Ann Mengoni, 1960; a statue of Christ given by Mrs. G. A. Brown in memory of Mr. and Mrs. John Lang; the Monstrance in memory of Alexander and Mary Franck by Peter, Renaldo, Edward, Linda and Dosilena Franck, 1960; and candelabra, a gift of St. Mary's Altar and Rosary Society, 1960.

### Those Who Serve

Under the direction of Bev Martin, many parishioners are serving Our Lady of Sorrows during the Centennial year. Those who are lectors are John Fraher and John Zebre. Others who are lectors and ministers include Ole Anselmi, Sonny Carrier, Jon Collins, Dr. Joseph Erramouspe, David Fedrizzi, Dr. Art Fermelia, Abdon Friend, Sharon Friend, George Giovanini, Nancy Hickerson, Randy Hruska, Jeanne Kellogg, Phil Kellogg, Clare Lansang, Dr. Rudy Lansang, Charles Lux, Philann Lux, John Lux, Beverly Martin, Joe Melinkovich, Louis Ruffini, Delores Velikaneye, and Michael Waters.

Altar servers are Trinity Abeyta, J. B. Andiocochea, Mike Borzea, Brett Doak, Andy Doser, Jimmy Doser, Tom Doser, Wes Eversole, Michael Friend, D. J. James, David Jelaca, Jason Jelaca, Steve Jenkins, John Jordan, Matthew Keller, Gregg Kellogg, Jim Kelley, Erik Larsen, Jason Loner, Dorsey Lux, Jason Meyer, Bradley Meyer, Ricco Roccabruna, Jimmy Rubeck, Christopher Simek, Ryan Sneddon, Chris Tebedo, Jeff Tebedo, [RS OLS 1987, 115] Tracy Tominc, Brandon Tuzicka, Eddie Warren, Brian Williams, Robbie Boysen, Ryan Boysen, Eric Ulrich, and Brandon Hruska.

Candeliers include Lory Alcivar, Christy Austi, Mandi Delbridge, Stacy Deru, Jesse Eversole, Jessica Foley, Jessica Godfrey, Chantal Haidiak, Tricia Hall, Jacque Hruska, Laurie Hruska, Heather James, Kara Jelaca, Jennie Kellogg, Keilu Kramer, Amy Larsen, Toni Larsen, Kelly Matthews, Celine Meyers, Cindy McCoy, Michelle McCoy, Cara Oliver, Cece Prevedel, Lori Rishling, Kristen Simek, Brandi Sneddon, Kristen Swan, Tina Tominc, Kim Wheatley, Lacy Williams, Lindsey Williams, Mandy Borzea, Toni Tuzicka, Hanna Deakins, Melissa Voos, Jenny Matthews, Cara Gillio, Keri Rose Keller, Sonja Steinbrech, Jenny Doak, Christel Loner, Marka Rubeck, Amy Dickman, Jennifer Miller, and Sarah Nykodym.

### Father Charles Taylor

Father Taylor came to Our Lady of Sorrows Church in January of 1986. Prior to coming to Rock Springs, he served at Holy Rosary Church at Lander. He also served at Jackson, Powell, and was the assistant pastor at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in Rock Springs from 1954 to 1956. He was pastor at the Newman Center from

1959 to 1972.

A native of Wyoming, Father Taylor was born in Kemmerer on September 7, 1926. He attended Kemmerer High School and graduated Valedictorian. He was in the United States Navy from 1946 to 1948, and then attended Creighton University for two years. After completing his studies at St. Thomas Seminary, he was ordained May 30, 1953. He studied in Rome at St. John Laterals University for three years, at which time he received a degree in Canon Law.

Father Taylor's father, Frank H. Taylor, who was a publisher of the Kemmerer Gazette, died in October of 1971. His mother Pauline still lives in Kemmerer. A sister and brother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Gordan L. Huntington, live in Davis, California; their children are Charles W. Huntington and Margaret Ann.

"It is an honor and a privilege to represent all the priests that have gone before, especially during this centennial year."

