

## **Harold Stansell, S.J.**

### **The Foundation of the Church in Cheyenne 1867-1884**

#### **Father William Kelly, 1867-1869**

The first town in Wyoming reached by the Union Pacific going west is Cheyenne which came into existence when, on July 2, 1867, General Dodge staked out land for a town and reserved 320 acres for a railroad terminal. He named the town "Cheyenne" to commemorate "one of the most important tribes of Indians on the plains.">Chey1867>1 Among those who were interested in the progress of the railroad, not the least was the apostolic vicar of Nebraska, James O’Gorman, who was particularly concerned about the spiritual welfare of the railroad workers, many of whom were from his native Ireland. In the fall of 1867, before the railroad reached Cheyenne, Bishop O’Gorman dispatched the Reverend William Kelly to minister to the Catholics who worked for the Union Pacific.

William Kelly, a native of Ireland, was the first Catholic priest to be canonically assigned to the territory which eventually would become the diocese of Cheyenne.>Chey1867>2 Kelly had visited the United States in 1853 as an Irish Christian Brother on a fund raising tour seeking financial support for All Hallows College, Dublin, which had been established as a training school for Irish missionaries destined to work in English speaking countries. Kelly traveled extensively while working on that project. He was favorably impressed with the work of the Church in the United States, so much so that shortly after his return to Ireland he decided to leave the Christian Brothers, return to America, and study for the priesthood. He attended the Vincentian seminary in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, from 1856 to 1857. During the year 1858 he sought a bishop who would take him on and found Bishop O’Gorman who accepted him for the vicariate of Nebraska and ordained him in June, 1859. For eight years Father Kelly exercised his ministry in various places in the vicariate. Then he was sent to Cheyenne in 1867 as a seasoned priest who was very familiar with life on the frontier. His assignment to Wyoming was reminiscent of the scriptural commission to the disciples when they were given a mandate to proceed to preach the "Good News" with only the bare essentials and to be sustained by the peoples' hospitality. Kelly traveled to the railroad camps of the Union Pacific where he made contact with the people who were anxious to have a priest to minister to their spiritual needs.

Father Kelly did not keep an exact record of the day to day events of his ministry, but he made an impression and his presence in Cheyenne was appreciated by those who were interested in some kind of orderly development of the booming railroad town. The priest exercised his ministry for about six months before he was able to establish a permanent residence and base for his operations. The base was provided by the authorities of the Union Pacific who donated four lots on the northeast corner of 21st and O’Neil Streets to the Catholic Church. (McGovern, 27) Father Kelly with some of the members of his flock lost little time in undertaking the task of building a church and a parochial residence. The project was completed by the end of the

summer of 1868 and the Catholics of Cheyenne had a proper, if not majestic, place for worship and the pastor had his own residence, all at the cost of around \$4,000. (McGovern, 246)

Father Kelly not only provided for members of the parish to attend Mass on Sunday, the pastor made generous provision of time for those who might wish to go to Confession on Saturday by making himself available from two to six in the afternoon and seven to nine in the evening. Sunday was also a busy day for the pastor because he knew that he could not neglect the children and taught catechism at two o'clock in the afternoon.>Chey1867>3 He took a dim view of the practice of the saloon keepers of opening their places of business at 9:30 every morning, especially on Sundays, and he let his views be known. Consequently, the owners of the bars agreed to keep the saloons closed from 9:30 A.M. until 12 noon on Sundays.

Gradually, Father Kelly became more familiar with the extent of the territory that was entrusted to his pastoral care and did his best to minister to those who needed his services. When possible, he offered Mass in Laramie City and Fort Sanders. On the other days of the week he exercised his pastoral ministry along the railroad where the section houses were converted into temporary churches. (McGovern, 247)

Father Kelly was anxious to have Bishop O'Gorman visit Cheyenne to witness the progress of the church there and to administer the sacrament of Confirmation. The Cheyenne pastor had more than sufficient time to prepare the candidates for the sacrament because the bishop had many pressing problems in the vicariate and his efforts to solve those problems kept him occupied for a period of ten months after he had received Father Kelly's invitation. Finally, in July, 1869, Bishop O'Gorman, accompanied by the Reverend James M. Ryan and Reverend Millany arrived in Cheyenne and on the eleventh day of that month confirmed twenty children and adults. Father Millany preached the sermon.>Chey1867>4

The next day the bishop and his companions, including Father Kelly, traveled to Laramie City, a mission of Cheyenne. Some Catholics gave the bishop a document in which were recorded the names of persons who pledged \$1327 to build a church. J.W. Donnellan was chosen to be treasurer of the congregation.>Chey1867>5 Bishop O'Gorman presided at the laying of the cornerstone of the proposed church. No further progress was made in building the church until the first local pastor arrived in Laramie early in 1872. (McGovern, 119)

Shortly after Bishop O'Gorman returned to Omaha following his Confirmation tour in Wyoming he recalled Father Kelly from Cheyenne. Father Kelly had labored in Wyoming for some two years. During that period he had established a sound foundation for the Catholic Church in that territory. He had supervised the building of the first parish church and parochial residence in Cheyenne and had traveled far and wide to bring the sacraments to those who desired the ministrations of a priest. During the brief period of his tenure as pastor he assisted at thirteen marriages, baptized forty-eight persons and prepared twenty for the sacrament of Confirmation. (Casper, I, 208)

1869-1884

On October 9, 1869, Philip Erlach became the second pastor of the church in Cheyenne. In the year and six months of his pastorate he baptized forty-three persons. Father Erlach extended the area of his responsibility when he responded to the needs of people interested in reports that gold was being mined in South Pass City and Atlantic City. He also visited Fort Laramie and Fort Fetterman. In April, 1871, Father Erlach was transferred to a parish in Nebraska. (McGovern, 31)

The next pastor, William Byrne, was destined to remain in Cheyenne for two years and five months. He was the first pastor to have a priest to assist him, namely, Eugene Cusson, a French-Canadian, who had been ordained for service in the vicariate. He arrived in Cheyenne in May, 1871. It is clear that Father Cusson took some of the pressure off of the pastor; the baptismal register indicates that he baptized twenty-two persons. But Father Byrne did not enjoy the luxury of having a priest to assist him for more than seven months. Early in 1872, Bishop O’Gorman requested Father Cusson to move to Laramie City to minister to the Catholics in a town that was growing rapidly as an important Union Pacific Railroad center. During Father Byrne’s incumbency, Bishop O’Gorman made his second visit to Cheyenne and on September 15, 1872, confirmed thirteen persons. The bishop’s health failed after that and he died in 1874.>Chey1867>6

Reverend John McGoldrick succeeded Father Byrne as pastor; he held office from September, 1873, to October, 1877. Father McGoldrick realized that the church, which had been built in 1868, was no longer adequate for the parishioners. Consequently, “he secured two lots at the northeast corner of 19th and Carey Avenue as the site for a new church.” The pastor was also concerned about obtaining land for a Catholic cemetery. with the generous assistance of the mayor of Cheyenne, Lawrence Bresnehen, arrangements were undertaken for the transfer of ten acres of land as soon as the legal technicalities could be resolved; negotiations were initiated in April, 1876, and it took some time before a final settlement was reached. (McGovern, 31-32)

In Cheyenne, the fourth pastor, John McGoldrick, succeeded Father William Byrne in September, 1873. He realized that the Church which had been built in the time of Father Kelly was no longer adequate to accommodate the growing number of Catholics in Cheyenne, consequently, he purchased two lots at the northeast corner of 19th and Carey Avenue as the site for a new church. The pastor was also anxious to acquire property for a cemetery and this project was successful because Lawrence Bresnahan, as mayor of the city, used his influence to arrange for the transfer of ten acres to the church authorities. Father McGoldrick was not able to capitalize on these opportunities because he had contracted tuberculosis and did not have sufficient energy to carry out his plans for a new church. He steadily lost ground from August, 1877 on and finally succumbed on October 18, 1877. He was the first pastor in Cheyenne to die while in office. His body was taken to Omaha for interment. Bishop O’Connor who was aware of the situation, dispatched John T. Lee to Cheyenne to assist the ailing pastor. Father Lee remained in the city until July 1878 as assistant to McGoldrick’s successor, John J. Jennette, who needed all the help he could get because he was also responsible to the parish in Sidney, Nebraska. Father Jennette supervised the construction of a church in Sidney as well as the laying of the

foundation for a brick church in Cheyenne on the property that had been acquired by Father McGoldrick. Jennette's Sunday schedule was published in the Cheyenne Daily Sun for March 17, 1878 under the heading "Church Services", "...Mass at 9:00 A.M. followed by a High Mass and sermon at 10:30 A.M. Sabbath (sic) School at 3:00 P.M. Rev. J. Jennette, pastor." He accomplished much in less than a year as pastor (December, 1877 to August 4, 1878). Father Jennette was transferred to Omaha in August, 1878. (McGovern, 31-32)

Father Jennette's successor, John A. Hayes, concentrated on the project of bringing to completion- the building of a church and a parochial residence and both were finished in due time. Father Hayes planned a public celebration to commemorate the event. On May 25, 1879 The Cheyenne Daily Sun reported that the church was dedicated and placed under the patronage of St. John the Baptist. Since Bishop O'Connor was in New York where he attended the dedication of St. Patrick's Cathedral, his Vicar General, Daniel I. McDermott, presided at the ceremony assisted by Hugh Cumiskey of Laramie, Michael F. Cassidy of Rawlins and the pastor. Rev. Daniel Hayes was also present; he seems to have disappeared from public scrutiny soon after the dedication. A number of lay persons were recognized and identified by a reporter from the newspaper, namely, "Luke Morris, Mayor Lawrence Bresnehan, John Crowley, John Phillips, Daniel Fitzgerald, Timothy Dyer, Mrs. McKnight, Misses Mollie Moran, Annie McKay and Toulson."

