

HISTORY OF ST. ANTHONY CHURCH HARTVILLE, WYOMING 1950-1960

[1] When St. Anthony Church in Hartville, Wyoming, was built, it was a mission of Douglas, Wyoming. The Franciscan Fathers took charge of it. The first resident priest at St. Anthony Church in Hartville was Father Charles Zengel, O.F.M.Conv. He was succeeded by Father Boniface Bianco, O.F.M.Conv.

In July 1955 the Most Rev. Bishop Hubert M. Newell instituted a parish with St. Anthony church at Hartville as the parish church. The first pastor being appointed to the new parish was Father Bart Svete, then working in the Diocese of Cheyenne, who began his service to the new parish on July 6, 1955. The new parish has as its Mission Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Glendo, Wyoming. St. Anthony parish extends over half of Platte County.

The Hall acquired just before the coming of a new pastor had to be rebuilt. In August 1955 the work on the Hall began and an addition was built containing a kitchen, a store room and two rest rooms. A new heating system was installed and the Altar and Rosary Society equipped the kitchen with enough dishes to serve 150 people, stove, hot water heater, refrigerator, and other necessary items. One hundred fifty folding chairs and fifteen folding tables were purchased. Later on other improvements were made on the interior so that the parish Hall is really a valuable and attractive addition to the church. Since the completion of St. Anthony parish Hall it has been used for dinners, K of C meetings, Altar Society meetings, Catholic Youth Council meetings, wedding showers and receptions, but especially for teaching Religion Classes and Sisters' Summer School.

In the Spring of 1956 the parish Hall was completed, and three weeks later the plans began to shape for the new Rectory. Excavations were

made for a full basement and upon it a frame house was erected. The Rectory was completed in the Fall of 1956 and dedicated by the Most Rev. Bishop Newell. [2] Finally the priest was able to move from the little apartment behind the altar into the spacious new Rectory.

The apartment behind the altar being empty, plans were made for the remodeling of the church. In February 1957 the work started on the church. The partitions of the apartment were removed and a new, more spacious Sanctuary was built. This gave room for six new pews in the front. A new Altar and above it a beautiful crucifix were installed. A new Sacristy was built on the left and a cry room and rest room on the right. A new Communion rail was installed and the entire floor in the Sanctuary was covered with a beautiful carpet. The whole interior of the church was replastered and painted. Today the church is really beautiful in all its simplicity. In the Fall of 1957 the remodeling of the church was completed and the Most Rev. Bishop Newell rededicated it in an impressive ceremony.

The work at St. Anthony being finished, the building program moved to the Mission church of Our Lady of Lourdes in Glendo, Wyoming. There the old pews were replaced with new ones, storm windows were installed, new candlesticks were purchased and new furnace was installed.

There the old church was already connected to the new one and it served as a small Hall. Since the activities of the Altar Society expanded, it was necessary to tear the old building down and in its place a new, larger Hall was built equipped with kitchen, store room, two rest rooms and the priest's room. The kitchen was equipped with an electric stove, refrigerator and hot water heater. The work started in the Spring of 1958 and was completed in October of the same year. Most Rev. Bishop Newell dedicated the Hall in the presence of several priests and a large number of Catholic and non-Catholic people of Glendo.

[3] The building program was thus accomplished in three years. The Bishop's Fund Campaign and the Parish Support Appeal provided the parish with necessary funds for the work that had to be done. The parishioners also helped with their labor in order to reduce the expense.

It should be noted that the Altar and Rosary Societies of the parish and Mission helped to raise funds for the improvements. The High School Youth organized in the Catholic Youth Council is carrying on regularly its activities under the sponsorship and assistance of adult advisors.

Father Bart Svete, Pastor

HISTORY OF ST. ANTHONY CHURCH

Guernsey, Wyoming

1960-1970

After the remodeling of St. Anthony's Hall, and after working over of the house, bought from Continental Oil Company over Lantz Creek, Wyo. 74 miles north of Hartville, brought to Hartville and prepared for a Rectory and after remodeling of the sanctuary in St. Anthony Church, it was felt that St, Anthony parish will live for a long time in peace and contentment. Not so for long.

St, Anthony Church was rather a home made church. Because of the lack of building experience the ground for the foundation was dug to deep and the underground spring began to flood the foundations of the church and started to shift and crack the walls. This process went on for nearly twenty-five years and started to show the damage to the building.

But the main reason for the unrest of the pastor and the parishioners in the Guernsey area were the changes in Sunrise, where the Colorado Fuel] and Iron Corporations mine is located. The houses in Sunrise's Camp were old and hardly fit to live in them during winter, and for that reason families began to move to other neighboring towns in search for better housing conditions. Only a very few families, belonging to St. Anthony parish remained in Sunrise and in Hartville. The company started to burn down the empty houses in Sunrise's camp. Because of this shifting of the number of population the/Catholic families in Guernsey greatly increased.

So then, St. Anthony Church in Hartville found itself away from the main number of its parishioners, living in Guernsey over five miles away. For about twelve years the church's buildings in Hartville were in use, when we finally decided to build a new church in Guernsey with full basement which would serve as a parish Hall.

As early as July 4, 1964 St. Anthony parish purchased in Guernsey almost a block of land to be used as a building site for the new church.

The land was bought from certain John Williams who built for himself a family dwelling on the eastern edge of the property, and which was later on remodeled into the priest's residence, as a Rectory. On March 1969 the contract was awarded to Reiman - Wuerth Co, from Cheyenne, a General Contractors, for \$75,000.00. The Architect Jan Wilking was chosen to make blueprints for the new church. The dimensions of the new building are NS 73'8", EW 37'4" (narrowest) 52'10" (widest). Only the upper structure was under contract, furnace in the basement and two rest rooms. All the rest of the work in the basement was completed during the Summer of 1970. The cost of the furnishing of the church amounted to \$13,720. Authorized loan was obtained from the Diocese of Cheyenne in the amount of \$20,000.00, which will be repaid in five years with 5% of interest.

The final result of the building this attractive church is much easier access to the services for the majority of parishioners many of whom have been traveling to Hartville for the last twenty-five years.

The value of the Catholic Church's property in Guernsey amounted to the following figures: ground and the house which serves now as a Rectory \$13,300.00, church's contract \$75,000.00, furnishing of the church \$13,700.00, and completing of basement which serves as a Hall \$800.00. Total \$102,800.00.

At the present time St. Anthony parish has 85 families and the Mission of Glendo, 19 families.

Guernsey 1990-2000
St. Anthony
Tim Newton, Parish Council President
May 15, 2000

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

Rev. Bernard Bianco — 1988-1992

Rev. Evan Shea — 1992-1994

Rev. William Caspers — June 1994-July 1996

Rev. Robert Cousineau S.J. — July 1996 to Present

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

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

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

The church windows have been replaced with a “modified” stained glass through individual family generosity.

New church lights and chairs obtained in the same manner.

5. Land acquisitions. (Give dates.) NONE

6. Lay Trustees and term of service for each.

Thomas “Bud” Howshar

Marian Janas

Both serve at the Priest’s request

7. Pastor’s overview of the decade.

A lack of continuity makes answering this question very difficult.

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

Annual ice cream social — August

Various breakfasts are held throughout the year.