

Kemmerer, St. Patrick Bishop McGovern

[100] Tradition has it that the first Mass in Kemmerer was said by Rev. Peter Casey in 1898 in Keenan's Hall. He attended Kemmerer as a mission from Evanston for about two years and occasionally held services in the boarding house at Frontier, where a coal mine was opened in 1900.

The Kemmerer Coal Company donated a lot for the erection of a church building in Kemmerer in 1899, and it was in the following year that Fr. Casey began work upon a neat stone church. The cost of the building was \$7,500.00, half of which was collected from the parishioners and the other half was borrowed.

Pioneer Catholic laymen included: P.J. Quealy, vice-president of the Kemmerer Coal Company, Lawrence Quealy, Michael Blake, John Sloan and Jos. Pelligreni.

The Rev. M. Golden was the first resident priest of St. Patrick's parish (1901). Following his administration Kemmerer was attended successively by Rev. R.P. Blanik, O.S.B., (about three months) and by Rev. G. Woldene (about six months). Rev. L.E. Duchesneau took charge in 1903 and was pastor until 1904. He was succeeded by Rev. M.A. Kennedy (1904-05), who paid off a large amount of the debt. His successor [101] was Rev. T.J. Barrett (1905-06), who was pastor of Evanston and attended Kemmerer as a mission.

During this period several mines were opened in the vicinity of Kemmerer to which came a number of Catholics of Slavonic nationality.

The following camps were attended from Kemmerer: Sublet, Elkol, Glencoe, and Cumberland. Rev. George Lavalley took charge of St. Patrick's parish in 1906. During his administration the following improvements were made: a church was erected at Cumberland

(Immaculate Conception) at a cost of \$1,400.00; \$1,150.00 was paid on the church debt; a steam heating plant was installed in St. Patrick's church at a cost of \$230.00, also a new high altar (\$340.00); the inside of the church was painted (\$240.00). St. Patrick's rectory was built at a cost of about \$4,000.00, indebtedness, \$2,500.00.

In 1910, Rev. James A. Duffy was appointed to succeed Fr. Lavalley. He stayed almost a year before he was called back to St. Mary's cathedral, at Cheyenne.

During 1911-1919 Rev. T.D. Lynch was pastor. In that period improvements were made in the church, a bell was installed and the liquidation of the debt was made possible through the generosity of Mr. Jos. Kinney. Fr. Lynch erected a mission church at Sublet (Assumption of Blessed Virgin) at a cost of \$1,000.00 in 1912. In the same year he secured a grant of five [102] acres of land from the city of Kemmerer for a Catholic burying ground (St. Patrick's cemetery). In 1919 Fr. Lynch erected St. Dominic's church in Cokeville at a cost of \$4,000.00. The Altar Society under the direction of Mrs. P.J. Quealy enabled the pastor to make many of the improvements through its financial assistance.

In 1912, his excellency, Bishop McGovern confirmed thirty-one children and one adult; in 1916, fifty-one children and five adults; in May, 1920, one hundred and three children; in October, 1926, fifty-five children; in May, 1931, sixty-six children.

Rev. Gerard Schellinger took charge of the parish, December 15, 1919. During his pastorate a choir loft was built at a cost of \$380.00, and new windows were installed in the church. There was a debt of about \$1,000.00 on the parish when Fr. Schellinger took charge. The members of the Altar Society held a bazaar which netted \$900.00. In August, 1920, the note of \$1,000.00 was paid in full. In January, 1921, Fr. Schellinger was transferred to the charge of St. Joseph's parish in Rawlins.

To replace him came Rev. William J. Short. During Fr. Short's pastorate many improvements were carried out. The Catholic Church Extension Society donated the sum of \$500.00 for repair work to be done on the Cumberland church. The Union Pacific Coal [103] Company had the outside of the church painted. The sum of \$2,272.82 was paid to Mr. Dominic Etcheverry, Cokeville, who had assumed that debt for the new church at Cokeville.