During Father Hayes' tenure, the parish became firmly established but growth required more financial support than was provided by the Offertory collections. The pastor and leaders in the parish decided to organize a fair. The venture was a social and financial success, so much so, that the promoters kept the fair operating for a couple of sessions beyond the advertised evenings of January 17-20, 1882. (The Cheyenne Daily Sun, January 24, 1882) The promise of continuing growth under the guidance of Father Hayes faded when he was struck down by typhoid fever. He survived a first attack and was on his way to recovery when a recurrence of the fever proved fatal. An obituary note of November 19, 1882, in The Cheyenne Daily Sun, that Father Hayes "quietly passed away like a child sinking to peaceful slumber." Father Hayes was the first priest to be buried in the cemetery which the Church had acquired some years earlier.

By the time of Father Nugent's incumbency the parish had gained recognition as a notable institution in the city of Cheyenne. A daily newspaper noted that, "St. Mary's Catholic Church membership is probably the largest in the city, and is in a very prosperous condition. Rev. Father Nugent was unable to furnish the necessary information relating to the Church, being engaged with his ecclesiastical duties. It is unnecessary to state that he meets the approbation of his congregation." (The Cheyenne Daily Sun, July 13, 1884)

The pastor's preoccupation included the negotiations that culminated in the purchase of the square block bounded by 24th and 25th Streets, and by Central and Warren Avenues. This property was deeded to the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus with the stipulation that they build and staff an academy. If they failed to do so the property would revert to the diocese. (McGovern, 43-44) This and other projects of the busy pastor involved a considerable expenditure of money which depleted the financial resources of the parish and established an indebtedness which proved to be an embarrassment to the bishop who had returned to Omaha in

1886 after an extended visit in Rome. Bishop O'Connor removed Father Nugent as pastor in Cheyenne and sent him to Rawlins.

In 1884 was the arrival in Cheyenne of the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus. The acquisition of these teachers was due to the efforts of Bishop O'Connor and Reverend Francis J. Nugent, the pastor who succeeded Father Hayes in Cheyenne. High on Father Nugent's list of priorities was his determination to establish a parochial school. He was fortunate in being able to obtain the services of the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus whose American headquarters were near Philadelphia. The sisters opened a school in Cheyenne in September, 1884. The first group of sisters included Mother St. Michael, Sister Ambrose and Sister Genevieve. Later Sister Imelda and Mother M. Philomena joined the staff. The student body soon numbered one hundred and thirty pupils. Father Nugent, anxious to foster his education endeavor, supervised the building of an addition to the school known as St. John's Hall; this made it possible for the sisters to add the fifth, sixth and seventh grades. (Casper, II, 176)

#### Notes

>Chey1867>1 Grenville M. Dodge, *How We Built the Union Pacific Railway and Other Railway Papers and Addresses* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1910), 31. Microfilm edition. Charles Edgar Ames, *Pioneering the Union Pacific: A Reappraisal of the Building of the Railroad* (NY: Appleton Century Crofts, 1969), 129.

>Chey1867>2 Henry W. Casper, S.J., *History of the Catholic Church in Nebraska: The Church on the Northern Plains, 1838-1874* (Milwaukee: Catholic Life / Bruce, 1960), I, 207.

>Chey1867>3 Casper, I, 208. Father Casper noted that this account must be read with caution because it is dated 1886, seventeen years after Kelly left Wyoming.

>Chey1867>4 Father Millany soon disappeared from the scene. Father Casper, who has researched the archives of the archdiocese of Omaha thoroughly, could not so much as find a first name for the priest. See Casper, I, 209.

>Chey1867>5 Casper, I, 209. Father Casper discovered this information in an Account Book, Laramie, 1869, in the archives of the archdiocese of Omaha, O'Gorman Collection.

>Chey1867>6 Baptismal Register, St. Mary's Cathedral, Book I, April 12, 1868 to Nov. 21, 1886.

## **Cheyenne, St. Mary's Cathedral**

### **Bishop McGovern**

[27] The history of the Church in Cheyenne in its early years is practically a history of the diocese; for after Fort Laramie it is one of the oldest settlements in the State. With the building of the Union Pacific railroad to this point in the fall of 1867, there was quite an influx of settlers, and Cheyenne grew up, so to speak, over night. The Rev. William Kelly was sent by Bishop O'Gorman, of Omaha, to organize the Catholics and build up a parish. His territory extended from Sidney, Nebraska, to Wasatch Canyon, Utah. There were no settlements north of Fort Laramie.

Father Kelly set to work with characteristic energy, and in 1868 was able to dedicate a frame church at the northeast corner of 21st and O'Neil streets, on lots donated by the Union Pacific Railroad Company. A few rooms attached to the church served as the parochial residence, and the entire cost of the building was \$4000.00. Most of the congregation came from Camp Carlin, a government supply station situated between Cheyenne and Fort Francis E. Warren.

The following is an extract from a letter written by Fr. Kelly Jan. 18, 1883: "In the fall of 1867 the Union Pacific railroad having been extended to within [28] a short distance of Cheyenne, I was sent by Bishop O'Gorman to that town to take charge of the spiritual interests of the Catholics resident there and in the vicinity. For six months, besides holding services in Cheyenne, I visited the railroad camps lying westward from the town. In the spring of 1868, General Stephenson, commandant at Fort D.A. Russell, kindly and generously donated four lots of ground, thereon to erect a Catholic church.>This is clearly a mistake of memory: the donor was the Union Pacific Railroad Company, as may be seen from the records at the court house. Pioneer laymen have also borne witness to this fact.> The church (under the patronage of St. John the Baptist) and parochial residence were built and completed in the summer of the same year, 1868, at an expense of about \$4000.00.

"At this time my missionary field extended from Sidney, Nebraska, westward to Wasatch Canyon in Utah, running north as far as Fort Laramie. With the exception of an occasional Sunday Mass at Laramie City and Fort Sanders, Mass was celebrated regularly every Sunday at Cheyenne after the erection of the church, the other days of the week being devoted to missionary work along the railroad. On these trips the section houses were converted into temporary churches.

"In the summer of 1869, Bishop O'Gorman, accompanied by Fr. Ryan and another priest, visited Cheyenne and Laramie City, and administered the sacrament of confirmation at both places."

[29] The old records of the Cheyenne parish state that "on Sunday, July 11th, the bishop confirmed twenty children and adults. High Mass was celebrated coram episcopo and a sermon was delivered by Fr. Millany. On the following morning the bishop, accompanied by Fathers Ryan and Millany, went to Laramie and laid the corner-stone of the Catholic church. In the evening a sermon was delivered by Fr. Millany in the public school to a large audience."

As might be gleaned from Fr. Kelly's letter, quoted above, the baptismal and marriage registers of those days have entries of every place along the Union Pacific from Sidney to Wasatch, including the long defunct town of Carbon. It is to be noted that Fr. Kelly was the first apostle of the Catholic Church in Wyoming; he was also the first priest to be ordained in Nebraska after the creation of the vicariate. Bishop O'Gorman was consecrated May 8, 1859, and he ordained Rev. William Kelly the 26th of the following month in Omaha.

Fr. Kelly remained in charge at Cheyenne until Oct. 9, 1869. He did general missionary work in Nebraska for another decade, and then lived in retirement at St. Philomena's cathedral, Omaha, until his death Oct. 23, 1907. His was a belated vocation: for he had been a Christian Brother in Ireland, and was about 40 years of age when he received holy orders. Of ordinary ability, he was destined by divine Providence to perform [30] extraordinary work in the development of western missions; and the Lord fitted him for his task by endowing him with a robust constitution.

We knew Fr. Kelly for thirty years, and during the last nine years of his earthly span we lived together under the same roof. Let us endeavor to describe him, as we remember him during that period. Below medium height, his weight was somewhat above normal; his features were regular – neither long, thin, nor round; blue eyes, and a liberal amount of grey hair that was almost white. He was every inch a priest, although he never wore the Roman collar (during his early years in the priesthood it was not prescribed), but wore instead a white neckerchief under a clerical vest. His reputation was that of a "saintly priest"; he had an even disposition, and was never angry or impatient. At the end of every interview his parting salute was always: "God bless you !" Up to his last brief illness he enjoyed excellent health, which enabled him to take a daily walk of several miles. One word more: he died without a dollar, having devoted whatever he received to works of religion.

Rev. Philip Erlach was the second pastor of Cheyenne (Oct. 9, 1869, to Apr. 16, 1871), and during his tenure of office likewise had charge of all Wyoming. The baptismal register shows the vast area covered by his ministrations; for besides entries at all points along [31] the Union Pacific railroad, christenings are recorded in the northern country at Fort Laramie, Fort Fetterman, South Pass and Atlantic City. The discovery of gold had given birth to the latter two settlements. These long trips had to be made by stage, and naturally involved a great deal of hardship.

When Fr. Erlach was moved from Cheyenne, he was placed in charge of the oldest parish in Nebraska, St. John's (now Jackson), near Sioux City. He was born in Austria April 27, 1839, and was raised to the priesthood by Bishop O'Gorman June 27, 1865.

The next incumbent of the Cheyenne pastorate was Rev. William Byrne, who remained until Sept., 1873. After Bishop O'Gorman's death he acted as administrator of the vicariate. He died of tuberculosis while serving as pastor of North Platte. It was during his charge that Laramie was created a parish, thereby cutting off all the territory north and west of that city.