Father Gerald Guida

[RS OLS 1987, 116] Father Gerald John Guida was born in Denver May 18, 1913. His grandparents came from Naples and settled in the Denver area where they were members of the Mt. Carmel Church. Father Guida was educated by Mother Cabrini nuns. Two of his cousins became nuns under the Mother Cabrini Order. Sister Michelle, Father's sister, is a Mercy nun at Mercy Hospital.

He attended North Denver High School and Regis College where he received his vocation to become a Jesuit priest. He studied 13 years to be a priest and attended the seminary at St. Louis University. Father Guida has a master's degree in philosophy, a master's degree in theology, and a master's degree in physics and mathematics. For 44 years Father Guida taught physics and mathematics. In addition to teaching, he did parish work. He gave retreats all over the country. He was a Newman chaplain at Mankato University at Mankato, Minnesota. Fourteen thousand students attended this university; 70 to 80 students converted to Catholicism every year. Because his parents were loving and generous, he loves everyone. He feels parents are the greatest influence on young people." If you are going to be a good priest, you have to love everyone. They will respect you and love you back." Father likes to teach and he likes to use humor in his teaching because it keeps the attention of students or parishioners. Wherever he goes, he does God's work.

He feels the Rock Springs people are kind and generous; they love the Blessed Mother and they love the Rosary.

## CHAPTER XII

### MISSION CHURCHES

#### Superior and Wamsutter

Superior

[RS OLS 1987, 117] On Christmas of 1909, the first Mass was celebrated in Superior, which had been designated as a station church of OLS and had been established by Rev. James Cerne, assistant pastor of the Rock Springs church. The Mass was held in a private home, but in January of 1910, Rev. J. H. DeNichols was appointed pastor and a church was erected by the Union Pacific Coal Company. The parishioners in Superior furnished the church through their donations of \$760.00.'

In 1912 Rev. Ludwig Grycmacher was appointed pastor at Superior. The church was known as the Church of St. Charles Borromeo. The trustees in 1950 were Stephen Hanten, Henry Lenzi, and Rev. William Delaney. Rev. Delaney felt there was a need for a new church in the Superior parish and submitted a request that purchase be made of a plot of land from the Union Pacific Coal Co. for \$500.00. This was moved and seconded by the trustees.

Thomas Lavery was elected to fill the unexpired term of Dr. Stephen Hanten on September 21, 1951. A contract to the Kellogg Lumber Company for the construction of the new church was accepted. The new church would be known as St. Vivian's. Directly across the street, a house was purchased to be used as a parish house for the priest.

[RS OLS 1987, 118] Henry Zampedri and George DeCroo were elected trustees in 1954. In January of 1956,

Henry Zampedri moved that an organ and sacristy closet be purchased and that landscaping of the church grounds and outside painting of the church be completed.

Rev. A. T. Diekemper was the pastor and in 1959, Rev. John Brady succeeded him. After Father Brady left, Superior had no pastor but became a mission church of OLS. Father Charles Bartek stated in 1967, "Matter of not having Sunday Mass at Superior was brought up. No decision will be made until an assistant is assigned to this parish by Our Lady of Sorrows." Mass was being held twice monthly in 1969. After November 22, 1978, weekly Mass was held at Superior. The church building was covered with steel siding and the interior repainted in 1979. In order to make the church more comfortable in the winter, space heaters were added in 1980. A new statue of the Risen Christ was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ray Zampedri in 1984 to St. Vivian's in memory of the deceased members of the Nosich and Zampedri families and for all the living.

#### Wamsutter

[RS OLS 1987, 119] Our Lady of Sorrows acquired the mission in Wamsutter in 1978. Mass was held twice a month in the school gymnasium until 1980 when a double wide mobile home was purchased and transformed into St. Anthony's Church. The church was dedicated in August of 1980. In addition to the chapel, the building contains a kitchen.

The land for the church was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Gonzales, formerly of Wamsutter. Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Gerber were the leaders for the fund drive to erect the church. There were only 17 Catholic families in Wamsutter at the time so it was difficult to raise the \$40,000 for the church. OLS parish voted to help out with an interest-free loan to be repaid in five years. A grant was also requested by the Catholic Church Extension Society. The Knights of Columbus donated \$1000.