Rev. P.P. Szymanski succeeded Fr. Short, who was transferred February 6, 1923, to the charge of St. Margaret's church at Riverton. During Fr. Szymanski's tenure the outside of the rectory wets painted. In February, 1924, the board of trustees had under consideration the improvement of the church property and the erection of a parish hall for the needs of the parish. The parish did not manifest sufficient interest in the matter and no further action was taken.

Fr. Szymanski was transferred to the charge of Kleenburn and missions, near Sheridan, July 9, 1924. Fr. Short returned to Kemmerer for his second pastorate. He immediately began work on much needed improvements on the church property. In August, 1924, a new boiler was purchased at a cost of \$623.00 to take care of the heating of the church and rectory. Mr. J. Thomas Hall, master mechanic with the Kemmerer Coal Co., donated his time in fitting up the boiler. In October, 1924, a new sewer, lavatory and toilet were constructed in the church basement at a cost of \$319.00.

In February, 1925, a new roof was put on the church and the interior decorated. The church tower was strengthened and all stone work pointed. The cost [104] of these improvements amounted to \$1,200.00. A new communion-rail was purchased, the donor being Mrs. Mary Byers. In 1926, channel and curbing on the north and east sides of the property were installed.

In the spring of 1927, many improvements were carried out in St. Patrick's cemetery. The water supply to the cemetery was furnished through wooden pipes, which caused considerable waste. To remedy this condition several hundred feet of new galvanized iron pipe was laid at a cost of \$200.00. A building for tools and equipment, including two toilets, was erected at a cost of \$170.00. The driveways in the cemetery were improved, and the grounds were planted with trees and shrubs. A caretaker is in charge of the cemetery during the summer months.

In April, 1929, Mr. Patrick J. Quealy donated the sum of \$1,000.00 to be applied on the purchase of two lots, Nos. 1 and 2, in block 43, located at the corner of Sapphire street and Sage avenue in the town of Kemmerer. May 18th, these lots were purchased by St. Patrick's church corporation for \$2,000.00.

June 24, 1929, Mr. Michael Maley, of Sublet, passed to his eternal reward. He was an old-timer and veteran of the Indian wars. A requiem high Mass was celebrated for the repose of his soul on June 27th, and his mortal remains were interred in the Knights of Columbus plot, St. Patrick's cemetery. Mr. Maley left his [105] estate of \$1,700.00 to St. Patrick's church. The administrator of the estate presented a beautiful chalice to the church in memory of the deceased.

In December, 1929, the church property was further improved by the building of a retaining wall on the south boundary of the property. The cost of this improvement was borne jointly by the school board of district No. 1, and the church. In April, 1930, a new oak floor was laid in the sanctuary and the wall behind the altar was replastered and decorated. These improvements cost \$350.00.

In the spring of 1930, the Union Pacific Coal Company closed the mines at Cumberland, and moved the people to Rock Springs and Superior. The mission was closed and the building sold to the Lincoln Planing

Mill and Lumber Company for \$100.00. The amount received was donated to St. Joseph's orphanage, Torrington.

November 17, 1930, Patrick J. Quealy, faithful friend of St. Patrick's church, passed to his eternal reward. Throughout his life he had been a generous contributor to the church and parish. A solemn requiem high Mass was celebrated in St. Patrick's church, November 20th, for the repose of his soul. Most Rev. Patrick A. McGovern, D.D., preached the funeral sermon and gave the final absolution. The mortal remains of Mr. Quealy were interred in the family plot in St. Patrick's cemetery.

[106] Fr. Short was changed to Rawlins July 1, 1933. Fr. Short was born in Ireland, June 15, 1882. He received his early education in the national schools of his native land, and made his higher studies at Mount Melleray seminary, Cappoquin, Waterford, Ireland, and St. Patrick's college, Carlow, Ireland. He was ordained a priest for the diocese of Cheyenne by the Most Rev. Patrick Finegan, D.D., bishop of Kilmore, Cavan.