Then came Rev. John McGoldrick, who served as pastor until Oct. 18, 1877. Considering the old church property inadequate to the needs of the growing congregation, he secured two lots at the

northeast corner of 19th and Carey avenue as the site for a new church. He also secured a plot of ten acres to be used as a Catholic cemetery. Through the good offices of Mr. Lawrence Bresnahan this ground was donated by the city. Mr. Bresnahan, as mayor, gave a bond to the [32] church authorities (Apr. 28, 1876), pledging the transfer of the property as soon as the city could get a patent from Washington.

Feeling that this plot was not sufficiently large for burial purposes Messrs. Lawrence Bresnahan and Tim Dyer later persuaded the city through Mr. Heck Reel, the mayor, to give another bond (September 25, 1885) whereby it pledged to convey ten acres more to Rev. F.J. Nugent as trustee.

On May 8th, 1888, the city deeded to Most Rev. Maurice F. Burke 18.32 acres for \$45.80. Presumably the city did not get the full 20 acres from the United States government. On Nov. 23rd, 1903, Most Rev. John J. Keane and Most Rev. Henry Cosgrove, as administrators of the estate of Most Rev. Thomas Lenihan, transferred this property to the Church of St. Mary. These facts were secured from the records of the court house. Father McGoldrick died in Cheyenne of tuberculosis but was buried in Omaha.

Rev. John Jennette>Irish, notwithstanding his name> next guided the destinies of the parish from December, 1877 to August 4th, 1878. He laid the foundation of the brick church on the property purchased by Father McGoldrick, and the second church, like the first, was dedicated under the patronage of St. John the Baptist. The families of the congregation at this time numbered from 50 to 75, and the [33] only railroad in Cheyenne besides the Union Pacific was a spur to Boulder and Denver, known as the Colorado Central. All communication with the country to the north was by stage. During his incumbency at Cheyenne Fr. Jennette erected a church at Sidney, Nebraska, but was later given charge of the newly created parish of St. Patrick, Omaha, which he served for a number of years, beloved by everyone. For the last two decades of his life he served as chaplain at St. Joseph's hospital, Omaha, and dean of the Omaha deanery. He passed to his reward August 25th, 1918.

Rev. John Hayes succeeded Fr. Jennette as pastor and governed the parish up to November 18, 1882. During the first year he was assisted by Rev. John T. Lee. The church begun by his predecessor was brought to completion and solemnly dedicated in May, 1879, by Very Rev. D.I. McDermott, V.G., the bishop at the time being present at the dedication of St. Patrick's cathedral, New York. The other clergymen in attendance were Revs. Hugh Cumiskey, M.F. Cassidy, Daniel Hayes and the pastor. Father McDermott preached in the morning on Faith and in the evening on the Blessed Sacrament. Father Hayes died Nov. 18th, 1882, and was buried in Cheyenne. During Fr. Hayes' pastorate a substantial brick parochial residence was built adjoining the church.

[34] Rev. Francis J. Nugent was in charge from Nov. 25, 1882, to June 20, 1886. He started a parochial school which was temporarily located in the old frame church, and placed it under the direction of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus. It was shortly moved to the new brick building erected for that purpose at the rear of the church. He also secured the splendid school property adjoining the State capitol and superintended the construction of the present academy. A man of boundless energy, he founded and conducted, with the help of Mr. Joseph McGill, a weekly

secular newspaper known as The Mirror, which however, was foredoomed to failure. After leaving Cheyenne Father Nugent served as pastor at Rawlins for a year and a half, but was again brought back to Cheyenne where he remained from January, 1888 to March, 1891. A very successful mission was conducted in the parish in Oct. 1888, by Rev. Arnold Damen, the famous Jesuit missionary. Father Nugent went from Cheyenne to Lincoln, Nebraska, where he was rector of the cathedral. He joined the Benedictine monks at Birmingham, England, where he was professed Sept. 8, 1902, and died in London, March 15, 1920. (He was born in County Tyrone, Ireland, in 1859, and ordained at Baltimore, Md. by Cardinal Gibbons in 1882). Father Nugent was an indefatigable worker, but a poor financial manager. The bishop on his return from a prolonged sojourn in Rome, was [35] compelled to borrow money to pay various debts contracted by Father Nugent.

Rev. John T. Smith was pastor from July 9, 1886, to Nov. 23, 1887. It was in this latter year that Cheyenne was created a diocese, and on the arrival of the first bishop, Most Rev. Maurice F. Burke, D. D., Father Smith returned to his own diocese, and was stationed at Hubbard, Nebraska for a short time, then at Sacred Heart parish, Omaha, and finally at St. Patrick's church, Omaha. He cleared this parish of a large debt, erected a beautiful new brick church and died there in February, 1915. At the advent of Bishop Burke a \$6000.00 addition was made to the parochial residence for the accommodation of the bishop.

Rev. M.J. Carmody was in charge from May, 1891 to March, 1892.

Rev. Edward Fitzgerald from July, 1892, to November, 1893. He followed the bishop, on the latter's transfer to St. Joseph, and later was appointed chaplain in the United States army and retired with the rank of major, residing in southern California until the outbreak of the World War, when he was drafted by the government to serve at Ft. Douglas, Salt Lake City.

Rev. Thomas Conway assumed charge in December, 1893, and remained until November, 1897, leaving for Colorado after the arrival of Bishop Lenihan. He did [36] effective work in Grand Junction, Colo., where he built a brick church and school, and lived to be more than three score and ten, although suffering from tuberculosis for forty years.

Rev. P.U. Sasse was in charge from Nov., 1897, to Dec., 1900. From Cheyenne he was sent to Sheridan where he built a brick church. Later he was pastor of various parishes in Colorado.

Rev. George J. Bryant served as pastor from Dec., 1900, to Jan., 1902; he was then sent to Casper, where he built a frame parochial residence. He passed away in San Francisco April 7, 1938.

Rev. Michael A. Kennedy served the parish from May, 1903, to Dec., 1903. He held other charges in the diocese, and died in 1911, pastor of Rock Springs.

Rev. James A. Duffy was in charge from Nov., 1904. to April, 1913, except during 1910, when he was in Kemmerer. He had been a curate to Bishop Keane in Minneapolis, and being invited to Cheyenne to work under his former pastor, proved of invaluable assistance in the building of the

new cathedral and bishop's house. His efficient work was recognized by his superiors, and he was appointed bishop of the newly erected see of Kearney (Nebraska), Jan., 1913.

One of the first objects of Bishop Keane's pastoral solicitude was to provide a suitable cathedral and bishop's residence. The buildings in use had been constructed [37] in pioneer days when there was no thought of Cheyenne ever becoming an episcopal see, and the congregation had long outgrown the modest brick church that had been erected late in the seventies. Owing to the growth of the city, the old church property had become valuable as a business site, so it was decided to sell > The property was sold for \$16,000.00.> and seek a better location. A beautiful site was secured on Capitol avenue, not far from the State capitol, and adjoining the public library. Bishop Keane called on the cathedral parish to build the new church, while he pledged himself to secure funds for the episcopal residence from the diocese at large. Suitable plans were secured from an Omaha architect, and both of these improvements, involving an expenditure of more than \$100,000.00, were begun at the same time. On the seventh day of July, 1907, in presence of a large and distinguished gathering of people, the corner-stone was laid by Bishop Scannell, of Omaha, the sermon being preached by Bishop Keane. An appropriate address was also made by Governor Brooks. Building operations were prosecuted with vigor until the cathedral stood complete in all its details. No such gathering of ecclesiastics had ever been brought together in Wyoming as that which assembled for the dedication ceremony, which took place Jan. 31, 1909, while a congregation of representative citizens, both Catholic and non-Catholic, [38] filled the large building to the very doors. Pontifical Mass was sung by Bishop Burke, of St. Joseph, and Bishop Carroll, of Helena, delivered the sermon. Present in the sanctuary were Bishops Matz, Garrigan, Lenihan (brother of the late bishop of Cheyenne) and Keane, besides a large number of priests. In the evening pontifical vespers were chanted, Bishop Lenihan officiating, and Bishop Garrigan in the pulpit. Thus closed the auspicious day to which Bishop Keane had looked forward from the time he assumed charge of the diocese: for it was the crowning glory of his zealous and fruitful career in Cheyenne.

The cathedral is a fine example of English Gothic style throughout, the one tower being on the southwest corner. It is built of Wyoming grey sandstone, is 135 feet long by 70 feet wide at the transept, and seats 650 persons. The large arches spanning the roof are of steel with oak trimming, the floor is slightly inclined, and there are no columns to obstruct the view of the altars, while a spacious sanctuary affords ample room for pontifical functions. The interior finish is of oak, with pews of the same material. The upper part of the transepts contains galleries, the lower, confessionals. A bishop's chapel, a large-sized sacristy, a baptistery, and an ample vestibule complete the interior arrangements. Three double doors make it possible to vacate the building of worshippers within a very short space of time, [39] should necessity arise. Funds for the purchase of the main altar were provided by the ladies of the Altar and Rosary society, while the Young Ladies' Sodality donated the Bl. Virgin's altar. Two thousand dollars each were contributed by Andrew Carnegie and the members of the congregation for the splendid pipe organ which occupies the large gallery over the main entrance. The magnificent window above the organ, containing an excellent representation of the Sistine Madonna, was donated by the local Knights of Columbus. After the opening of the new cathedral, a mission was conducted by the Paulist Fathers of New York City.