When asked by Esther Howe of Wamsutter if they could resume having Mass there, Father Sullivan was interested because he used to say Mass in Wamsutter when he was an associate priest with Msgr. Meyer in Rawlins (1959-61). He said Mass in the old wooden school. When he drove out to Tim and Esther's home, and he noticed all the new homes and development, he said he felt like a Missionary going to a new village to preach the good news. They took him through their trailer home to the back yard. There, to his surprise, were about 50 men, women and children waiting for Mass. It was a beautiful summer day and the Mass was very meaningful to all. Later a Committee was formed and a church was built on the land donated by the Manuel Gonzales family. The church was fittingly dedicated to St. Anthony of the desert.

New chairs with kneelers, Stations of the Cross, and a new tabernacle were also acquired. Men of the parish placed a large white cross at each end of the chapel. "St. Anthony's," placed at the north end of the chapel, is readily visible from the Interstate Highway.

The first wedding in St. Anthony's took place when Karen Hofer became the bride of Mitchel Asay on December 27, 1980.

A plaque in the church was donated by a former official of the Ford Motor Company, John Bugas.

When Father Eugene Sullivan returned from a trip to Europe in 1984, he donated a hand carved Crucifix from Oberammergau he had bought when he went to see The Passion Play.

### CHAPTER XIII

#### Parishioners

[RS OLS 1987, 120] Through the years many families of Our Lady of Sorrows have contributed to religious vocations; their sons and daughters became priests and nuns. The Murphys, Hruskas, Erramouspes, Delaneys, Prevedels, Trujillos, and the Dolinars are a few whose family members have chosen to follow God's calling. The people of OLS have shown their dedication and devotion in the many drives for contributions to build a new church, a school, a new rectory, a new parish center, and a new garage.

Some of those dedicated parishioners will be or are already 90 years old or older. We pay tribute to these special people:

#### Our Parishioners Remember

Mary Taucher

Mary Taucher came to Rock Springs in 1911 from Yugoslavia at the age of 17. She married Anton Taucher in 1913 in the original Our Lady of Sorrows Church.

One priest she remembers well was Father Anton Schiffrer. He was very friendly with the parishioners and would often play cards with them until three or four in the morning. She was also friendly with Monsignor Gnidovec, but most of the other priests she only knew from Mass.

Mary learned to speak English from the Subic family for whom she worked. She helped out in their home, cleaning, washing clothes and doing other household chores for 10 dollars a month. Also she was taught the language by the tenants in the boarding house where she lived. They always corrected her English.

According to Mrs. Taucher, one of the best things that has happened in the Catholic church was changing the Mass from Latin to English.

Edna Kershisnik

Edna Kershisnik commented on the wonderful work and dedication of the original St. Mary's Altar Society. The members of St. Mary's would walk all over town to collect donations, usually 50 cents. Mrs. Anna Magagna was devoted to this project.

Mrs. Kershisnik especially remembers the dinners St. Mary's would serve to hundreds of people in the tiny church hall and kitchen. She stated, "It was hard and difficult in such cramped space, but we loved working together. We did all the cooking."

Kate Slott

Mrs. Slott was born in Rock Springs and taught school for 43 years. In 1914, she graduated from Rock Springs High School and began teaching that year at the Washam Home Ranch.

Traveling to the ranch in a buckboard, Mrs. Slott rode the last six miles to the schoolhouse on a horse. She taught four pupils and received 60 dollars in salary.

During 1915-17, she taught at No. 6 School in the Rock Springs School District. Later she taught at the [RS OLS 1987, 121] No. 4 School east of the Union Pacific Store, which is now Lowell school. She was acting principal in 1918-19 and received 90 dollars a month.

She then married Gus Slott. Since married women were not allowed to teach, her career temporarily ended. Her husband, a veteran of World War I, had been wounded and his injuries later caused him to become a quadriplegic. Kate Slott resumed her teaching career in 1928-29 and taught at Washington School in 1930. Rock Springs School District started a special class for exceptional children in 1929, and she began teaching that class. The work became her goal in life, according to Mrs. Jack Smith.

