

Saint Margaret's Church
Riverton, Wyoming
History of Parish – Past 10 Years

In the year 1941 it was decided to start a fund for a new church since the debt of the rectory had been paid. The town was growing and the present church would soon be inadequate for the increasing number of people.

In 1942 St. Stephen's became a parish which meant a new defining of the boundary lines for St. Margaret's. During this year Bishop McGovern confirmed a class of 45.

During the following war years, despite the fact that many people left for defense work, the parish continued to grow, owing to the untiring efforts of the pastor who brought many back to the church and many new ones into the church.

In 1947 Bishop McGovern confirmed a class of 57. In the fall of this year Father Spillane went to California on his health. The Rev. M.J. McBrien was pastor in the spring of 1948. Father Spillane's health soon became worse and he went to St. Vincent's Hospital, Billings. The Rev. Thomas Cleary was appointed administrator of the parish. Father Spillane passed away Nov. 20, 1948. He had served the Diocese of Cheyenne for 28 years, having been pastor of Riverton for almost ten years. During his pastorate at Powell he built a beautiful church and had hoped to do the same at Riverton. He was a priest of great zeal and ambition, being both firm and kind.

On February 12, 1949, Father Cleary was appointed pastor of Lander and Rev. Adolph Pate was appointed pastor of Riverton. In the fall of this year a drive was had in order to increase the new church fund to the amount required for the beginning of construction. The goal of this drive was \$30,000 and this amount, including both cash and pledges, was exceeded.

In 1950 plans for the new church were presented and a bid of \$86,939 by A.N. Nelson of Riverton was accepted. The beginning of construction would depend upon the weather and also material because of the critical situation throughout the world. It was deemed advisable to purchase additional property for future expansion of the parish. The house and lot adjoining the present church were purchased for \$6500 and the lot directly behind the church for \$1000. The church now owns five lots in Block 2 in Riverton.

[Signed] A. Pate

**St. Margaret's Parish
Riverton, Wyoming
1950-1960**

The ten-year period from 1950-1960 saw quite a growth in the parish of St. Margaret's. The number of families almost doubled during this time. In 1950 there were 153 families and at the end of 1959 there were 290. The town and county witnessed a great increase in population during this decade. Uranium was discovered within the parish boundaries in the year 1953 and this meant an influx of people, principally to the Gas Hills which became a Mission and Mass was said there in the last part of this decade. At the close of the decade there were three Masses at the parish church, ordinarily one at Shoshoni and one at the Gas Hills with one a month at Pavillion. The church at Morton is being cared for by the Jesuits of St. Stephens.

Confirmation was administered by Bishop Newell three times during these ten years; once each in 1951, 1954, and 1957.

The trustees of St. Margaret's Parish are Felix Appelhans and Dr. Joseph A. Vincent. At the beginning of the decade it was decided to purchase more property within the Block.

The contract for a new Church was let early in 1951 to A.N. Nelson for the sum of \$86,939.00. Construction began the last of February. A financial campaign was had by the parish to raise funds for the new Church. The Church was dedicated by Bishop Newell, Feb. 20, 1952. The former church building was converted to a parish hall.

Property purchased during the decade was Lot 9, Block 2 with house thereon for \$6,500.00; Lots 1, 2, and 5 in this Block for \$7,500.00 and the south half of Lots 5 and 6 in this Block with house thereon for \$11,500.00.

Each year two weeks of Vacation School for the children is had shortly after school is out. This is taught by the Sisters of Charity of B.V.M. from Casper.

Several children from the parish attend the Catholic School at St. Stephens. They began taking white children six years ago and each year the number from here attending has increased.

At present plans are being considered for a Catholic School at Riverton. In order that Mass can be offered at the Missions on Sunday the Jesuits have been helping at the Parish Church by taking care of one or two of the Masses on Sunday s.

{signature Adolph Pate}

HISTORY OF ST. MARGARET'S PARISH 1960 - 1970

We shall give a brief history of St. Margaret's Parish from 1960 to 1970. We shall begin with the spiritual part which is the most important.

In 1960 the two trustees of the parish were Felix Appelhans and Dr. Joseph A. Vincent, In July of 1963 Dr. Vincent passed away suddenly and John Benesch, who is still trustee, was elected as his successor.

There were about the same number of families in 1960 as in 1970, or perhaps, a few more at the present time. We have about 350 families totaling about 1150 people. In 1960 there were 107 Baptisms; of those seventy-nine were infant and twenty-eight were adults. In 1960 there were fifteen marriages; six Catholic and nine mixed. There were eleven deaths, all adults.