It is only necessary to add a word about the bishop's residence, which is a two and a half-story structure of grey pressed brick, with stone foundation, and with stone trimmings. It is admirably laid out, fronts lengthwise on Capitol avenue, and has dormer windows projecting through the slate roof. A slightly lawn extends from the street to the house, which is situated on the rear end of the lot adjoining the cathedral. The total cost of the cathedral was \$80,000.00, and of the bishop's residence \$23,000.00. It need scarcely be said that these two beautiful buildings will ever stand as a monument to Bishop Keane's episcopate. A career so full of labor and so marked with success as was his naturally merited the approval of the Holy See, and this was given by [40] bulls published Aug. 11, 1911 promoting him to the archiepiscopal see of Dubuque.

On the departure of Bishop Duffy, Bishop McGovern took personal charge of the cathedral until May 1, 1915, when he appointed Rev. James A. Hartmann rector. It was during the latter's able administration that the small debt remaining on the cathedral was liquidated, the interior redecorated, three houses and lots on 21st street, adjoining the church property, purchased, and Cathedral Hall erected as a social center for the people of the parish. This last mentioned institution, with the ground on which it stands, represents an outlay of \$120,000.00, and has no rival between the Mississippi river and the Pacific coast. With the building of a new episcopal residence in 1940, the parish bought from the diocese the bishop's house next to the cathedral for \$10,000.00. From its construction in 1907, it had been occupied jointly by the bishop and the cathedral clergy. Olivet cemetery was also improved by the addition of an iron fence, beautiful and substantial gates, by lowering the grave markers to the level of the ground, by placing the monuments in straight and parallel lines, and by getting most of the lots under perpetual care. The artistic Celtic cross of Barre granite in the center of the cemetery, erected in 1923 at an expense of \$3,000.00, was the gift of Bishop McGovern. Olivet cemetery was named by Bishop McGovern, prior to whose time it had no specific name.

[41] The following legacies have been left to St. Mary's cathedral since 1908:

From Mr. James Duffy, property valued at \$2,500.00; from Mr. William Moffatt, \$500.00; from Mrs. Nora Van Dyke, \$1,000.00; and from Mrs. Ellen Conroy, \$2,728.00, half of which, however, was voluntarily turned over to her niece, Miss Ellen Welch.

Among prominent members of the parish in the second decade of this century may be mentioned: Messrs. John F. Crowley, John Martin, P. Jacob Gauff, Dennis J. O'Connell, Joseph Cahill, Charles McGarvey, Thomas McInerney, Frank Bon, William E. Mullen, Joseph Bell, William E. Dinneen, John H. Smith, John T. McDonald, Joseph C. O'Mahoney, Walter Phelan, Doctors J.H. Conway and T.J. Henneberry; and Mesdames A.E. Roedel and Mary Schmidt.

Cheyenne had shown a steady growth through the years, and the congregation attending the cathedral had increased pari passu, until the people could no longer be accommodated with three Masses. The isolation of the south side, due to the railroad tracks, suggested the advisability of a church for that section of the city. Two lots, therefore, were purchased at Sixth and House avenue, and two more donated by Mrs. Mary Schmidt. St. Joseph's church, an attractive brick building in Spanish Mission style, with a capacity of 300, was erected at a cost of \$30,000.00. [42] It was solemnly blessed and set aside for divine worship Jan. 28, 1929. Solemn high Mass

was celebrated by Rev. Jas. A. Hartmann, assisted by Rev. John Henry as deacon, and Rev. Leo Morgan as subdeacon. Bishop McGovern preached the sermon, and had as his chaplains Rt. Rev. Jas. W. Stenson, V.G., of Omaha, and V. Rev. John T. Nicholson, V.G., of Laramie. Thereafter Mass was said in the new church every Sunday at 9 o'clock. However, in the course of a few years, it was found that four Masses were not sufficient to provide for the ever growing flock, and on Nov. 29, 1938, the bishop created St. Joseph's a separate parish, with Rev. Jerome Denk as pastor. From that date four Masses were celebrated every Sunday in the cathedral, and two in St. Joseph's church. Before leaving this subject, we may remark that the new parish began its autonomous existence free from debt; but the erection of a parochial residence created an obligation of \$3,500.00.

A few pages back we adverted to the starting of a sisters' school during the pastorate of Rev. Francis J. Nugent. In view of the vicissitudes of this institute, and the ultimate withdrawal of the community, it will be in order to relate the story of this undertaking. Mother St. Michael and five religious of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus arrived in Cheyenne August 13, 1884. The old frame church at 21st and [43] O'Neil was to serve temporarily as a school, and the rooms in which the pastor had formerly resided, as a convent. The building having been vacant for several years, it was not fully ready for occupation. However, they were able to move in on the feast of the Assumption, and at once christened the place the "Cot" (cottage). The Bl. Sacrament was brought to the chapel on the feast of St. Rose.

The following week the school was formally opened, and within a few days the attendance numbered 100 pupils, 20 of whom were non-Catholics. The children were rough and ready, but quite satisfactory in regard to discipline, and proficiency in religious and secular branches. The net proceeds of a bazaar held by the parish that fall amounted to \$1258.00. In 1885 the school was transferred to the new brick building that had been erected at 19th and Carey ave., to the rear of the church. At the opening of this scholastic year 174 children were registered, 64 of whom were boys and 29 non-Catholics. It was during this week that the school was honored by a visit from the ordinary of the diocese, Bishop O'Connor, of Omaha.

The prospects for the school were very promising; nevertheless Fr. Nugent had a more ambitious program in mind. Early in that same year 1885, he had purchased for \$3,400.00 the square block bounded by [44] Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth streets, and by Central and Warren avenues, and had deeded it to the sisters on condition that they maintain a school; in the event that they failed to do so, it was to be returned to the diocese. Plans were drawn for an academy for day scholars and boarders; the cornerstone was laid Aug. 16th, and the building was finished by Jan. 1, 1886, at a cost of \$50,000.00. Classes began Jan. 11th, with 70 in attendance, while the number in the parochial school was 60. The debt on the academy was \$35,000.00.

The following year witnessed the creation of Cheyenne as a diocese, with the Most Rev. Maurice F. Burke, D.D., as the first bishop. Up to this time the parochial church and school were known as St. John the Baptist's; the new bishop changed the name of both to St. Mary's. He soon realized that the support of two Catholic schools was beyond Cheyenne's resources, and in Feb. 1891, St. Mary's ceased to function, and there remained only the Academy of the Holy Child Jesus.

Imbued with the tradition of Catholic schools, which he had brought from Dubuque, Bishop Lenihan (1897-1901), who succeeded Bishop Burke, took a deep interest in the academy, and constantly urged upon the people the necessity of a Catholic training for their children. As a result, the number enrolled surpassed that of any previous year.

[45] During the regime of Bishop Keane (1902-1911) it was necessary for the sisters to install a new heating plant, and, at his suggestion, an addition containing private rooms for boarders was included in the improvements. This raised the debt to \$45,000.00; but no boarder ever requested a private room. The encumbrance on the property was held by the motherhouse in Philadelphia, where certain involvements made it necessary for the Cheyenne corporation to repay \$35,000.00 without delay. However, since the sisters had only a conditional deed to their property, no one could be found to make a loan on such security. In order that they might borrow this amount Bishop Keane removed the explicit condition from the deed, leaving it only implied.

When Bishop McGovern became ordinary in 1912, he was quite disturbed when he learned the financial condition of the school; the more so, as the sisters expressed themselves quite satisfied with paying their expenses and meeting their interest. He suggested a campaign, and raising the price for boarding students, who were paying but \$18.00 a month; and he volunteered to recommend the academy to the people on his confirmation trips. A new superioress, Mother Mary Stanislaus, came about this time, and entered into the plans of the bishop. Six thousand dollars were realized from a campaign. The pension for boarders was [46] gradually raised to \$35.00 a month, while the number of boarders increased from 36 to 70. Under Mother Mary Stanislaus and her immediate successor, the \$35,000.00 was paid in full, and the motherhouse canceled the remaining \$10,000.00.

The outlook for the academy seemed promising ; but alas, the day of boarding schools was past! Country schools had improved their standards, and parents preferred to have their children with them. The religious of the Society of the Holy Child Jesus concluded that there was no future for them in Cheyenne, and decided to leave. At the time of their withdrawal in 1933, they had 258 day scholars and seven boarders. There was a great deal of regret at their departure; for they had a splendid record of forty-nine years of achievement to leave behind them. Let it be said to their credit that these women were ideal religious, possessing a very high degree of refinement, and well trained in the teaching profession. The impress of their culture will be reflected in this community for years to come. On their retirement from Cheyenne, the nuns deeded their property to the local parish, which paid them an equity of \$20,000.00.

The Dominican nuns of Sinsinawa, Wisconsin, were now placed in charge of the school, and, as it had become parochial, the name was changed to St. Mary's Academy, to correspond with the name of the [47] church. Bishop McGovern was familiar with the work of this community in Omaha, and knew that its members enjoyed a reputation as teachers, than which none ranked higher. Wishing to give no Catholic parent an excuse for not sending his children to St. Mary's Academy, Father Hartmann eliminated tuition fees, and assumed the responsibility of paying the sisters from parochial receipts. The pastor's generous policy, combined with the efficiency of the teachers, has resulted in an annual increase of 50 pupils, so that the present attendance is 643, of whom 143 are in the high school and 500 in the grades. So great indeed became the increase that

it was no longer possible to accommodate the pupils in the old building. Fr. Hartmann had watched the progress of the school, and was not caught unprepared. A new high school was erected and ready for occupancy in the fall of 1938: it cost \$100,000.00, and was \$50,000.00 in debt. Teachers who are familiar with such buildings pronounce it a model high school and thoroughly equipped. At the same time the old building was subjected to considerable alteration in order to provide the utmost possible capacity for the grades.