Rev. John McDevitt, J.C.D., succeeded Fr. Short as pastor. He also attended the mission church at Cokeville regularly and in 1934, through the aid of the Catholic Church Extension Society of Chicago, he erected St. Anne's church at Big Piney.

Fr. McDevitt said goodbye to Kemmerer February 24, 1935. Temporarily the parish was cared for by Rev. Jerome H. Denk and Rev. A.C. Riester, S.J., until May 12, 1935, when Rev. Gerard Schellinger arrived to take over the parish for the second time.

Rev. Paul Hellrung came September 8, 1935, in the capacity of assistant pastor. He was succeeded in like capacity by Rev. Walter Nicholson, Rev. Joseph Aubuchon and Rev. John Ziman.

May 17, 1936, a class of eighty-five made their first holy communion and a week later, May 24, one hundred and sixty-five were confirmed by the Most Rev. Patrick A. McGovern, D.D.

[107] A \$1,300.00 Hammond electric organ was installed in the church during the year, 1936, and the following year the entire interior of the church was remodeled at a cost of \$3,500.00. At the solicitation of Bishop McGovern, Fr. Schellinger began to lay plans to open up the Jackson Hole country as a mission of St. Patrick's parish. For many years requests had been made for mission services by the scattered Catholics in that section, both to the bishop of the diocese and also to the local pastors at Kemmerer. In the February, 1936, issue of the Catholic Extension magazine an article appeared in which the religious needs of that large section were brought to the attention of American Catholics at large. As a result of this article a donation of \$5,000.00 was made by the Rev. M.K. Merns, of Troy, N. Y., for the purpose of erecting a church building in the town of Jackson, with a stipulation that it be dedicated under the title of Our Lady of the Tetons. In the summer of 1936, this building of log siding was erected on a most appropriate site in Jackson. On Labor Day of the same year, Fr. Schellinger dedicated the new church, and Rev. S.A. Welsh of Rock Springs gave the dedication sermon.

In 1937, another donation of \$1,500.00 was offered by the Catholic Church Extension Society for the erection of a chapel at Moran, which is located some thirty miles north of Jackson, in Teton county. [108] The chapel was built entirely of logs with the same attractive rustic appearance as the Jackson church. It is located on the shore of Lake Jackson. The chapel, which, in accordance with instructions from the Catholic Church Extension Society, is known as chapel of the Sacred Heart was dedicated on the feast of the Assumption, August 15, 1937, by the Right Rev. Monsignor Duane Hunt, of Salt Lake City, who also preached the sermon for the occasion. Hundreds of tourists visit this beautiful spot during the summer months.

At present there are no debts on any of the churches. There were thirty-nine baptisms and fifteen marriages in the entire parish during 1938.

Early in January, 1940, Rev. John J. O'Connor was made pastor of Kemmerer, with Rev. John Ziman continuing as assistant.

**CONTINUATION OF THE HISTORY OF ST. PATRICK'S
PARISH
KEMMERER, WYOMING
1940 -- 1950**

The Rev. Vincent McCartan, C.S.S.R., of Denver, conducted a well-attended mission in September 1940 for Kemmerer and missions. Bishop McGovern confirmed a class of 70 on May 12, 1941. A concrete sidewalk was laid along the east side of Jackson property in June.

Father Cyril Hmelovsky was appointed assistant in January 1942. In June of that year, the Quealy coal mine closed. The exterior of the rectory was painted in July.

Father Eustace Eilers, C.P., Sierra Madre, California, gave a mission in Kemmerer in March 1944, and in the missions in October. A class of 69 was confirmed by Bishop McGovern on May 25. The Cokeville church roof was re-shingled in September of that year.

Father William J. McCormick arrived in April 1945, as assistant.

The records for 1946 show the installation of a new furnace and the building of a new chimney in St. Patrick's Church, Kemmerer. The Gomer mine closed in August. The Kemmerer City Council furnishes free transportation to churches for an indefinite period.