In 1970 there were fifty-four Baptisms; forty-four infants and ten adults. There were twenty-two marriages, eight Catholic and fourteen mixed. There were eleven deaths, all adults.

In 1960 there were 128 Confirmations; in 1963 there were 143 Confirmations.

In 1960 there were seventy-three First Communions.

The Migrant Program in the parish has been very active while they are here in the summer months. We began with the help of seminarians, then Extension Volunteers and the past five years one of the lay teachers from St. Margaret's School has followed up with a fine program with them.

The following church organizations are active in the parish: Knights of Columbus, Altar and Rosary Society, and the Catholic Youth Organization.

Several members of the parish have made the yearly retreats and a number from the parish have made Cursillos.

In the year of 1960, St. Margaret's Church purchased lots six and seven in block thirteen of original town site of town of Shoshoni with building thereon for the sum of \$3,000.00. Said building was to serve as a church for the people of Shoshoni. A loan was obtained from the Diocese of Cheyenne for \$2500.00 to help purchase this property.

Kellogg Brothers, architects, had been contacted to prepare plans and specifications for the new St. Margaret's School. On March 15, 1962, the bids for St. Margaret's School were opened and the contract was let to A.N. Nelson Construction Company for a bid of \$143,121.00 with alternate #1 [sic] added for an additional sum of \$2,000.00. \$6,750.00 was paid to Kellogg Brothers, representing three-fourths of the payment of fees for plans.

In 1963 it was voted to buy the L.J. Kirch property for \$20,000.00, said amount to be paid over a period of ten years.

St. Margaret's Parish was fortunate in receiving Extension Lay Volunteers. Two parish workers came in August 1963. Their names were Ann Mura and Sheila Forst. It was decided to buy a car for their use.

It was decided to blacktop part of the school grounds and buy desks for the school so as to be as near ready as possible when Sisters could be obtained to teach.

Dubois had recently built a new church in 1964. At this time the bishop entrusted the care of the Dubois church to St. Margaret's so it became necessary to have two priests at Riverton. This same year Father Cletus Prado was assigned here to St. Margaret's as associate pastor. Two new Extension Volunteers came in the fall of 1964. They were Jeri Nee and Priscilla Thayer, who worked as parish workers.

May 1, 1965, approval was given to lining and covering of the irrigation ditch along the school and to buy a car for the Sisters to come to school. Approval was given to the contract of Don Campbell for an addition to St. Margaret's Rectory at the cost of \$14,865.00, and 'also for payment of \$1,000.00 for furnishings of the new addition to St. Margaret's Rectory.

We finally were able to get Sisters and Extension Volunteers to staff our school, thanks to Father John Sullivan, Director of the Extension Society. The Sisters were from the Order of St. Francis, Glenriddle, Pennsylvania. The school opened with four grades in the fall of 1965. Sister Marie Monica was principal and fourth grade teacher. Sister Joseph Anne was the first grade teacher. The second and third grades were taught by Extension Volunteers Fran Browning and Ann Kenny, respectively.

A change of assistants took place in that same year. Father Gilbert Callahan was assigned to St. Margaret's. The trustees of the parish at this time are Felix Appelhans and John Benesch.

St. Margaret's School was included in the Elementary-Secondary Act of 1965 in the spring of 1966. Through this Act, we have received equipment and library books for the classrooms. In the fall of 1966, we included the fifth grade in our school. The principal taught both fourth and fifth grades. Mary Cameron, an Extension Volunteer, joined the faculty in 1966 as third grade teacher. In the fall of 1966, the sixth grade was added and Mary Seville joined the faculty along with Sister Daniel Noreen. In May 1968 the Extension Volunteers were discontinued and Dawn Hawley and Donna Daniel joined the faculty in 1968 with Sister Helen Francis. Sister Denise Marie was the new fourth grade teacher in 1969. Sister Joan and Dolores Geslin were new faculty members in 1970. Father William Gianola came in 1966 and was replaced in 1968 by Father Colm Woods, who is still here.

{signed Rev. Adolph Pate – Pastor}

St. Margaret, Riverton
St. Edward, Kinnear
1970-1980
Father Gerald F. Chleborad, Pastor
January 1, 1981

St. Margaret's Parish emerged into the 1970's, Father Adolph Pate continued as pastor with Father Colm Woods as associate pastor. Father William Espenshade came to Riverton as the associate in February of 1972.