In 1939 the Legion of Mary, with ten active members, started their praiseworthy program of visiting careless and fallen-away Catholics in order to restore them to a fervent and Christian way of life. Under [48] the direction of the pastor, this organization is quietly accomplishing a tremendous amount of good.

During the last quarter of a century the following missions were given in the parish, each lasting a fortnight: In November, 1917, by Rev. P.B. Donnelly, D.D., an Oblate Father from London, England; September, 1922, Revs. John Cunningham and John McGuire, of the Society of Jesus; October, 1928, Revs. A.C. Pregoner and Mathias Meyer, Redemptorists; March, 1932, Revs. J.B. Hegarty and F.L. Van der Heyden, Dominicans; January, 1937, Revs. William Cousins and Raymond Hillinger, of the Chicago missionary band; Revs. Robert J. Murphy and Russell Jackson, Paulists, in November, 1940.

The number of families listed in the parish at this date is 635.

Throughout Bishop McGovern's regime, confirmation has been administered in the cathedral every two years.

**History of St. Mary's Cathedral Parish**  
**Cheyenne, Wyoming**  
**1940-1950**  
**["O.K." handwritten. Ed.]**

It can be favorably noted here that the city of Cheyenne has enjoyed a growth of 9,000 persons in the decade ending with the close of 1950 to the present population of almost 32,000, which is considerably more than in any comparable period of its history. The major portion of this increase occurred within the cathedral parish, and is noticeably reflected in both the enlarged membership and the enrollment at St. Mary's School.

During this period the parish has had the continued capable administration of the Very Reverend James A. Hartmann as pastor, aided throughout by two assistant priests. It is worthy of mention that Father Hartmann is now serving the parish in his thirty-ninth consecutive year.

At the beginning of 1940 there was a debt of approximately \$53,000.00 against the new St. Mary's high school, which was opened in the fall of 1938. By the close of 1943 this indebtedness was completely liquidated, and the pastor now began looking forward to the erection of separate structures to replace the old Academy building, which had by then served the dual purpose of convent and school for close on sixty years. By July of 1949 a new convent containing thirty private rooms, a beautiful chapel and all modern conveniences was completed at a cost of \$200,000.00. It was fully paid for the day it was ready for occupancy. It is considered to be without equal in these Western dioceses.

About this time it became evident that the hazardous condition of the old Academy building made the erection of a new grade school an imperative necessity. Through a financial campaign launched in October 1949 for this purpose a total of \$142,000.00 in pledges and cash was secured, and this was deemed adequate to proceed with the project. Plans were accordingly prepared for the erection of a modern fire-proof structure consisting of sixteen classrooms for the grades, a kindergarten room, a spacious cafeteria and kitchen, and all other necessary facilities. A contract for its construction was approved in August 1950 at a cost, including architect's fees, of \$455,000.00. At the present writing, January 1951, the foundations are already laid and the superstructure is progressing satisfactorily, giving confidence that the building will be ready for occupancy at the opening of school next September. Although, when completed there will be a debt of \$200,000.00 against it, this is not considered an excessive load for the parish to bear.

The past decade has shown a marked increase in attendance at St. Mary's school. In 1940 there were 643 pupils attending, with 143 in the high school and 500 in the grades. The present enrollment has jumped to 185 and 695 respectively, for a total of 880. Since most of the increase has occurred in the grade school, and will undoubtedly be further augmented with the opening of the new school, it is easily seen how heavily taxed the present high school facilities, built to accommodate 200, will become in a few short years. The teaching staff consists of 14 Sisters in the grades, 8 in high school and 2 music teachers. Following a thorough examination by the proper authorities St. Mary's High School was officially accredited by the North Central

Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in 1943, a fact in which all friends of St. Mary's take justifiable pride. It was affiliated with the Wyoming State Athletic Association in 1947, since when its teams have earned favorable recognition in football and basketball.

The parish enjoys a healthy spiritual life as is evidenced by the notably large number of weekly communions, a condition which frequently evokes favorable comment from visitors. The membership has increased to better than 900 families. The Legion of Mary continues to show fruitful results through its interest in negligent Catholics. Three successful two-week missions have been given; in 1943 and 1946 by priests of the Chicago Mission Band, and in 1949 by two Dominican Fathers from Denver. Missions in Spanish have been provided at about similar intervals for the Mexican people. The Daughters of Isabella have sponsored an annual three-day retreat for the women of the parish, and the Knights of Columbus have recently adopted a similar plan for the men. A bi-weekly course of instructions has been conducted annually through ten months of each year by the pastor, bringing an average of around 40 converts a year into the Church.

Confirmation has been administered every second year, the last time being on May 8, 1949, by Coadjutor Bishop Hubert M. Newell to a class of 178, about one fourth of which were converts. On May 21, 1950 a class of 170 received First Communion, partly indicating the increased birth rate of the Second World War years, and the problem of providing future adequate school facilities for them.

During World War II St. Mary's parish gave 340 of its members to the Armed Services, five of which paid the supreme sacrifice for their nation.

**PARISH HISTORY**  
**1950 to 1960**  
**St. Mary's Cathedral**  
**Cheyenne, Wyoming**

1950

On August 14 a contract for the new St. Mary's Grade School was let to Jacob Weber and P.S. Cook. The contract was let at the bid of \$428,871.00.

1952

During March of 1952 the last remaining vestiges of the old Holy Child Convent were dismantled and removed to make way for the new St. Mary's School.

On May 11 the Rt. Rev. James A. Hartmann was invested as a Domestic Prelate by Bishop Newell in St. Mary's Cathedral. This colorful occasion also marked the fortieth anniversary of Monsignor Hartmann's ordination to the priesthood.

Bishop Newell officiated at the dedication ceremonies of the new St. Mary's School on August 31st. With the completion of the new edifice the facilities of St. Mary's School were extended to accommodate a thousand pupils in high school and grade school.

1953

On April 26th Bishop Newell confirmed a class of 251 in St. Mary's Cathedral.

The Cathedral Burse for the education of Seminarians was inaugurated. This became the first parish burse in the Diocese.

On May 13th the Bishop's Guild was organized with Miss Eileen Crowley as President.

The Order of St. Christopher, an organization of railroad men, was established on June 26th. Mr. Henry Rice was elected as the first President of the organization.

With the opening of the new school term in September it was found that a thousand pupils had been enrolled on St. Mary's Schools.

A campaign to reduce the indebtedness on St. Mary's school was launched on October 4th. The goal of the drive was \$100,000.00.

1954

Because of the crowded condition in St. Mary's School it was necessary to open two class rooms in Cathedral Hall to accommodate the increase in enrollment.

1955

The first Cana Conference in Wyoming was conducted in St. Mary's parish by the Rev. John J. Regan of Denver.

1956

Spiritual growth kept pace with the material progress of the parish which was indicated by the fact that there were on an average one thousand Communion distributed each week.

To provide for future parish expansion, the M.A. Klein property was purchased for the sum of \$21,112.00. This property is located adjacent to St. Mary's School on Warren Avenue.

Construction was started on the St. Mary's High School Annex which would provide eight additional classrooms. The contract for the new building was let to the Weber Construction Company for the sum of \$239,397.00.

On May 26th the Rev. Lawrence Etchingham, son of Mrs. R.E. Etchingham of St. Mary's parish, was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Newell in St. Mary's Cathedral.

A parish Mission was conducted by the Reverends Hugh and James O'Connell, C.S.S.R., from October 7 to 28. One week of the Mission was devoted to the Spanish-speaking people of the parish.

1957

February 10th was the occasion for the dedication by Bishop Newell of the new St. Mary's High School Annex. With the completion of this wing the parish school plant was valued at nearly two million dollars.

The Rev. L.F. Cervantes, S.J., of Denver conducted a Cana Conference on March 24th.

A three day Retreat for the women of the parish was held September 5,6,7 under the direction of Rev. Paul Edward, O.F.M. of Quincy College, Quincy, Illinois.

1958:

Another popular Cana Conference was held in St. Mary's parish on June 8th with Rev. Francis Bakewell, S.J., as speaker.

A distinguished honor came to St. Mary's High School when Linda Wallace, a Senior of St. Mary's High School, received a Science Award from the Science Talent Institute. Miss Wallace was picked from more than 25,000 contestants.

Sister Mary Paulinus, Instructor in the science department of St. Mary's High School, was awarded a grant of \$2,300,00 from the National Institute of Health.

1959

With the view of acquiring property in Block 139 for future parish expansion, the property of H. Sankot, 214 E. 24th, was purchased for the sum of \$22,750.00. The purchase was executed on March 27, 1959.

Because of failing health, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. James A. Hartmann submitted his resignation as Rector of St. Mary's Cathedral on May 15, 1959.

On May 22, 1959 Bishop Newell announced the appointment of Very Rev. F.J. Kimmett as Rector of St. Mary's Cathedral to succeed Monsignor Hartmann.

Hundreds of parishioners and friends gathered in St. Mary's Cathedral on the afternoon of June 14th to pay a well deserved tribute to Monsignor James A. Hartmann who had served as the devoted pastor of the parish for forty-four years. The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Thomas O'Reilly paid an eloquent tribute to Monsignor Hartmann and his accomplishments.