For 30 years she taught special education to children and adults in Rock Springs. Following her retirement, Mrs. Slott attended and participated in workshops in Europe.

"She was a pioneer in the education of exceptional children beginning at a time when there was little study or attention given to that field. Her experiences and studies contributed a great deal to the progress of special children during her 30 years of teaching, Mrs. Smith said. (*Daily Rocket Miner*, January 13, 1987)

The Rudolph Anselmi Family and the Church before Vatican II

Rudy Anselmi and Louise Shuster were married on July 10, 1929, in her home parish of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Rock Springs. Soon after she became a member of Our Lady of Sorrows parish, mainly because, even though the department store which Rudy managed was open six days a week, he went to work seven days a week, and always at 6:30 a. m. Louise did not drive a car, and Our Lady of Sorrows was within easy walking distance from her home on "C" Street.

The Anselmis had three daughters — Mary Louise was baptized in the old frame church, but by the time the other two children were born, they were able to be baptized in the new church. At that time the priest would tell parents that babies should be baptized soon after birth with no delays. Therefore, when the youngest daughter,

Geraldine Jean (Jeri) was born in the middle of a bad winter, Father Welsh came to the house to baptize her, and then later when the weather was better, and the child stronger, the baptism was completed in the church.

Louise Anselmi loved to sing. The parish as a whole did no singing; there was a choir. Often Louise, Rose Bertagnolli and Ida Connor Lawrence would be the only ones showing up to sing at the 10:30 Sunday Mass, but these three were very faithful.

The Anselmi children received all the sacraments at Our Lady of Sorrows. Catechism classes were held each Wednesday and Friday from 4:00 p. m. to 5:00 p. m. If a child missed catechism, Father Welsh would call the parents to find out why. Catechism classes were held in the church. Mothers' Day was always the time for First Communion, with first Confessions the day before. Children went to catechism from the age of 6 until they made their Confirmation. Bishop McGovern did not come each year for Confirmation, but only came — and then, usually by train — every three years. If a child just missed the age of Confirmation one year, he would have to wait an additional three years for the next Confirmation class. When the Bishop or Father Welsh asked a child a question, that child would always stand to answer, out of respect to the priest.

To receive Communion, a parishioner had to fast from midnight on. Parishioners knelt at the altar railing to receive. Women and girls always had their heads covered, and Father suggested to young teenage girls that they not wear lipstick to church on Sundays, nor sleeveless blouses. Of course, no woman wore slacks.

The Mass was in Latin, which everyone followed in their prayer books. Father faced away from the parishioners. During Holy Week, no bells were rung and there was no organ music, but it was very uplifting when, half-way through the Holy Saturday Mass, the bells would ring and the organ play.

There were a great many more fast days. The pastor always had an assistant pastor. During the 7:00 a. m. daily Mass, there was always a priest hearing Confessions. After that Mass, Father would walk to the local hospital, visiting patients, often just saying hello, but making them feel better just by being there. He also visited the home of each parishioner, at least once a year.

There were no lay ministers or lectors. The children were taught to be very quiet during the consecration. They were also taught that only Father could touch the Host because his hands were specially consecrated and blessed. During Sunday Mass, all children in attendance sat in the first few pews. After Mass Father would often ask the children to stay so he could quiz them on the Mass. It was good to remember certain seasonal questions such as the names of the three Wise Men. When Advent came, and Father asked that question, which he always did, the first to answer would receive a Holy Card, which all the children greatly prized.

There were many hymns that could not be sung in the church. Father told the children they should never sing "Away in a Manger" since it had been written by Martin Luther.

[RS OLS 1987, 122] There were no candeliers. Responses were given by the altar boys, not the congregation, so altar boys had to learn the Latin responses.

Louise Anselmi was a member of St. Mary's Altar Society and one of the original members of the Apostles of Goodwill. The small group would make layettes for new parents who were needy. As a member of the Altar Society, she would often walk all over No. 1 Hill contacting parishioners who lived there and asking for donations for the "bake" sale. Since she didn't drive, one of her daughters accompanied her, as at that time, they were too young to drive.