Father Pate retired as pastor in 1970 because of serious illness and took up residence at St. Joseph's Church-in Rawlins at the kind invitation of Monsignor John Meyer. Father Jerome Logue was appointed pastor in September of 1972. Father Vincent Langfield became his associate in October, 1972.

Father Jerome Logue renovated the sanctuary of the Church to adapt it according to the renewal of the liturgy brought about by the Second Vatican Council.

Father Joseph Fraher (a Rawlins native) became pastor in August of 1974. Father Ron Stolcis (a Sheridan native) joined the parish as associate pastor in August of 1975, being followed by Father Victor Grabrian, OSM, in March of 1978.

Father Gerald Chleborad (raised in Cheyenne) became pastor in September of 1978, with Father John Robinson, OSB (also a Rawlins native) as associate. Father Chleborad arrived late following a car accident and recuperation period. Father John had major surgery shortly after his arrival in Riverton, which occasioned his return to Holy Cross Abbey in Canon City, Colorado for recuperation. Father Tibor Furak, OSM, then became the associate pastor.

Notable events during this decade:

1) Following the death of the beloved Father Pate on May 18, 1973, he was buried at Mountain View Cemetery in Riverton next to the grave of Father J. Spillane. The rosary was recited at their graves each year on Memorial Day by the parishioners.

2) In the fall of 1975, Mrs. George (Ethel) Griebel donated a tract of 3.5 acres of land for a new location for St. Edward's Church where a full and clear view of the highway would alleviate the dangerous entry and exit onto the highway of the present location. The Church was moved to this new location near Kinnear by Mr. James Tallman, and a twelve by sixteen foot frame addition was added to the Church to provide space for a sacristy and Reconciliation Room. Father Ron Stolcis was general overseer of this project with Mr. Michael Sinicki as architect and general contractor.

Catholic Extension Society made this project possible with a gift of \$6,000.00. Bishop Hubert M. Newell, Bishop of Cheyenne, also made a contribution of \$1,000.00, and the parishioners themselves added their gift of \$1,500.00.

To complete this project, a beautiful stone shrine to the Blessed Virgin Mary was constructed on an attractive out-cropping of limestone rock visible at a great distance from the highway and illuminated at night.

Bishop Joseph Hart, Auxiliary Bishop Of Cheyenne, rededicated the newly located and expanded St. Edward's Church on May 29, 1977.

3) Due to lack of religious vocations, the Sisters of St. Francis withdrew one teaching sister from our school in the spring of 1978, leaving just two sisters to teach at our school, and making it necessary to add an additional lay teacher to our staff.

4) Through the efforts and interest of St. Margaret's Education Committee and under the supervision of St. Margaret's School Principal

Sister Dolores Herbeck, OSF (a Riverton native), a Kindergarten was added to St. Margaret's School in the fall of 1979. The success of this new class was seen by the waiting list for the 1980-81 school year. Mr. Michael Sinicki headed a group of volunteers which renovated a parish rental home to house the new Kindergarten.

5) In the fall of 1979, under the impetus of St. Margaret's Parish Council, a Building Committee was established to consider tentative plans for a new multi-purpose Parish Center to be known as the Pate Center in loving memory of Father Adolph Pate. A Father Pate Memorial Building Fund was initiated toward the eventual building of this parish facility. Plans for construction were tabled indefinitely due to a serious decline in the Riverton economy.

6) At the close of the 1979-80 school year, St. Margaret's School, with great regret, closed its sixth grade. The school administration found this move advisable and necessary because of a change in the Riverton School District which moved to a Middle School concept (6th, 7th and 8th grades) following the completion of Riverton's new four-year high school.

7) On the First Sunday of Advent, 1980, St. Margaret's began the option of receiving the Blood of Christ from the Cup at all Masses. We now have fifty mandated Special Ministers of the Eucharist, both men and women, who minister the Lord's Body and Blood to their fellow parishioners at Holy Mass, and bring them communion when they are ill.

Active organizations:

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine

Cursillo Group

St. Margaret's Catholic Youth Organization

St. Margaret's Parish Education Committee

St. Margaret's Elementary School

St. Margaret's Parish Council

St. Margaret's School Parent-Teacher Organization
The Riverton Council of Catholic Women
The Wind River Council, Knights of Columbus
Volunteer Helpers Program at St. Margaret's School

Parish Mission Churches:

Our Lady of the Woods Church, Dubois, Wyoming; Our lady of the Woods Altar and Rosary Society
St. Edward's Church, Morton-Kinnear, Wyoming
St. Joseph's Church, Shoshoni, Wyoming; St. Joseph's Altar and Rosary Society

Masses are offered at each Mission Church each weekend with a two hundred mile round trip for the priest officiating. . .

