



Diocese of Cheyenne

Office of the Bishop

Decree Modification of the Boundaries of the Parishes of Holy Spirit in Rock Springs, and St. Joseph in Rawlins

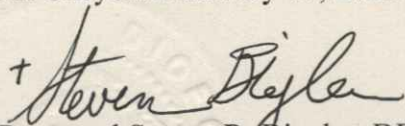
The history of the Diocese of Cheyenne and the state of Wyoming has been marked by communities coming into existence and blossoming due to the needs of travelers, ranchers, or farmers to best utilize the highways or railroads, or for development and extraction of minerals. Over time, however, the ease of transportation has changed necessitating fewer stops for fuel, food, and lodging, the need for route changes, and the need of housing for miners and oil and natural gas field workers. Miners and oil and natural gas field workers are no longer relocating with their families to Wyoming communities, but they are instead coming and living near the fields in temporary lodging for several weeks or months and then returning home to their families. Farms and ranches have grown in size, and mechanization has reduced the number of people needed to work the land. This has caused communities to falter and dramatically shrink in population, because they were dependent on travelers stopping, ranchers and farmers coming to shop and ship their products to market, and those working in the mineral industry bringing their families and making their residence. Additionally, Interstate 80 and its speed limit reduced the time needed to travel, and the availability of vehicles with better fuel mileage reduced the need to stop for fuel. Communities like Wamsutter and Bairol, which once were thriving smaller communities, are now dwindling, and may become ghost towns.

The communities of Wamsutter and Bairol and their surrounding area have been part of the parish of Holy Spirit in Rock Springs. They, however, are actually closer to St. Joseph in Rawlins. Most of the people in the area when they need groceries, supplies, or other services travel to Rawlins. Given the dwindling population in the area, and their orientation toward Rawlins, providing their pastoral care as a part of the parish of St. Joseph makes more sense than does providing it as a part of the parish of Holy Spirit.

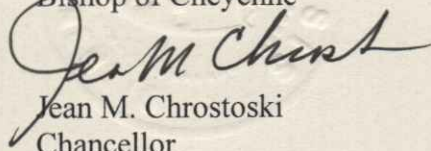
The Presbyteral Council met and discussed the situation. On March 17, 2021, the Council recommended that the communities of Wamsutter and Bairol and their surrounding area become part of the parish of St. Joseph in Rawlins. The boundary between the parish of Holy Spirit and St. Joseph would become the 108th degree longitudinal line extended from the Wyoming and Colorado border to the Fremont and Sweetwater County border.

Having consulted with the Presbyteral Council and having conferred with the affected pastors, I hereby decree that the boundary between Holy Spirit in Rock Springs and St. Joseph in Rawlins will be the 108th degree longitudinal line extended from the Wyoming and Colorado border to the Fremont and Sweetwater County border. This modification will become effective the date of this decree.

Given in Cheyenne on May 19, 2021.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, starting with a small cross symbol and reading "Steven Biegler".

Most Reverend Steven R. Biegler, DD, STL
Bishop of Cheyenne

A handwritten signature in cursive script reading "Jean M. Chrostoski".

Jean M. Chrostoski
Chancellor