Rudy Anselmi was an usher at Mass — the 8:30 a. m. Mass — for over 20 years. He was also an usher for the Midnight Mass at Christmas. There were no other evening Masses. On days of big collections, such as Easter or Christmas, he and the other usher — usually Leno Menghini — would set a table just inside the main part of the church, back of the pews. Parishioners could give donations as they entered the church, if they did not want to wait for the regular collection. The following Sunday Father would read out loud the donations, reading the names of all who had donated and how much they donated. After the Christmas Midnight Mass, the Anselmi daughters and their mother would go to the rectory and help their father and Leno Menghini count the collection. At that time Father Welsh and his housekeeper would serve coffee and cookies.

The Anselmi sisters sang in the junior choir at 8:30 a. m. Mass. One Sunday, they were stopped from going to the choir loft by a woman who said she and her family would do the singing that Sunday. The girls found out later that the woman was Mrs. Von Trapp, and the singing that Sunday morning was done by the Von Trapp

family, who had been in Rock Springs for a Community Concert performance the night before. Each summer Father had two nuns come to conduct a week long church school for the children of the parish. This was greatly enjoyed by the Anselmi sisters. Louise Anselmi would often send her children to the church summer school at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church also. At times when the family would spend a few days vacation in Jackson, she would send her children to the summer church school there too, which a visiting priest would conduct.

When the young women of the parish became teenagers, they joined Sodality, which met at least once a month. Young women just out of high school were also members. A rosary would start the meeting, and then there would be a program, then perhaps a game of bingo after which refreshments would be served.

One Sunday morning during the 10:30 a.m. Mass, someone rushed into the church to inform parishioners that the street in front of the church had just caved into an old mine. Father Welsh insisted that all in attendance at Mass leave immediately, which they did. However, he stayed and completed saying Mass.

Rudolph and Louise Anselmi moved to Cheyenne in 1965, when he received an appointment to the State Board of Equalization from then Governor Cliff Hansen, but they never gave up their membership in Our Lady of Sorrows Church, although they also became members of St. Mary's Cathedral in Cheyenne. In 1979 they came back to Rock Springs to celebrate their Golden Anniversary at Our Lady of Sorrows.

Geraldine Jean (Jeri) married Clifford Kirk at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in June, 1957. Rose Madeleine (Lynn) married Thomas Lockhart in the Catholic Church in Casper, Wyoming, in July, 1960. Mary Louise (Mary Lou) married John Unguren in October, 1964, in Our Lady of Sorrows Church.

Louise Anselmi died November 16, 1984. She was buried from her beloved church.

Written by Mary Lou Anselmi Unguren from memory and interviews with Rudolph Anselmi.

January, 1987

### Gaston and Grace Erramouspe

Parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows for many years, Mr. and Mrs. Gaston Erramouspe, deceased, were immigrants from the Basque country in the French Pyrenees. Gaston was born in Banca, France, on September 22, 1888. He came to the United States in 1912. He lived a brief time in Nevada, then came to Rock Springs in 1915.

Gaston served both in the French Army prior to World War I and in the U. S. Army during World War I. He was a member of Our Lady of Sorrows Church Knights of Columbus as a Fourth Degree Knight, American Legion Archie Hay Post No. 24, and the Wyoming Wool Growers Association. But his Catholic faith meant very much to him and was number one in his life.

Grace Erramouspe was born in Biagorry, France, on March 10, 1901, and was married to Gaston in Biagorry on November 10, 1923. They came to the United States the same year and lived for a time in Geneva, Idaho. They moved to Rock Springs in 1928.

Grace was an active member of Our Lady of Sorrows Church Altar Society and St. Mark's Circle. She also was active in the Catholic School PTA and Right to Life from its beginning.