Mass Schedules:

St. Margaret's Church, Riverton
Saturday: 5:30 PM
Sunday: 8:00 AM; 10:00 AM; 7:00 PM.

Our Lady of the Woods, Dubois
Winter schedule: Saturday at 6:00 PM
June-July-August: Saturday at 7:30 PM; Sunday at 7:30 AM

St. Edward's Church,, Morton-Kinnear
Sunday at 10:00 AM.

St. Joseph's Church, Shoshoni
Sunday at 12:00 noon.

Riverton 1981-1990
St. Margaret
Rev. Ronald A. Stolcis

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

At the beginning of the decade, Rev. Gerald Chleborad served as Pastor to St. Margaret's Parish, with Father Tibor Furak, O.S.M. as Associate Pastor. In June, 1982, Father Chleborad and Father Tibor were transferred, and Rev. Ronald A. Stolcis was appointed as Pastor effective June 22, 1982. No assistant was assigned at this time. Father Stolcis remained in that position through 1990.

Father John Francis O'Shea, S.J., came on February 27, 1983, and became an Associate to serve the Mission churches and resided in Dubois, but left in July, 1983. Father John Broderick, S.J., came to serve at Our Lady of the Woods mission church at Dubois in August of 1983, and has returned to serve each summer, usually arriving for the Easter Services and returning to his home in Weston, Massachusetts in the fall.

Father Robert Lynch, S.J., became Associate Pastor on October 1, 1985, and served in that capacity until January 14, 1987. Father Pat Shea came on January 17, 1987, and stayed until the end of June when he was reassigned.

Father Frits Braakhuis, C.M., who had retired from teaching, came in June 1988, for a month as summer help. He returned in November and moved into the rectory at St. Edward's mission church at Kinnear. He was appointed Associate Pastor and has been of great assistance in serving St. Edward's Church at Kinnear as its first resident priest. He also serves St. Joseph's Church at Shoshoni. He celebrated his 40th year as a priest while in Holland on vacation in the summer of 1989. He remains in residence at St. Edward's at this writing. [Father Frits died 2/7/98.]

Sr. Dolores Herbeck, O.S.F., served as Principal of St. Margaret's School during this decade. She celebrated her Silver Jubilee May 17, 1981. Sister Kathleen Rice, O.L.V.M., and Sister Dennis Kerr, O.L.V.M., came to Riverton in August, 1982, to be in charge of the CCD activities of our Parish and to do home visiting; they left Riverton in May, 1983. Sr. Kathleen O'Donnell, O.S.F., served as teacher of 1st grade at St. Margaret's School from September, 1980 until she left Riverton in May, 1982. Sister Mary Coakley, O.S.F., taught 1st grade at St. Margaret's from September 1982 to May, 1983. Sister Assunta Prunty, O.S.F., was the 5th grade teacher at St. Margaret's school from September, 1984 until May, 1986.

Sr. Rose Finan, S.F.C.C., served as Pastoral Associate for the Riverton Parish from Nov. 1, 1983 until June 1986. Sr. Beatrice Lorenz, O.L.V.M., came to Riverton in June, 1988, to be the church secretary and do home calling; her contract was competed in June, 1989. Sister Mary Stewart, O.S.F., joined our parish in September, 1989, to become parish secretary and become leader of the new adult education program (RCIA). She continues in this position.

During this 10-year period, the priests who served St. Margaret's and the missions while the resident priest was on vacation or leave, were as follows: 1981--Father Phil Dougherty, a Jesuit Father from Creighton Prep in Omaha, Nebraska, and Monsignor Phil Krass. 1982--Msgr. Philip Krass, Father Tim Herron, and Msgr. Daniel Carroll. 1983--Msgr. Krass, Father John O'Shea, and Msgr. Carroll. 1984--Father Tony Rochel, S.J. 1988--Father Ralph Talkin, S.J., from Loyola University. 1990--Father Ralph Talkin, and Father Lawrence Asma, C.M.