In March 1948, Father Reynolds, Paulist, Utah, gave a very successful mission in Kemmerer. Bishop Newell, coadjutor Bishop of Cheyenne, confirmed a class of 65 in Kemmerer on May 20. On the following day, 13 were confirmed in Big Piney, and on July 18, confirmation was administered for the first time to a class of 11 in Jackson. During that year, the Church steeple in Kemmerer was repaired and the rectory re-shingled. The Cokeville church was repainted inside and out, and also the interior of the Big Piney church. Father James Godley was appointed

assistant in October 1948, and the Rev. Charles A. Bartek replaced him in November 1949.

A new sidewalk was laid around the Kemmerer Church in 1950, and Sage Street on the east side of the church property was included in a city paving district. The church in Jackson was re-shingled and the belfry repaired. New doors were installed and a supply of log oil was purchased for the treatment of the Jackson and Moran churches. The Elkol mine was closed, and strip mining of the same 96-foot vein was begun in the fall. Strip mining means that few men do the work of many in mass production. Now there remains but one regular mine in the district which operates at Brilliant just two and sometimes three days a week. Gone are North and South Cumberland, Sublet, ***Oakley, Frontier, Susie, Gomer, Glencoe, Conroy and Elkol. The decline in coal production has had a depressing effect on the community in recent years. The Chamber of Commerce has endeavored to attract outside interest, but to date has had little success.

/s/ John J. O'Connor

**CONTINUATION OF THE HISTORY OF ST. PARTICK'S
PARISH
KEMMERER, WYOMING
1950 -- 1960**

1951 The Parish Fatima Rosary on Saturdays, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, is begun on January 27.

May 6 thru 22 - Mission in Kemmerer, Cokeville, Big Piney.

June 1 - The Rev. C. A. Bartek transferred to Laramie. The Rev. John J. Corrigan was transferred to Kemmerer.

1952 Summer School for the children of the Parish is begun by Sisters Angela and Gregory of Rock Springs.

May 26 - Confirmation administered by Bishop Newell to 41 in Kemmerer, 4 in Cokeville, 7 in Big Piney, and 8 in Jackson.

1953 March 8 - Evening Mass was celebrated for the first time.

“Secundum.”

Apostolic Constitution “Christus Dominus.”

May 30 - Ordination in Kemmerer of its first native son for the Diocese of Cheyenne--The Rev. Charles Taylor.

Oct. 2 - The Big Piney Mission becomes part of the new Pinedale Parish with the Rev. Charles A. Bartek as the first Pastor. Father Corrigan was transferred to Evanston as Pastor. Father Michael Scullion transferred to Kemmerer.

1954 July 31 - Father Scullion to Register. Father Moroney sent to Kemmerer.

Oct. 2 - Father Moroney sent to Casper, and Father James O’Neill came to Kemmerer.

1955 Jan. 21 - Father James Doudican succeeds Father O’Neill.

May 13 - The Jackson Mission acquires the status of a Parish effective

July 8, with the Rev. James Doudican as the first Pastor. The Rev. P. J. McGovern succeeds Fr. Doudican at Kemmerer.

1957Sept. 6 - Father McGovern went to Powell, and Father T. O'Flannigan came to Kemmerer.

1958Mr. 4 - Bishop Newell confirmed 43.

Mar. 9 - Mission conducted by Paulist Fr. Whitley.

July - Improvements at value of \$3,000 made in Cokeville Church.

1959Feb. 15 - Catechists Sisters, Charlotte, Theodora, and Mary Charles of Green River, Wyoming, began 3-day a week instruction classes in Kemmerer and are housed in a new house trailer.

June 14 - Fr. O'Flannigan went to Thermopolis and Fr. Eugene O'Sullivan was transferred to Kemmerer.

Oct. 1 - Fr. Sullivan was sent to Rawlins and Fr. John Farren came to Kemmerer.

1960Feb. 8 - Food and Machinery Corporation begins construction of Pilot Charcoal Plant.

April 24 - Dial phone goes into operation.

Kemmerer 1960-1970

1960

July 15 - The parish buys Lot 10, Block 39, from School District No. 2 at a price of \$8000.00.