Gaston and Grace gave birth to six sons and six daughters. Two sons died in infancy, and Pierre, the oldest [RS OLS 1987, 123] in the family, died in the Pacific Theater of Operation during World War II. John and Dr. Joseph live in Rock Springs and Paul lives in Arvada, Colorado. Daughters are Sisters Miriam Grace, Ghana Africa; Anne Case, Boulder, Colorado; Catherine Canestrini, Rock Springs; Bernadette Gosar and Marge Sellyei, Pinedale, Wyoming; and Grace Mossman, Englewood, Colorado. There are 56 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Both Gaston and Grace were active in the Our Lady of Sorrows Parish by working on the committees to raise money for the parochial school in 1949 and the drive to raise money for a new organ. They offered lodging in their home for mission priests and visiting clergy.

Religious education was very important to Gaston and Grace. They sent all of their children to Catholic grade, high school and Catholic colleges.

Gaston was a prominent sheep rancher in Sweetwater and Sublette Counties. The ranch was run by him from

1928 until his death in 1969. He was 80 years old when he passed away May 10, 1969. His family still operates the ranch under the management of John and his sons.

Grace passed away on June 9, 1978, at the age of 77.

The Statue of the Risen Christ was given in memory of Gaston and Grace by their children.

#### John Bucho

In 1905, when he was five years old, John Bucho went with his family to Superior, Wyoming. They came from Ofteiro, Tyrol, Austria. He remembers attending Mass with his family when he was a young child. At the age of nine, he was an altar boy for one year in Superior.

Two of the most influential people in his life were his mother and father.

The former Rena Bertagnolli and John were married on June 17, 1922, in the old Our Lady of Sorrows Church by Father Welsh. He became a naturalized American citizen later that same year. Each of the nine Bucho children was baptized in Our Lady of Sorrows Church.

When the present church was being built, another man, sent here from New York, and John did the marble work on the altar. Marble of seven different colors was imported from Italy. He also did carpenter work on the church, as he was working for Kellogg's Lumber at that time.

John Bucho is 86 years old and attends Mass every Sunday. He stated that he has grown in faith by attending Mass through the years. He also said, "I would encourage young people of today to lead a Christian life, and to have a moral standard of living."

## CHAPTER XIV

### The Centennial Year

#### Diocese of Cheyenne

[RS OLS 1987, 124] Our Lady of Sorrows shares this Centennial Year with the Diocese of Cheyenne. This, too, gives special meaning to our celebration. The Diocese, commemorating the establishment of the Diocese of Cheyenne on August 9, 1987, will observe its Centennial August 7-8, 1987, in Casper, Wyoming. All parishes and parishioners will participate.

The theme for the Diocesan Centennial is "Amen — 100 Years of Responding." The Centennial year began November 30, 1986. Highlighting the year-long celebration was an historical pageant, a prayer service, and a Mass at the Casper Events Center. More than 5000 Catholics were expected to attend, in addition to the Pope's Apostolic Delegate to the United States and 100 United States Bishops.

John Poste of Casper designed the logo. He is a student at the Institute of Art and Design in Denver. The Centennial logo incorporates the word "Amen" with a graphic illustration of Wyoming's beauty. The colors chosen (yellow-orange, blue, green, and brown) are the same as those chosen for the logo of the Diocese of Cheyenne, which was inspired by the art and symbolism of the Indian, Wyoming's first settler.

#### Our Lady of Sorrows

The Centennial year of Our Lady of Sorrows, which officially started in January of 1987 with a flag-raising ceremony, will culminated on September 12 and 13, the weekend closest to the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, September 15. The flag, which has on it the logo of Our Lady of Sorrows Centennial, will fly, along with the United States flag, over the church through September 13, 1987.

The Centennial Committee started to meet in October of 1986. Members included: Joseph Erramouspe, chairman; Ole Anselmi; Maggie Cessar, Catherine Canestrini, Rosalie Getz, Josie Jauregui, David Jelaca, Sandy Kuhn, Clare Lansang, Louis Ruffini, JoAnn Tate, Father Charles Taylor, and Gloria Tomich.

The theme adopted is "Remember, Rejoice, Renew." The logo and flag were designed by David Jelaca and drawn by Dale S. Majhanovich.

[RS OLS 1987, 125] Other activities planned for the Centennial year were ethnic refreshments served after Masses during the month of February, an essay writing contest, carnivals and guest speakers. A dinner-dance

and a reception after the Centennial Mass are also planned.