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

St. Margaret's started a program to honor a "Man and Woman of the Year." This is to recognize persons who gave noteworthy service to the parish. The first award was given to Paul and Burnys Hughes in 1982. In

1983, Spence Connell and Leona Hiber were honored; in 1984, Eloy and Frances Lovato; in 1985, George Burns and Marguerite Stone; in 1986, Bernie Harris and Tiny Burgess; in 1987, Glenn and Elaine Darnall; in 1988, John and Ruth Martinez; in 1989, John Heidt and Karen Schiller; and in 1990, Wesley Gamble and Pat LeMasters.

Organizations active within the parish are: Knights of Columbus, Riverton Council of Catholic Women (RCCW); Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA); CCD, CYO, JOY for students; PTO for the school; Prayer & Praise Group, and the Parish Council with committees established for Finance, Youth, Christian Services, Liturgical, Building & Grounds, Education, and Social Activities. (These committees are in the process of being revised in 1990).

Presidents of the RCCW: 1981-82 Jeanne Van Heule; 1983-84 Tiny Burgess; 1985-86 Cindy Mills; 1987-88 Pat LeMasters; 1989-90 Carole Thon.

Grand Knights of the KofC: July to June 1981-82 John Van Heule; 1982-83 Curtis West; 1983-85 Dennis Stack; 1985-86 Curtis West; 1986-87 Russ Birmeier; 1988-90 Glen Frey; and 1990-91 Tom Sitzman. In 1990, John and Jeanne Van Heule and family were selected as the Wyoming "KC Family of the Year."

Parish Council Officers:

Year President Vice-President Secretary

1981

1982

1983 Gary Cavaness Bernie Harris Tiny Burgess

1984

1985

1986 Ray Appelhance Vic Mosbrucker Donna Petersen
1987 Ray Appelhance Bernie Harris Donna Petersen
1988 George Burns John Van Heule Donna Petersen
1989 George Burns John Van Heule Georgia Hernandez
1990 Vince Zimmer Mike Harris Judy Wilson

Mrs. Angie Schimschock served as full time secretary at the Rectory from September of 1982 through September of 1987. Mrs. Donna Motisi was secretary to the school in 1977 through 1982. Mrs. Rosalie Jacobson served as the school secretary from 1982-1989, and Betty Edwards served one year, 1989-1990.

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

During this ten-year period, Father Ronald Stolcis has served as State Chaplain for the Knights of Columbus, on the Diocesan Education Board, on the Diocesan Pastoral Council, and has served as Diocesan Ecumenical Officer. He represented the Diocese at the Ecumenical meeting when Pope John Paul II visited Columbia, S.C. on September 22, 1987. Father Stolcis accompanied Bishop Hart on an Ad Limina visit to the Pope in Rome and had a personal audience with the Pope at Castle Gondolfo on September 4, 1988. In November, 1990, he was chosen to go on sabbatical to Notre Dame University from January through May of 1991. During that time, he addressed the National Catholic Education Association Convention Pastors meeting in April in Boston.

Sister Dolores Herbeck served as the elected chairperson on the Diocesan Board of Education from 1981 to 1985. She was initiated into Delta Kappa Gama Society International, an organization for women educators, on October 21, 1982. She continues in this society today. Sister Dolores was elected one of the co-chairpersons of the Council of Religious and served from 1987 until September, 1989. She served as a mentor in the Lay Ministry Program from 1988 through 1990. In January of 1990, she was chosen to be one of twelve people in the area

to serve on Riverton's Radio Station KTRZ's Guest Editorial Board. On May 16, 1990, she was invited to give a talk on "Catholic Schools" at the weekend Masses at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church in Laramie. Sister Dolores was elected to serve on the Diocesan Pastoral Council in 1990.

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

In April 1982, the pews were refinished at a cost of \$7,000. In September, 1982, the school playground received a new coat of blacktop.

A new electronic organ was purchased on April 30, 1983, at a cost of \$9,900, all donated in a special collection completed in two months.

In December, 1984, six large stained glass windows were installed in St. Margaret's church which replaced the old yellow glass windows, at a total cost of \$16,500. This total amount was all donated by the time of their installation. In April, 1985, two small stained glass windows were installed at a cost of \$1,600. The donors were as follows:

Roger and Mary Lou Barthazon St. Isaac Jogues window

Mrs. Rosalie Flanagan St. Rose of Lima window

William and Loraine Bissell St. Kateri Tekakwitha window

Mrs. Alice Stolcis St. Frances Cabrini window

The Lloyd Hartman family St. Elizabeth Ann Seton window

Dr. John & Barbara Rousseau St. John Newmann window

Mrs. Shirley Fernau Small grape window

Mrs. Gertrude Stack Small wheat window

A new church building was built in Shoshoni in 1984 at a cost of \$55,000. The new St. Joseph's Church was dedicated on December 16, 1984. The Extension Society donated \$10,000 for this project.