Bishop Newell officiated at the formal installation of Very Rev. F.J. Kimmett as Rector of the Cathedral on September 13th.

The Rev. William Restivo, a native son of St. Mary's parish, was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Newell on September 26th in St. Mary's Cathedral. Following his ordination Father Restivo left to serve the African Mission in the Diocese of Kenya [sic].

## **History of St. Mary's Parish**

### **Expansion of parish school facilities and the renovation of St. Mary's Cathedral to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the diocese were the outstanding events in the parish during the decade from 1960-1970.**

The historical restoration of the Cathedral, and the addition of new sacristy facilities and a large meeting room suitable for convert classes and parish society meetings was completed in conjunction with the formal celebration of the 75th anniversary of the diocese of Cheyenne after 18 months of work and at an expenditure of approximately \$250,000.00.

The re-dedication took place at a solemn pontifical Mass February 21, 1962 in the Cathedral. On that occasion dignitaries of the Church, the State and City joined together to observe and participate in the re-dedication of the Cathedral by the Most Rev. Hubert M. Newell, Bishop of Cheyenne, and Archbishop Urban J. Vehr, Archbishop of Denver.

Two years later, on January 5, 1964 the newly constructed St. Mary's High School Gymnasium was dedicated at impressive ceremonies at the Hall by Most Rev. Hubert M. Newell, Bishop of Cheyenne. The new gymnasium offered one of the finest physical plants in the Rocky Mountain region to students at the school and to members of the parish. It was built on a one-quarter block site directly across from the school itself and within 2 blocks of St. Mary's Cathedral.

The cost of the facilities in the amount of \$354,000.00 represented one of the largest investments made in such a facility by any church in the diocese, and in the region. The gymnasium was used as a host site for a regional high school basketball tournament in 1966, and has been used continuously by the St. Mary's school teams for their home basketball games.

The decade saw both the peak in expansion of physical plant at St. Mary's School and also the decline of the school both in enrollment and in financial resources. During the latter part of the decade the rising cost of operation coupled with a decline in the number of Sisters available to teach in the school caused a financial crisis which was met on a temporary basis through the generous donations of members of the parish and parents of children attending the school. The appeal was made by Rev. James O'Neill, pastor of the parish, in an announcement to the congregation on November 28, 1969. He told the parishioners that unless they increased their flow of donations substantially the school would be forced to close its doors at the end of the 1969-70 school year.

Although the financial burden of operating the school did not decrease, contributions increased to the point that at the start of the 1970 decade Rev. O'Neill was able to report to the parish that their generous donations would permit the school to continue operating for an indefinite period.

The decade saw other significant changes in the church and the Parish. During November 1964 the Diocesan Liturgical Commission released a set of general norms that established the constitution of the Liturgy as developed by the Second Vatican Council held at the Vatican during 1962 and 1963.

The changes which permitted the presentation of the Mass in English, the use of a lay commentator, the participation of the congregation in the singing of hymns, and the saying of the Mass facing the congregation, were instituted in St. Mary's parish during 1964.

In April 1965 another event permitted after the Second Vatican Council was performed for the first time in St. Mary's Cathedral. Most Rev. Hubert M. Newell and 10 priests concelebrated Mass on Holy Thursday. Participating with the Bishop in the Eucharistic Sacrifice were Rt. Rev. Monsignor James A. Hartmann, the Very Rev. John Meyer, the Rev. James O'Neill, the Rev. Cyril Hmelovsky, the Rev. Michael Butler, the Rev. William Delaney, the Rev. John Healy, the Rev. Lawrence Etchingham, the Rev. Leonard Wren O.F.M. Conv. and the Rev. Charles Taylor.

The spirit of ecumenism reigned throughout the decade in the Church and in the Parish, as persons of all faiths attended annual open houses held at St. Mary's Cathedral affording an opportunity for people of all denominations to acquaint themselves with the beliefs, practices and appointments of the Catholic Church.

Also in the spirit of ecumenism, during the decade the annual men's corporate Communion Mass was established. Started early in the decade the mens corporate Communion Mass became an annual affair at the Cathedral when Catholic men and the guests of all faiths joined annually for a Communion Mass followed by a breakfast. Although it started in a small way the corporate Communion and breakfast during the final years of the decade was drawing close to 1000 participants.

The Parish further demonstrated its leadership in interfaith activities by instituting the Cheyenne Interfaith Prayer Service for Peace and Unity in 1966. The Service has been conducted annually by the Parish since that time, and became a leading event in interfaith activities in the City of Cheyenne.

Lay organizations related to or sponsored by the parish flourished during the decade. In March of 1960 the Eucharistic Guard for all three of Cheyenne's parishes was established by members of Bishop P.A. McGovern Council 801, Knights of Columbus. Later in the decade the Council dedicated its new building which was acquired after a long period of time and a great deal of effort among the members of the organization seeking ways to construct or acquire suitable meeting facilities.

In September 1964 the diocese established the Diocesan Office for the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine which directly and materially affected St. Mary's Parish and the parishes throughout the State by coordinating all CCD programs.

Scouting activities in the parish expanded during the decade and in 1965 St. Mary's hosted the second annual Cheyenne Deanery Scouting program. The program illustrated the great value that the Catholic Church placed in scouting as a tool in developing religious and moral strength in young people.

During the decade St. Mary's School faculty and students received many honors. In 1967 Sister Mary Tomais [sic], O .P., was recognized as the Outstanding Biology Teacher for the State of Wyoming by the National Association of Biology Teachers. In 1968 two significant seminars were conducted at St. Mary's School. The first was a panel discussion on sex education moderated by the Rev. Leonard Urban of the Newman Center, Colorado State University. The second was an area CCD workshop which was attended by 75 teachers and leaders from Southeast Wyoming. The theme of the workshop was the Role of the Teachers in CCD.

Throughout the decade many students at St. Mary's School received scholarships and awards which were an honor to themselves and to the quality of the education offered at the school.

Only two Pastors served the parish during the decade. During the years from 1960 through 1963 the Very Rev. Frederick J. Kimmett served as Pastor. In 1964 Rev. James O'Neill was named as Pastor and served through the balance of the decade.

Rev. Kimmett served the parish during its building program that saw the renovation of the Cathedral and the construction of the modern new St. Mary's School Gymnasium. He was born in Colorado, but was raised and educated in Wyoming. He was ordained June 4, 1933 by Bishop P.A. McGovern and served as Pastor of St. Barbara's Parish in Powell and Holy Name Parish in Sheridan. In September of 1964 he resigned as Pastor of St. Mary's Parish because of failing health and took over the less demanding duties of Pastor at St. Louis Church in Glenrock.

Father O'Neill was assigned to the Pastorate at St. Mary's upon the resignation of Father Kimmett. Born in Ireland, he attended and graduated from St. John's College, Waterford. After coming to Wyoming he served Kemmerer, Newcastle, and as Pastor in St. Joseph's Parish in Cheyenne, before receiving the appointment to serve at St. Mary's. During his service with St. Mary's he also served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Community Action of Laramie County, the Cheyenne Poverty Program Agency, Chairman of the Priests' Senate, and organized the Parish Advisory Council in 1967, the first of its kind in the Diocese.

Throughout the Decade the parish was blessed with many able Assistant Pastors, Sisters, and Extension Lay Volunteers. A list of all persons serving the Parish during the decade is attached, as is a chronological record of events in the parish recorded from the pages of the Wyoming Catholic Register, which has been the entire source of material for

this history.

#### Cheyenne 1970 Record of Events

June 12, 1959 - The Very Rev. Frederick J. Kimmett, pastor of Holy Name Church, Sheridan, was appointed rector of St. Mary's Cathedral to succeed the Right Rev. Monsignor James A. Hartmann, who retired after 47 years of service to the Church in Wyoming.

1960 - Marked the 75th anniversary of the purchase of the square block upon which the present complex of St. Mary's high school, grade school and the convent now stand, at a purchase price of \$3,400.

February 16, 1960 - Bishop Hubert M. Newell dedicated the student chapel in St. Mary's high school, Cheyenne, assisted by the Very Rev. Frederick J. Kimmett, pastor, and the Rev. Jerome Logue. The chapel was built at a cost of \$4,500, which was raised entirely by voluntary contributions.

March, 1960 - Members of Bishop P.A. McGovern Council 801, Knights of Columbus, established the Eucharistic Guard for Cheyenne's three parishes.

June 4, 1960.- The Rev. John Murray and the Rev. Gerald Chleborad were ordained to the sacred priesthood in ceremonies held at St. Mary's Cathedral.

October, 1960 - Extensive improvements and renovation of St. Mary's Cathedral were begun with the awarding of contracts totaling more than \$200,000 to local contractors.

October, 1960 - 600 Catholic youths from nearly every parish in the diocese crowded into St. Mary's Cathedral for the final Mass of a three-day Catholic Youth Organization Convention held in Cheyenne, and recorded an historic first when they elected officers for the first Diocesan Catholic Youth Organization board.

1961 - 250 men attended the first annual Men's Corporate Communion exercise.

February 21, 1962 - Dignitaries of Church and State, led by Archbishop Urban J. Vehr of Denver, eight members of the Hierarchy, Wyoming's two United States Senators Joseph J. Hickey and Gale McGee, Gov. Jack Gage, Mayor Bill Nation, and a host of Monsignori, priests, and members of the laity joined in a Solemn Pontifical Mass to mark the 75th anniversary of the Diocese of Cheyenne, at St. Mary's Cathedral, and on this solemn occasion the rededication of the Cathedral took place. Pioneer Catholics who had been present at the dedication of the Cathedral in 1909 were honored.

