

HOLY NAME CHURCH

The first Christian services on the present site of what is now the city of Sheridan took place on the 1st Sunday in March, 1858, and were conducted by Rev. Pierre-Jean De Smet, a Belgian priest of the Society of Jesus and a noted missionary among the North American Indians. Our lake De Smet, situated between Sheridan and Buffalo, is named after this

missionary. Father De Smet's congregation on the occasion consisted of the Sioux Indian chiefs, both Christian and pagan, who were accompanying him from the land of the Dakotas to ~~the~~ Fort Laramie, Wyoming for a conference with the peace commissioners of the United States government. At this time he had retired from the work among the Indian tribes of the northwest and was living at the university of St. Louis,

Mo. The United States government requested him to go to the regions of the upper Missouri and to use his good offices with the Sioux Indians for the purpose of bringing to a close the war which they had been waging against the government for four years. Complying with the invitation of the government, the missionary penetrated alone into the camps of the hostile Sioux. Of him, General Stanley wrote at that time:

"Father De Smet alone of the entire white race could penetrate to those cruel savages and return safe and sound." They loved and trusted him implicitly. He was received with great enthusiasm. His counsels were

at once followed. Representatives were appointed to accompany him to Fort Laramie to meet the United States peace commissioners at that place. Father De Smet, who amidst all his travels among the Indian tribes, was a prolific writer, describes their journey along the upper Missouri river, thence along the Yellowstone, Tongue and Big Goose rivers to the junction of the Little Goose. On Sunday morning after celebrating Mass in the open and along the bank of the river, they all

started on horseback to cross what he calls the great desert to Fort Laramie.

The first white member of the Holy Name Church to locate in this vicinity was the late Mr. Patrick McCarthy of Tongue River, who with Mr. Mandel traveled overland by wagon from Fort Laramie. Mr. Mandel took up a homestead at this point and from this circumstance the place was called Mandel until at a later date its name was changed to Sheridan. On their trip from Fort Laramie they were attacked several times by

hostile Indians and Mr. McCarthy in one of these encounters received a bullet which lodged in his leg and which he carried with him to the grave. The next member of whom we have a record was the late Mr. John McCormick of McCormick Creek, who came here ^{overland} together with Mr. J. D. Loucks (~~overland~~) from Miles City, Montana to locate at this place. In due time the place received the name of Sheridan in honor of General Philip H. Sheridan, a faithful member of the church and the commanding officer of young J. D. Loucks when the latter was in the service of his country during the Civil war.

In 1888 a little frame church, now located at 137 Wyoming Avenue and converted into a residence, was built on East Loucks St. The church was attended for a time by pastors residing at Buffalo, Wyoming and Alliance, Nebraska. In 1902 the present brick edifice was erected. The erection of such a substantial building was a great undertaking for those days. It acted as a great inspiration on the other churches in the city. The white Baptists sold their little frame church to the colored Methodists; the Congregationalists sold their little frame church to the colored Baptists; the Episcopalians sold their little frame church to the Christian Scientists; the white Methodists, unable to dispose of their little frame church to some other religions organ-

ization, pulled it down; and all four congregations, together with the Presbyterians, erected the ^{substitutes} ~~substitutes~~ ^{intentional and} to the costly churches in which they now worship.

In 1914, the Holy Name Church erected its parochial school on East Works Street, to provide a Christian education for its children who come within the grammar grades. The school cares for approximately two hundred children. It is conducted by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas, who are everywhere noted as excellent religious and efficient teachers. As the school does not make provision for the high school courses, the children upon graduating pass on ^{to} ~~the~~ the city high school, where at this time there are over one hundred Catholic pupils.

Many graduates of the Holy Name School have given a good account of themselves at the city high school. To mention a few, we find the following have been deemed worthy of election into the Sheridan High School chapter of the National Honor Society of America:

Raymond Sandusky, Rudolph Blum, Mary Kumor, Arthur Sandusky, James Spencer, Rosal Redle, Ruth McNally, William Redle, Kathryn Ebzery, Mary Catherine Heldt.

The following have been elected into the Sheridan High school chapter of the Quill & Scroll--the International Honor Society for high school journalists:

Ruth McNally, Kathryn Ebzery, Rosal Redle, William Redle.

In the graduating class of 1928 Arthur Sandusky won the highest boy's average and Joseph Gerhard won the second highest Boy's average. In the graduating class of 1929, Miss Rosal Redle secured the first place in

in reading in the State Tournament, the first place in the Woman's Club State Essay Contest and the second place in the National Quill & Scroll Editorial Contest of 1929. In the class of 1930, Miss Ruth McNally won the first place in the National High School Book Review Contest for 1930. Bernard Helat a young graduate of the Holy Name school of last summer, has secured for the past three months the highest average in studies of all the students in attendance at the Sheridan High school.

The Holy Name school is a free school for all the children of the parish who come within the eight grammar grades. All expenses of the school and cost of text books, ^{ARE MET} ~~are met~~ directly out of the church treasury. While providing a first class education for the children in attendance, the Holy Name school saves the tax-payers of School District No. 7 an annual sum of \$25, 000.00 in taxes, --an item worthy of consideration these days of high taxes and general depression.

The Protestant parochial school adjoining the Adventist church on West Whitney street enjoys the distinction of being the first parochial school which was opened in Sheridan. In addition to this distinction, the little adventist church deserves much credit for maintaining a religious school at great financial sacrifice on the part of its members for the benefit of its small group of children.

The total valuation of the property of the Holy Name Church is placed at \$100,000.00 There is no indebtedness. -- It owns the site and has a few thousand dollars on hand for a future parish community center and high school. The total annual income of the parish is about \$9,000.00 Slightly over one thousand dollars is sent away for benevolent causes outside

outside of the parish. The rest is expended in carrying on the activities of the church and school, as also in improvements and repairs.

The total membership of the church, counting ~~30~~ adults and children, is given as ~~three~~^{nine} hundred souls. Mr. Philip ~~Hesse~~^{Kane} and Mr. Peter Demple alone remain of the membership of the local church of pioneer days.

The present pastor, Rev. John Duffy, came to northern Wyoming in the days when the ox ~~and~~^{cart,} horse wagon, the Concord stage and the saddle-

horse were the usual means of transportation. It was a territory of large open spaces and sparsely inhabited. The original district which claimed his services has been divided into various and separate parishes,-- Newcastle, Gillette, Buffalo, Monarch, Thermopolis, Powell, and Greybull. Little churches are found ^{DOTTING} ~~clothing~~ most of the little towns of northern Wyoming. He has witnessed the coming and going of the many pastors of the various churches of Sheridan as also those of the parishes of his

church throughout Wyoming, while it has been his destiny ever to remain. The members~~hip~~ of the Holy Name church have been ^{apprised} ~~advised~~ of his wish to retire from the active labor of the ministry. Sometime ago he made knownto the Bishop of Cheyenne his desire to relinquish the pastorate of the Holy Name Church and to pass into retirement. As there is no available pastor for the position at this time, he has agreed to continue the care of the parish till such a time as the Bishop will be in a position to make a convenient appointment.

Feb. 28th, 1932.

Sheridan, Wyo.

Sent me to Cheyenne Wyo
for its diocesan archives by
the pastor of Holy Name Church,
Sheridan, Wyoming. John Duffin.
March 9, 1932.