Ground was broken on July 29, 1985, for the addition to St. Margaret's School. Bishop Hart presided at the dedication of St. Margaret's Parish Center held on May 25, 1986. The new center includes a gymnasium,

kitchen, two locker rooms, rest rooms, three classrooms (one classroom allowed for the initiation of a Preschool), library, a basement parish hall, and much storage space. Total cost of the building addition was \$550,000.

In August, 1988, a double-car garage was built on the back of the convent lot at a cost of \$10,000.

In 1990, new metal doors were installed in St. Margaret's church, gifts of the R.C.C.W.

5. Land acquisitions. (give dates):

1985--The Knights of Columbus purchased the Peterson house and two lots at 219 North 7th East, across from the school, to have a council home at some future date. The property is zoned commercial, and is presently used as a rental property. They divested themselves of property across from Jefferson School to buy this closer property.

6. Lay Trustees and term of service for each.

In 1981, the Trustees of the Corporation for St. Margaret's Parish in Riverton and the three mission churches at Dubois, Kinnear, and Shoshoni were: Secretary-Treasurer, Rev. Gerald F. Chleborad, Riverton, Wyoming--Trustee: John R. Benesch, Riverview Route, Riverton, Wyoming--Trustee: Lloyd M. Hartman, 401 N. 6th East, Riverton, Wyoming. In 1983, the Secretary-Treasurer became: Rev. Ronald A. Stolcis, and in 1987, Trustee John R. Benesch was replaced by Donald White. At the end of 1990, the officers of the Corporation are:

President: Most Rev. Joseph Hart, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Vice-President: Msgr. James O'Neill, Cheyenne, Wyoming

Secretary-Treasurer: Rev. Ronald A. Stolcis, Box 888, Riverton, WY

Trustee: Donald White, 219 W. Sunset, Riverton, Wyoming

Trustee: Lloyd M. Hartman, 01 N. 6th East, Riverton, Wyoming

7. Pastor's overview of the decade:

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

1981--Two Parish Renewal Weekends were held at St. Margaret's School on March 20-22 and April 3-5. Mary Connors entered Poor Clares Sisterhood in Omaha, Nebraska, on April 2. The parish helped Sister Dolores celebrate her Silver Jubilee on May 17. The parish honored Bishop Hart's 25 anniversary as a priest on May 18, while he was in Riverton to meet the first communion class. The first summer vacation bible school was held June 13 thru 22, and continued each summer during the decade. The first convent was established in Riverton in the original brick rectory next to the church and Sister Dolores and Sister Kathleen moved into the remodeled building in September. The 75th anniversary of the beginning of St. Margaret's Parish, the thirty-year anniversary of the building of the brick church, and Feast of St. Margaret were celebrated October 17.

1982--The church pews were refinished in April. In May, a farewell dinner was given for Sister Kathleen who moved to San Diego. The spring Deanery meeting was held in Riverton in March. In June, Fr. Chleborad and Fr. Tibor left Riverton and Fr. Ronald Stolcis became Pastor of St. Margaret's and missions. St. Edwards was served by lay ministers for the summer. In September, Sister Katie and Sister Denny began their work in the parish. In September, Fr. Stolcis hired Angie Schimschock as full-time parish secretary. The playground at the school received a new coat of blacktop. St. Margaret's joined Catholics of the State in celebrating a Year of Eucharistic Splendor. More bookshelves were added in the classrooms.

1983--The World Day of Prayer was hosted by St. Margaret's. A new church organ was purchased. A new playground was built by Bruno Bonella and the PTO at the school. The outdoor shrine at St. Edwards was completed in September. Bingo was started by the Knights of Columbus the first week in November; Rick Ziino was first chairman and was succeeded by John Van Heule the following year. Fr. John

O'Shea was resident priest at Dubois from February to September, and also served at St. Edwards.

1984--The three-year RENEW Program was instituted in our parish as well as throughout the Diocese. The parish celebrated Sister Mary Coakley's Silver Anniversary on May 25. A Right to Life booth was manned by Catholics at the County Fair in August. The traveling Sacred Heart Novena was started in 1984. The first parish directory was published in September in a black and white format. Also in September, a Newman Club was started at Central Wyoming College. The new St. Joseph's Church in Shoshoni was dedicated on December 16. The stained glass windows were installed at St. Margaret's in December. Sister Dolores Herbeck attended the National Catholic Education Association Convention in Boston, Massachusetts.

