

BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. MARGARET'S CATHOLIC CHURCH OF RIVERTON.

Following the tenure of its resident pastor Father W. J. Short St. Margaret's from 1924 to 1936 was under the charge of the Lander pastorate. It was cared for by Father J. J. Mullins and his assistants, in turn, Fathers E. Cassidy, Martin Kennedy, Daniel O'Doherty, Arthur J. Cram and Leo B. Morgan. In 1936 the Jesuit priests from St. Stephens Mission served Riverton. 1937 witnessed Fathers Walter McGrath, Penny, Theodore Rath, C.P.P.S. The latter became resident pastor in August 1938 after serving it zealously one year from Lander. During the latter's brief en-

cumbency a gilded cross replaced the old dingy wooden one and the church building was lengthened 22 feet to accomodate the people. This enlargement, is surely needed on the fourth Sunday and on solemn occasions. The large Sacristy forms a convenient and economic chapel for week day services in the winter months.

In September 1938 the youthful Father Rath was replaced by an older Precious Blood priest, the Rev. Albert F. Kaiser, missionary and author of "God with Us." Riverton is now a distinct parish of its own and a legal perpetual corporation under the title of St. Margaret's Catholic Church and roughly speaking includes all the territory surrounding Riverton as far as Shoshoni, inclusive, on the North East; Hudson, exclusive, on the Southwest; and Pavillion, inclusive, on the Northwest. Pavillion is a subsidiary mission to Riverton.

At present two masses are celebrated every Sunday at Riverton except the fourth Sunday of the month, when one Mass is said at Pavillion at 8 o'clock. By way of accommodation the residents of Pavillion are encouraged to attend Mass ^{on other Sundays} either at Riverton or at Morton. In the latter (Jesuit Mission Place) Holy Mass is celebrated on the second and fifth Sundays of the month at 9 o'clock. The masses at Riverton are at 8 and 10 in the winter months; 7 and 9 o'clock on summer Sundays. Besides the daily Mass at 8 o'clock and the Holy or Eucharistic Hour on the evening of the First Friday and the two Lenten devotions on Wednesday and Friday, (7:30), there is little to record except a slow response on the part of the people to become interested in an attempted Study Club, featuring the liturgy and significance of the Mass and a

weekly Holy Hour. Much greater success, has accompanied the establishment of the Apostolate of Prayer. Ninety-eight are enrolled in the Register. Of these 47 have assumed the duties of the 2nd degree (one Our Father and 10 Hail Marys daily) and 7 have promised to offer the Monthly Communion of Reparation of the 3rd degree membership. A praying parish will soon become a paying or self-supporting one. With a little more co-operation the latter goal will soon be achieved.

Quite a few parishioners are likewise interested in reading good Catholic books from their pastor's splendid library.

Confirmation May 4, 1938.	Riverton.	53
Marriages.	1938.	Riverton. 4
Missions given	none recorded.	one contemplated.
Missions started since 1925		none

Pavillion Mission was established prior to 1925 though Mass was reintroduced in October, 1938. One Mass is said on the fourth Sunday of the month and on Christmas and Poor Souls Day. Buildings improved in 1938--Church ^{at Riverton} enlarged and paid for entirely before present encumbency.

Financial Condition: The present struggle is to pay the pastor for some quite meager, mostly second-hand, furniture purchased and to keep up the current expenses,

including several months of unpaid pastor's salary. The present pastor plans card parties and raffles to make up the small deficit. The housekeeper ,as yet, has received no stipulated regular salary. At present only 1/3 of the 90 odd families who go to church more than once a year contribute an appreciable amount to the upkeep of the Church and the rented parish residence. Progress has been slow and intermittent in this regard.

*Rev. Robert F. Kaiser, CPSS
March 28, 1929*