August 16 - Dedication of Outdoor Shrine in Cokeville in honor of the Blessed Mother.

1961

Jan - A new vestment cabinet was built by Gus Maninfior for the Cokeville Church.

Apr. 16 to 23 - Parish Mission was conducted by the Rev. John Donelon, C.S.P.

Apr. 19 - The Most Rev. David M. Maloney, D.D., Denver, confirmed 92 children and adults.

April - Utah Power and Light Co. began construction of steam generating plant.

Aug. 25 - The Rev. John Farren is transferred to Saratoga as Pastor, and is succeeded by the Rev. Philip Colibraro as Assistant Pastor in Kemmerer.

Aug. 27 - St. Thomas' Seminarians, Denver, all subdeacons, sing a High Mass with William Gianola as Director.

1962

Mar. 22 - Fr. Colibraro is transferred to Pine Bluffs, and Kemmerer Parish is now operating without an Assistant.

May 25 - Ordination of Rev. William Gianola in Kemmerer by Bishop Newell.

May 27 - Father Gianola sings his first Solemn Mass.

1963

Mar. 24 to 31 - The Rev. Joseph N. Pohl conducts a Mission.

May - Proceeds of Quealy Sale Project donated to the Church. The sale was in connection with the demolishing of the old home.

1964

April 13 - The Brilliant No. 8 coal mine, the last of the underground operations, was closed, idling 53 men.

April 22 - Bishop Newell confirmed 67 children and adults.

Dec. 9 - The Pastor is appointed a Monsignor.

1965

Feb. 7 - His Excellency Bishop Newell Invests the Monsignor.

Aug. 21 - The Utah Power and Light Co. announces the construction of the second unit at a cost of \$30,500,000.

Oct. 29 - The Parish purchases approximately 5 acres in Ranger Heights from Mr. and Mrs. Emil Zebre at a price of \$12,000.

1967

Apr. 16 - Bishop Newell confirms 55 children and adults.

Oct. 8 to 14 - The Rev. Edward G. Luis, S.V.D., conducts a Mission.

Oct. 17 - John R. Whiston, an exemplary Catholic gentleman and long time Trustee of the Church, was buried from St. Patrick's. The Parish mourns his loss and prays for his eternal repose.

1969

Jan. - Mrs. Barbara Mau donated a set of two candlesticks and crucifix to the Cokeville Church.

Dedication of church, August 11, 1974

Kemmerer 1970-1980
Reverend Thomas Cleary
Kemmerer St. Patrick Church
Cokeville St. Dominic Church

The parish history for St. Patrick's Church of Kemmerer, and St. Dominic's Church of Cokeville, for the years 1970 - 1980 follows:

As the 1960's came to a close, it was increasingly evident that a new Church was needed in the Parish. Land had already been purchased in 1965 in Diamondville for this purpose, and parish funds were being carefully accumulated by Msgr. O'Connor. But many of the people were opposed to removing the Church from its old location. It became necessary to remind the people that there was not enough space for a Church of the size contemplated and have space for parking as well. As many of the people were very set in their ways, this became a real selling job. In 1970, another project came up; the maintenance of the section of the Cemetery that had been set-aside as a parish burial ground. An arrangement was worked out with the City whereby they took over all the maintenance work in the Cemetery and what had been known as "St. Patrick's Cemetery" was incorporated into the "Kemmerer Cemetery District," thus relieving the parish of quite a burden.

With his age now becoming a factor, Msgr. O'Connor retired in September 1972, and Fr. Charles A. Bartek became the new pastor. From his advent into the parish, Fr. Bartek's objective was the building of a complex that would be adequate for many years to come. The complex was to contain a Church, hall, rectory, and basement to the hall that would be divided into six classrooms for C.C.D. and other parish affairs. He immediately took a census of the parish, established a parish council and a building committee. An outline of the parish project was presented to the parishioners in February 1973. The people were given four months to digest the plan, and then in July of 1973, a parish drive for funds was held and with the promising results from this, plus the savings

already at hand, and with the prospect of reaping a good return on the sale of the old property, it was decided to go ahead with the building of the new complex in Diamondville.