1985--A Food Pantry was established and the parishioners were asked to bring canned goods each Sunday to Mass. In January, the fund raising driving began for the building fund for construction of the hall/gym addition to St. Margaret's School. The ground breaking for the new addition was held on July 29. One of the three houses on the lots to be used for the gym was moved to Kinnear to become the rectory for St. Edwards mission church. One house was demolished, and the third house was sold to Ignacio Acebo who moved it to a lot in the south part of town. Gayle Garrity was appointed CCD director for the parish. The twenty-year anniversary celebration of St. Margaret's School was held August 30. A Parish Mission was conducted by Father Robert E. Carson, O.Praem., on October 5-10. Father Robert Lynch, S.J., became Associate Pastor on October 1.

1986--In March, Sister Dolores Herbeck attended the National Catholic Education Association Convention in Anaheim, California. The addition to the school was completed and dedicated on May 25. The old church which had become the parish hall was sold and dismantled. Sister Assunta and Sister Rose left the first week in June. The parking lot was

resurfaced at Our Lady of the Woods in Dubois, paid for by Bill and De Lamb. A fund for a piano for the new parish hall was started, and the piano was purchased two months later. Our Food Pantry is now cooperating with Christian Food Store to distribute food to the needy. The Knights of Columbus moved bingo into the new gym on July 31. Riverton hosted the State Right to Life Convention and Night for Life Dinner on September 6. St. Margaret's Preschool started this fall with Mrs. Mona Marshall as first teacher. The Thermopolis Deanery meeting was held at St. Margaret's Center on September 12-13. Ginger Downey of St. Joseph's parish entered upon her studies to become a Sister with Our Lady of Victory missionary Sisters in October. Our parish hosted the ordination celebration of Raymond B. Moss on October 13 at the CWC Arts Center. Parishioners filled the auditorium to witness the first ordination of a priest from our parish and in our town.

1987--Father Lynch left January 14. Father Pat Shea came January 17, and left at the end of June. On April 18, Sister Dolores Herbeck attended the National Catholic Education Association Convention in New Orleans. The Wyoming Council of Catholic Women State Convention was held in Riverton April 26-28. Water pipes broke in the school the last week in April resulting in \$10,000 damage which was fully covered by insurance. A Marian Year was proclaimed by Pope John Paul II which began on Pentecost Sunday. First Annual Fremont County Catholic Mass and Picnic were held at St. Stephen's Mission on June 28. Fran Browning, who had taught at St. Margaret's school for several years, entered the convent of the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in August. On August 7-8, the Centennial Celebration of 100 years of the Diocese of Cheyenne was celebrated in the Casper Events Center and was attended by many from this parish. Fr. Broderick wrote a history of Our Lady of the Woods Church this summer. Fr. Stolcis attended the National Ecumenical Meeting with Pope John II in Columbia, S.C., on September 11. The Schoenstatt Movement was introduced to the parish by Angie Schimschock and with it the traveling rosary throughout the parish was initiated. State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Lynn Simons,

toured St. Margaret's School in October. The PTO has sold Christmas trees for ten years.

1988--On April 17, the Diocese sponsored a pilgrimage to Mexico City to visit the Shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Sr. Dolores Herbeck and Kathleen Goddel of Dubois were sent from our Parish. The Riverton council of Catholic Women hosted the celebration and reception for Fr. Stolcis as he celebrated his 20th year in the priesthood on May 22. A Marriage Encounter weekend was held in Riverton June 3-5. Sister Beatrice Lorenz was hired as parish secretary in June. The closing of the Marian Year was on August 14. The DeSales Adult Education Program started in September. St. Margaret's held its first annual "OKTOBERFEST" on October 1. Father Braakhuis moved into the rectory at Kinnear and became the first resident Associate Pastor in charge of the missions of St. Edward's and St. Joseph's. The posts and stations of the cross were installed at St. Edward's. The RCCW ladies won 25 turkeys from the IGA store for the Christmas food baskets.