January 30, 1962 - Pope John XXIII extended his congratulations in a letter to Bishop Hubert M. Newell and the diocese of Cheyenne.

April 1, 1962 - Bishop Charles A. Busevell [sp?], D.A.[sp?], of Pueblo, was the featured speaker at the second annual corporate Communion Mass for the Catholic men of Cheyenne, and Bishop Hubert M. Newell celebrated the mass and presided at the breakfast following, which was attended by nearly 600 persons.

January 6, 1963 - Nearly 250 persons of various denominations attended an open house at St. Mary's Cathedral where ceremonies and sacred instruments of the Church were described to the visitors.

March 17, 1963 - The Most Rev. Joseph Lennox Federal, Bishop of Salt Lake City, gave the main address to the 800 men attending the third annual corporate communion Mass and breakfast. The Most Rev. Hubert M. Newell celebrated the Pontifical Mass in St. Mary's and was assisted by the Very Rev. F.J. Kimmett, rector of St. Mary's Cathedral.

Summer, 1963 - Cathedral Hall, located across the street from and facing the Cathedral and adjoining rectory, was demolished to make way for the new Federal Building and

Post Office which were subsequently erected on that site.

January 5, 1964 - St. Mary's high school gymnasium, with seating for approximately 1,000 persons, was completed at a cost of \$354,000, and 675 persons were present for the dedication and formal blessing of the new structure by Bishop Hubert M. Newell.

March 1, 1964 - The Cheyenne Cathedral was filled to capacity for the fourth annual corporate Communion Mass celebrated by Bishop Newell, with the Most Rev. Leo C. Byrne, S.T.D., Apostolic Administrator of the Wichita Diocese, as the featured speaker.

September, 1964 - The Very Rev. F.J. Kimmett resigned his pastoral duties at St. Mary's Cathedral because of ill health and was assigned to the pastorate of St. Louis Church, Glenrock, until his health should improve. He was succeeded by the Rev. James O'Neill, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Cheyenne, who immediately assumed the responsibilities of the administration of the Cathedral.

November, 1964 - The Diocesan Liturgical Commission released a set of general norms effectively establishing the constitution of the liturgy in all the parishes and missions of Wyoming, changing the Mass to be offered facing the congregation, a lay commentator to be used in the ceremonies, and the entire congregation singing at all scheduled Masses.

1964 - Commensurate with the changes in the liturgy by the Second Vatican Council and proclaimed to the world by Pope Paul VI in December of 1963, the Mass in English, with commentator, was inaugurated at St. Mary's Cathedral.

April, 1965 - The Most Rev. Hubert M. Newell, Bishop of Cheyenne, and 10 priests concelebrated Mass on Holy Thursday in St. Mary's Cathedral, which was the first time that a concelebrated Mass had ever been offered in the Cathedral.

September, 1964 - The newly established Diocesan Office for the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine became a valuable asset to the clergy and religious throughout the diocese in coordinating all CCD activities and the progress and future plans of the Diocesan CCD program.

Early in 1965 - Debaters and orators for the National Forensic League chapter at Saint Mary's high school had established their bid for top honors in Wyoming and Colorado, by capturing their share of trophies, ribbons and superior ratings in regional and national competition.

March 21, 1965 ~ The Most Rev. Raymond G. Hunthausen, Bishop of Helena, was the featured speaker at the fifth annual Corporate Communion and breakfast for men of Laramie County parishes, and more than 400 Catholic men attended the Mass, which was celebrated by Bishop Newell, and the breakfast.

March, 1965 - The second annual Cheyenne deanery scouting program was held at St. Mary's Cathedral.

May 29, 1965 - Rev. Charles Hardy was ordained to the sacred priesthood by Bishop Newell in ceremonies at St. Mary's Cathedral.

January 9, 1966 - Open house was held at St. Mary's Cathedral, and was well attended by people of all denominations to acquaint themselves with the beliefs, practices and appointments of the Catholic Church as an annual gesture of ecumenism on the part of the parish and the Catholic Church as a whole.

March 13, 1966 - The Most Rev. Eldon B. Schuster, Auxiliary Bishop of Great Falls, was the featured speaker at the sixth annual Corporate Communion Breakfast, beginning with Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Hubert M. Newell, and followed by breakfast.

March 1966. The 11th annual Wyoming Basketball Tournament was hosted by St. Mary's school, and the occasion marked the first time a tournament was held in the new school gymnasium.

May 25, 1966 - Robert Marko of Cheyenne was ordained to the sacred priesthood in ceremonies conducted by the Most Rev. Hubert M. Newell at St. Mary's Cathedral.

1966 - St. Mary's Hi-Lites, the school's official newspaper, won five first and three second place awards in the annual Wyoming High School Press Association's 1966 newspaper contest, with thirty-two Wyoming high schools participating in the event.

September, 1966 - Father Gerald Chleborad, assistant pastor of St. Mary's Cathedral since 1962, left Cheyenne to begin graduate studies in canon law at Catholic University, Washington, D. C., and at the same time the Rev. Patrick Trujillo was assigned as an assistant pastor at St. Mary's Cathedral.

November 10, 1966 - The Right Reverend Monsignor James A. Hartmann celebrated his 82nd birthday with members and friends of the Cathedral parish where he had served as pastor for more than 40 years.

November, 1966 - Members of the National Forensic League Chapter at St. Mary's High School won honors at two speech meets held at Fort Morgan, Colorado.

December 4, 1966 - The White Mass of St. Luke was celebrated for the first time in the Cheyenne Diocese in St. Mary's Cathedral, with His Excellency, Bishop Newell, offering the Mass for all Catholic doctors, dentists, technicians, registered nurses, and licensed practical nurses.

December, 1966 - St. Mary's high school received a Latin trophy for "summa cum laude" performance by three students who participated in the Auxilium Latinum nationwide Latin examination sponsored by the Nationwide Association for the Promotion of the Study of Latin.

April 1967 - 600 Catholic men from the Cheyenne area attended the seventh annual Corporate Communion Mass celebrated by the Most Rev. Hubert M. Newell and the breakfast following to hear the Most Rev. Daniel E. Sheehan, J.C.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Omaha, give the main address.

Fall 1966 - The Diocesan Religious Education Board was established and included representation of religious and laity from all five deaneries, under the patronage of Bishop Hubert M. Newell.

Palm Sunday, 1967 - About 350 representatives of Cheyenne's leading Catholic and Protestant Churches were present for the second annual Cheyenne interfaith prayer service for Peace and Unity, which was held in St. Mary's High School auditorium.

1967 - Sister Mary Tomais, O.P., of St. Mary's High School was named the 1967 recipient of the "Outstanding Biology Teachers" award in the State of Wyoming by the National Association of Biology teachers. She had distinguished herself by receiving several special grants for further study at Stanford.

January 1968 - Two significant seminars were sponsored by St. Mary's parish and school with the first a panel on sex education with The Rev. Leonard Urban of the Newman Center, Colorado State University, who acted as moderator and main speaker, and the second, an area CCD workshop which was attended by more than 75 teachers and leaders from southeast Wyoming. The theme of the workshop was "The Role of the Teacher in CCD," to which the Rev. Jerome Logue addressed himself.

February 12, 1968 - The Most Rev. James Albert Duffy, first Bishop of Grand Island, Nebraska, and rector of St. Mary's Cathedral from 1904 until his consecration in 1913, died at Hot Springs, Arkansas. At the time of his death, Bishop Duffy was the senior Bishop in the United States in both age and consecration, and was one of the few remaining prelates in the entire world who had received their appointments from the late Pope St. Pius X. Bishop Duffy came to Cheyenne for reasons of health and except for a brief period at Kemmerer, he served as rector of St. Mary's Cathedral and chancellor of the diocese until 1913 when he was appointed the first Bishop of the

new Diocese of Kearney, later Grand Island, Nebraska. His consecration took place in the Cheyenne Cathedral on April 13, 1913.

1968 - Catholic men from the Cheyenne area attended the eighth annual Corporate Communion Mass and breakfast.

March 3, 1968 - The financial struggle which the parish has faced concerning the operation of St. Mary's school was shared with the members of the parish at an unprecedented parish meeting. St. Mary's parish board, composed of nine lay parishioners, the three parish priests, and the two Sisters who are principals of the grade and high schools, gathered data for a parish report which was published in December of 1967. The response for increased support from the parish was very small as a result of this publication and the tuition was subsequently raised.

It was pointed out that in the ten year period from 1957 to 1966 the ordinary income of the church including school revenues showed an increase of only 108.48 per cent, while during that same period, the total ordinary expenses increased a total of 205.45 percent.

Significant increases were found in the cost of salaries alone, notwithstanding the presence during this period of non-salaried lay teachers. It was also noted that the salaries were not competitive with those in the public school system. Inflation was largely responsible for the increase in overall operating costs. The purpose of the special meeting was to place a greater burden of sharing the school's financial crisis directly on the parish membership. The parish board also pointed out to those in attendance that the problem is not unique to St. Mary's parish, but is common throughout the United States.

May 29, 1968 - The Reverend Michael Carr was ordained to the sacred order of priesthood at St. Mary's Cathedral.

June 1968 - The Rev. Gerald Chleborad was appointed to serve as an assistant at St. Mary's Cathedral.

1968 - Undoubtedly the most significant event in the ten-year history of St. Mary's parish from 1960 to 1969 was the celebration by members of the parish, clergy and public of the 100 year anniversary of St. Mary's Cathedral parish.