Kellogg and Kellogg of Rock Springs were retained as Architects for the new building complex, and when the final plans were approved by the Bishop and the Diocesan Building Committee, the project was let out for bids. The firm of Bancroft Construction, Inc., of Jackson, was awarded the contract with a bid of \$378,599.92. In November 1973, ground was broken and the building of the new Church, hall, C.C.D. rooms, and rectory was underway. For so large a project, the building process progressed rapidly for the whole complex was ready for dedication in August 1974.

On August 11, 1974, the great day for the Pastor and parishioners arrived--the dedication day of the new Church and other buildings. At 5:00 p.m., the Solemn Mass of dedication began with Bishop Newell as the main celebrant, with many of the Diocesan priests present. The two chief assistants to the Bishop were Fathers Taylor and Gianola, both from the parish along with Pastor Father Bartek. After the dedication ceremonies and Mass, the dedication banquet was held in the all-purpose room of the Kemmerer Junior High School. A project had been completed in record time, and the people had every reason to be proud of their accomplishment. They were happy with their new facilities, and their loyalty began to show in the increased financial help they began to give. They now had a Church they could really point to with pride, in a commanding location, beautifully furnished with ample space for parish events in the hall and the classrooms, with a well appointed rectory, and plenty of parking space which is so necessary anymore.

There was still the old original property to be disposed of and in November 1974, a bid of \$65,000 by Mr. and Mrs. Everett Cassidy was accepted. Applying this to the debt, there was still \$105,000 to be paid.

Slowly but surely, this was whittled away, until in the spring of 1980, the property became debt free.

In August 1976, Fr. Bartek was transferred to the Jackson parish, and he took over administration of the whole Jackson Hole area, including the Afton area, which had been attached to the Kemmerer parish a few years earlier.

Fr. Gerald Chleborad was the new Pastor who also set about reducing the debt, but also was planning for the landscaping and the beautification of the property. Before he had the opportunity to accomplish much, Msgr. Ruddy died and, in the changes that took place afterward, he was transferred to St. Margaret's in Riverton. It was during his pastorate that the former Pastor of so many years, Msgr. O'Connor, died on August 6, 1978, and the remains were brought back to Kemmerer for funeral services.

In the first week of September 1978, Fr. Cleary, the present pastor came to replace Fr. Chleborad. There was still a \$35,000 debt on the parish and that was his main objective--to wipe that off the books. The last payment on loans was made in the spring of 1980, and the parish is now free of debt. There are many other things now to be taken care of, and at the present time, we have remodeled the kitchen in the hall, and are remodeling the hall itself and putting in an entrance from the parking lot. Other things need to be done, too, but we are putting them on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Because of the impact of a changing population, the parishioners come and go at a rapid rate. In the two-year period that I have been here, many Catholics have come and gone, but still the parish is slowly growing and the prospects are good.

Cokeville--In the 1970's, Cokeville just about faded out of the picture as far as Catholic population was concerned. It is a Mission of the

Kemmerer parish, and the attendance grew so small and erratic that for awhile it was dropped altogether. There are six families out there now, and they attend Mass every third Sunday of the month faithfully. That is when Mass is scheduled out there. All the materials that they need are supplied them for C.C.D. and they have it set up themselves, and they are doing well with it. It is hard to say what the impact will do as far as Cokeville is concerned, because it is not on the main belt but with the discovery of so many things that are needed, it may develop.

Kemmerer 1990-2000
St. Patrick's
Rev. John Murray
June 2000

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

1998 Rev. Charles Taylor

1998-2000 Rev. John Murray

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

Caroline Nicholls was named Business Woman of the Year.