1989--The Parish worked to help passage of Parental Consent/ Notification bill about pending abortions through State Legislature. St. Edward's had their first outdoor Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. Pete Davis made the cross. The Knights of Columbus State Convention was held in Riverton April 21-23. A Marriage Encounter Weekend was held in Riverton May 19-21. Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters announced the First Profession of Sister Virginia Downey on August 2. Father Stolcis' mother, Alice Stolcis, died in Riverton on August 30, and her funeral was held in Sheridan. The hot lunch program was started at St. Margaret's School in September. St. Margaret's School staff hosted the Catholic Teachers State Institute on September 15. Sister Mary Stewart was hired as Pastoral Associate, parish secretary, and home visitor in September. Mark and Dawn Short painted and fixed up the Shoshoni Church in October. In December, new bronze "Stations of the Cross" were donated by the Dubois Council of Catholic Women and installed in Our Lady of the Woods Church in Dubois. Photographs were

taken for the first color pictorial church directory to be published in 1990. Again, RCCW won 25 turkeys for Christmas food baskets.

1990--The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program started under the direction of Sister Mary Stewart. The NET (National Evangelization Team) came to Riverton for a youth retreat on February 4. On April 12, Fr. Stolcis and Sr. Dolores attended the National Catholic Education Association Convention in Toronto, Canada. The DIOCESAN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION was observed on July 4-5 to recognize 100 years of statehood and the 150th Anniversary of the First Mass said in Wyoming by

Fr. DeSmet, S.J. The Riverton parish made many of the arrangements for the Mass at Daniel, Wyoming, celebrated by John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York City. The first color pictorial church directory was distributed in July. On August 30, St. Margaret's School celebrated 25 years of service to the Riverton community. Landscaping was started at St. Edward's and ceiling fans were donated for the church. In September, a surface water well was drilled on the church property in Dubois; Bill and De Lamb furnished pump and equipment to make the new well functional. The Thermopolis Deanery Meeting was held in Riverton September 18. A stone cross sculpture by Lou Mecham was installed in the vestibule of Our Lady of the Woods Church. Special prayers were offered for parish family members involved in the Desert Storm conflict in the Persian Gulf. The RCCW ladies again won 25 turkeys from IGA

Riverton 1990-2000

St. Margaret

May 4, 2000

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

1990-1995 Rev. Ronald Stolcis

1995-1999 Rev. William T. Espenshade (Deceased 1-31-01)

1990-1998 Rev. Frits J. Braakhuis, CM (Deceased 2-7-98)

1996-1999 Rev. Jan J. Santich

1998-1999 Rev. Lawrence Fedor

1997-1999 Rev. Mr. John Aloisio [2001?]

1990-1995 Sr. Dolores Herbeck, OSF

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

1990-----Charlotte Downey-State CCW President Elect

1991-----St. Margaret Altar Boys won traveling "Bishop Hart Trophy" in Kemmerer

1993-----Pauletta Augustine's article published on page 8 in February issue of "Catholic Digest"

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

1993--Rev. Ronald Stolcis celebrated 25th Anniversary of Ordination in May

1994--Rev. Frits J. Braakhuis CM celebrated 45th Anniversary of Ordination in July

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

1991--St. Margaret--new side doors

1990--St. Margaret--new front church doors

1990-91--St. Margaret--circulation pump

1991--St. Edward--stained glass windows

1991--St. Edward--baseboard heaters

1994--St. Margaret--remodeled inside
1995--St. Margaret--new roof
1996--Our Lady of the Woods Church--stained glass windows
1998--St. Margaret School Park Street Project with memorial trees
1994--Our Lady of the Woods Church--installed handicapped ramp
1994--St. Margaret--life size crucifix for Sanctuary--donated by Mr.and
Mrs. Jerry Gardner and Mollie Lapeyre
1996--St. Margaret--new Processional Cross--donated by Fr. Ronald
Stolcis in memory of his parents

5. Land acquisitions. (Give dates)

1996--Our Lady of the Woods Church Real Estate Purchase--rental
house at 322 Welty, Dubois, WY

6. Lay Trustees and term of service for each.

5-18-98--deceased Lloyd M. "Barney" Hartman
1998 Donald P. White--continues
1998 Rosalie Jacobson--continues

7. Pastor's overview of the decade.

Having been pastor for only half the decade, I can see a steady growth in
the parish--spiritually, socially and economically. St. Margaret's remains
a true faith community and continues to deepen that reality.

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

1990&1995--St. Margaret Parish Pictorial Directory
1990-----Our Lady of the Woods Church Centennial Cookbook
1990-----St. Margaret Church/R.C.C.W. "Heavenly Delights"
Cookbook
1994-----Our Lady of the Woods Church 30th Anniversary of
Dedication
1995-----St. Margaret Church--"Mortgage Burning"--Re: St.
Margaret School West Wing & Gym
1999-----Riverton KC's hosted State Convention in April.