October 2, 1968 - The centenary anniversary of the dedication of Cheyenne's first Catholic Church, St. John the Baptist Church, the predecessor of St. Mary's Cathedral, which was located at the northeast corner of 21st and O'Neill streets, a modest frame building first served by Father William Kelly and dedicated in 1869.

Cheyenne's first St. Mary's was erected in 1879 on the northeast corner of 21st and O'Neill and the name was changed at that time from St. John the Baptist to St. Mary's.

A centennial committee, with the assistance of Bishop Hubert M. Newell and Rev. James O'Neill was formed to plan activities for the celebration of this historic event.

September 27, 1968 - The Wyoming Catholic Register published a special 24-page color Centennial edition in honor of the founding of the Catholic Church in Cheyenne.

Priests serving the parish at the time of the Centenary celebration were Rev. James O'Neill, pastor, assisted by Rev. John Wright and Rev. Patrick Trujillo.

A concelebrated Pontifical Mass was offered in St. Mary's Cathedral by Archbishop Urban J. Vehr of Denver; Archbishop James V. Casey, Denver; Bishop Joseph L. Federal, Salt Lake; Bishop Charles A. Buswell, Pueblo; Bishop David M. Maloney, Wichita; Bishop Hubert M. Newell; Monsignor James A. Hartmann, Monsignor Frederick J. Kimmett; and Rev. James O'Neill. The homily was delivered by Archbishop Casey.

Guests of honor and special guests, including representatives of each of the non-Catholic churches in Cheyenne were present for the concelebrated Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving offered in the Cathedral by the six neighboring Bishops.

Federal Judge Joseph J. Hickey was the principal speaker at the Centenary dinner held at the Hitching Post Inn following the Mass, and Archbishop Urban J. Vehr of Denver (retired) spoke of the history of the Cheyenne diocese, in honor of this historic centennial observance.

The Cathedral itself was erected under the authority of Bishop Keane and the Rev. James A. Duffy, pastor. The erection of the Church involved an original expenditure of more than \$100,000, is constructed of Wyoming grey sandstone, and is an outstanding example of English Gothic architecture.

The Cathedral is 135 feet long by 70 feet wide and has a seating capacity of 650 persons, and includes a Bishop's Chapel, a large sacristy, a baptistery and an ample vestibule, in addition to galleries and confessionals, with three sets of double doors giving entry and exit to the worshippers.

Today St. Mary's Cathedral parish with its grade school, high school, convent and gymnasium complex represents an investment of over \$3,000,000.00.

December 27, 1968 -Rev. John F. Sullivan, a priest of the diocese of Cheyenne, who

served as assistant at St. Mary's Cathedral, before leaving the diocese on loan to the Archdiocese of New York, died and was buried December 30, 1968.

February 28, 1969 - The Most Rev. David M. Maloney, D. D., Bishop of Wichita, was present as guest speaker at the ninth annual corporate communion mass and breakfast.

Palm Sunday, 1969 - The 4th annual Inter-Faith Prayer Service for Peace and Unity was held in St. Mary's Cathedral for the first time, with 700 persons attending the Holy Week service.

June 6, 1969 - 64 seniors were presented their diplomas at the 36th annual commencement exercises held at St. Mary's High School.

August 8, 1969 - Rev. Charles Hardy was appointed diocesan director of education and assistant pastor at St. Mary's Cathedral parish.

1969 - Rev. Patrick Trujillo, assistant at St. Mary's was appointed to assist a parish in Rock Springs, and the Rev. Donn Shelly, C.S.Sp.[sp?], came to Cheyenne from Biafra as an assistant at St. Mary's.

November 28, 1969 - Rev. James O'Neill made public an appeal to his parishioners to increase their contributions to offset the grave financial problems of both the elementary and secondary school which are supported by the members of St. Mary's parish, and that without this increase the schools would not re-open in the fall of 1970.

#### Cheyenne 1970 PRIESTS WHO SERVED ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL PARISH 1960-1969

1960:

Very Rev. Frederick J. Kimmett, pastor  
Rev. Jerome Logue  
Rev. William J. McCormick

1961:

Very Rev. Frederick J. Kimmett, pastor  
Rev. Jerome Logue  
Rev. William J. McCormick

1962:

Very Rev. Frederick J. Kimmett, pastor  
Rev. Gerald Chleborad  
Rev. Jerome Logue  
Extension lay volunteers

1963:

Very Rev. Frederick J. Kimmett, pastor  
Rev. Gerald Chleborad  
Rev. Jerome Logue  
Extension lay volunteers

1964:

Rev. James O'Neill, pastor  
Rev. Gerald Chleborad  
Rev. Jerome Logue  
Extension lay volunteers

1965:

Rev. James O'Neill, pastor

Rev. Gerald Chleborad

Rev. Jerome Logue

Extension lay volunteers

1966:

Rev. James O'Neill, pastor

Rev. Jerome Logue

Rev. Patrick Trujillo

1967:

Rev. James O'Neill, pastor

Rev. Jerome Logue

Rev. Patrick Trujillo

1968:

Rev. James O'Neill, pastor

Rev. Patrick Trujillo

Rev. John Wright

1969:

Rev. James O'Neill, pastor

Rev. Charles Hardy

Rev. John Wright

Rev. Robert Marko

Rev. Donne Shelly, C.C.C.P.

The Rev. Jerome Denk was absent from the parish during this period from 1960-1969.

In addition, Extension Lay Volunteers served St. Mary's Parish and schools in the years from 1962 through 1965.

Cheyenne 1970 O'Neill biography

The Rev. James O'Neill, pastor of St. Mary's Parish, came to serve the Diocese of Cheyenne in 1954. Father O'Neill was born and educated in Ireland where he studied for the priesthood at St. John's college, Waterford. He served as assistant pastor in Kemmerer, 1954-55; St. Mary's, Cheyenne, 1955-58; St. Joseph's, Cheyenne, 1958-59; Newcastle, 1959-62; and was pastor of St. Joseph's, Cheyenne, 1962-64, before being appointed to head the Cathedral parish in 1964.

Father O'Neill was elected chairman of the Priest Senate of the Diocese of Cheyenne in 1968. He also served as chairman of the executive board of Community Action of Laramie County, a division of O.E.G. (Office of Economic Opportunity).

Under the direction of Father O'Neill, St. Mary's parish formed a Parish Advisory Council in April of 1967, the first of its kind in the Diocese.

The parish, which began in 1868, with most of the congregation coming from Camp Carlin, a government supply station near Cheyenne, St. Mary's now serves nearly 1,200 families.

## **The parish history for St. Mary's Cathedral of Cheyenne for the years 1970 - 1980 follows:**

1970: March 1--First annual Commitment Sunday was a huge success. September 6--Father O'Neill left for studies in Rome. Assistants were Fathers Thomas Fahey, John Wright, and Gerald Chleborad.

1971: February 28--Assistants were Fathers Thomas Fahey, Michael Carr, and Charles Hardy.

1972: August 30--Assistants were Fathers Thomas O'Flannigan, Michael Carr and Charles Hardy. September 25--Bishop Newell's 25th Anniversary of his Episcopal Ordination celebrated in the Cathedral. Nov. 26--Rectory Fund established.

1973: April 24--Funeral Mass for Monsignor James A. Hartmann. June 24--New carpeting installed in the Cathedral.

1974: February 20--Investiture Ceremonies for Father O'Neill as Prelate of Honor to His Holiness, Pope Paul VI. April 9--Conferral of Ministry of Acolyte to Gary Ruzicka. August 18--Father Vincent Bauer assigned to St. Mary's Cathedral Parish. November 10--Father John Hoodack, S.J. assigned to Cathedral Parish.

1975: February--Parish Renewal Program conducted by Dominican Evangelical Team. March 23--Inter-Faith Prayer Service held at the Cathedral. March 25--Ed Dolinar and Fred Wendel received the Ministries of Acolyte. Gary Ruzicka was ordained as Deacon. April 20--Father John Murray assigned to the Cathedral Parish. April 22--Regional N.C.C.B. Spring meeting. June 22--Vietnamese Refugees (12) arrived in Cheyenne. July 13--Deacon Gary Ruzicka assigned to the Cathedral Parish. September 21--"600 Fund" Campaign begins. October 17--Holy Year Pilgrimage to Rome begins.

1976: April 6--Bids opened for the new Hartmann Hall and Ministration Center. June 13--Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Father Gary Ruzicka on his assignment to the Cathedral Parish. August 31--Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Joseph Hart.

1977: April 5--Ed Dolinar and Fred Wendell were ordained to the Deaconate. May 8--Deacon Ed Dolinar was assigned to the Cathedral Parish. May 22--Dedication of Hartmann Hall and Ministration Center.

1978: April 9--First edition of Cathedral Communique in the mail. May 25--Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving honoring the Most Rev. Hubert M. Newell upon his retirement as 5th Bishop of the Diocese of Cheyenne. June 9--Deacon Fred Wendel and Deacon Ernest Floreen Ordained to the Priesthood. June 12--Bishop Hart installed as 6th Bishop of the Diocese of Cheyenne. June 15--Silver Jubilee Mass honoring Msgr. O'Neill on the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. July 1--Work begins on replacement of the Cathedral roof. July 9--Father William Espenshade assigned to the Cathedral.

1980: February 10--"Operation Homecoming" begins. March 16--Vernon Clark ordained as a Deacon. June 1--Father Robert Siu assigned to the Cathedral Parish. June 11--Golden Jubilee of Bishop Newell's Ordination to the Priesthood. October 3--Vernon Clark ordained to the Priesthood.