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

2000--Participation in monthly ecumenical prayer meeting in January

2000--Hosted Seder meal in the spring

2000--Ecumenical outdoor sunrise service, Easter

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

1998-----St. Dominic's Cokeville--sided--church bell reattached
(rope)

2000-----Outdoor statue moved for easier access

1999-2000---Trees and shrubs planted

5. Land acquisitions. (Give dates.)

6. Lay Trustees and term of service for each.

1996--RSP--2000 Nancy Peternal

1973--RSP--1999 Art Piz

1999----- Felix Abriani

7. Pastor's overview of the decade.

Numerical and spiritual growth

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

1999--Knights of Columbus reactivated

1999--Ecumenical Thanksgiving service

1999--Retreat

2000--Retreat

2000--100 year anniversary celebration of building the old church

2000--40 year anniversary of pastor, John Murray

2000--Hosted Rock Springs Deanery Meeting

Pictures of former priests and tapestry of former priests' names placed at back of church

Pictures of old church (1900) exterior and interior and of the Mission Church, St. Dominic's, hung in parish hall.

Kemmerer 1990-2000 Account

Small groups busied themselves in liturgical and study activities which resulted in an increased sense of community which is very much alive at St. Patrick's today. When Father Sullivan was in Kemmerer he began going to Cokeville one week and to LaBarge the next week to hold Mass at the LaBarge Community Center

While Father Sullivan was in Kemmerer a Mission was held here by a Father Roberts and he spoke of the apparitions in Medjugorje that had started in 1981. A parishioner organized a group tour to Medjugorje after the mission and in 1988 a group of 30 people from Kemmerer, Cokeville and Evanston went on the trip. She organized another group of about 10 people in 1990 and several other parishioners have since gone on their own.

Father Bill Espenshade replaced Father Sullivan in June of 1989 and was with us until 1993. He was instrumental in getting the statue of Mary erected in the church yard. A sum of money had been left by a parishioner and that, along with donations from members of the

congregation, provided enough to erect the statue. It is hoped that a grotto can be added in the near future.

One of the latest additions to St. Patrick's Church is a bell tower that was completed in 1989. It houses a bell that was purchased in 1912 and was originally installed in the old stone church. The erection of the tower completed the original plans for the church that were drawn up 14 years earlier.

Father Bill started Monday night soup and videos during Advent and Lent. This became a popular activity for many and is still carried on.

In the fall of 1993 Father Charles Taylor returned to our parish and his home town. He was with us for five years. Father Taylor considered it an honor and a rare privilege to be Pastor in the place he grew up - especially having classmates and friends as parishioners. Father Taylor arrived at St. Patrick's on September 1, 1993. During his tenure he initiated the Jesse tree, Wednesday night adoration (praying for vocations), Sunday evening Mass during the summers, and two daily Masses (morning and evening) during Lent. He made EWTN available to the parish. Father, being well-read, shared his theological background with his parishioners and he is warmly remembered for giving parishioners a golden rose on Laetare Sunday (4th Sunday in Lent). Also, during Father's stay the Monstrance and Chalice were replated. Father Taylor moved on to St. John the Baptist parish in Buffalo, Wyoming, on May 14, 1998.

When Father Taylor left us Father John Murray arrived in 1998. We are not only celebrating 100 years of Saint Patrick's in Kemmerer but Father Murray's fortieth anniversary to the priesthood. Father has only been with us a short time, but during that time a pro-school CCD class and a ecumenical prayer group has been started. A group of parishioners formed a landscaping committee and with backing from the parish have

started to plant trees around the parameters of the parking lot and church - a beautiful improvement.

We have been blessed with the many good men who have served us in the priest-hood, All have had their own special gifts to bring and we have learned much from each and everyone of them.

Saint Patrick's parish had developed a strong CYO during the 1980s and 90s. One of the highlights of our parish occurred in 1993 when a bus load of our young people and their sponsors make a trip to Denver for World Youth Day. Seeing Pope John Paul H was a real spiritual and learning experience that will never be forgotten by those who went on the trip.

During this time the Living Stations began to be preformed every Good Friday by CYO members and has become an important part of Holy Week, not only for members of our parish, but for many in the community of different faiths.

Our parish has certainly been blessed with strong leadership in this important challenge of directing our youth.