

## **Saratoga 1957-1960**

In March, 1957, dreams of a new St. Ann's church began to become a reality with the beginning of construction by the Lane Company of Casper, Wyoming. The indefatigable efforts of Mr. John Glode in overseeing the work day by day were typical of the zeal of many of the Catholic people of Saratoga. Then, in June, 1957, the first resident pastor after many years, was appointed to assume responsibility here. He was, the Rev. Herbert Kraus, formerly pastor of Monarch and then Ranchester, Wyoming since 1949.

In December of 1957 the church was completed and dedicated by His Excellency, the Most Rev. Hubert M. Newell, on Sunday, December 8, followed by an afternoon Mass at 4:30. There were about 200 people of the area attending the ceremonies. The Catholic people of Saratoga, and their Church, took on a new stature in the Saratoga and Encampment Valley.

For the ceremonies of the dedication very little of the Church was furnished. The Altar was built by one of the carpenters with funds donated in memory of Mary Healey, a long time devoted Catholic lady of the parish. The old pews were pressed into service for the occasion, and the rest of the church was filled with chairs from every part of town.

Besides that, the parish had to borrow \$13,000.00 for three years at 3 1/2% interest in order to pay the contractor for his work. The total contract price was \$35,500.00, but that did not include the cost of the plumbing, heating, or electrical installations. The Catholic Church Extension Society gave \$10,000.00 toward the building of this Church, the diocese gave \$5000.00, and the old church was sold in February, 1958, to Mr. John Blom, of Saratoga, Wyoming, for \$2500.00. In December, 1959, Mr. and Mrs. David R. Caldwell, of Houston, Texas, and the Uline Ranch of Saratoga, gave the Church 167 shares of Union

Pacific Railroad Common Stock, valued at that time at \$30.00 a share, to the Church to pay off the final \$5,000.00 of the debt.

The first Baptisms in the new Church took place on Dec. 13, 1957, when William Nelson Payne and Estella Marie Smith were baptized by the new Pastor. Then in March of 1958, His Excellency, Bishop Newell, returned to Saratoga to confirm the first group in new St. Ann's. There were 13 teen-agers, and 4 adults in that class.

In July, the parish was deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Mr. Joseph Angus Campbell, a long time resident and stock grower of this area, who was one of the staunch and faithful Catholic men of the parish. He was the first person to have the full honors of Christian burial in the new St. Ann's Church, and his funeral was attended by many from far and wide, a testimonial to the sterling character of the man who during his life time had been very generous toward his Church. At the time of his funeral, again there were no pews in the Church, and in memory of him, many of the men of the parish called a meeting that same afternoon and pledged \$3,000.00 to make up the difference needed with what was in the treasury earmarked for pews, and ordered the necessary furnishings for the new Church.

Meanwhile, another former parishioner, Mrs. Thomas Davidson, the mother of four small boys, was using her every spare moment to carve out of wood the stations of the cross now hanging in the Church. These were her labor of love for the Lord's house.

In May of that same year Mrs. Grace Kuntzman became the first convert to the new parish. The first wedding in the new St. Ann's took place in September, 1958. Mr. E.J. Olonovich, stationed at the Encampment Air Force base, married Mary Lou Moore, of Saratoga.

In order to help raise the necessary funds to continue the work of the parish, the pastor was granted permission to beg funds through the

Propagation of the Faith in the diocese of Wichita, Kansas. There, in July 1959, the people of several parishes contributed very nearly \$1500.00. This is earmarked for a new rectory. Since coming to the parish, the pastor first lived for a few months with the pastor of St. Joseph's in Rawlins. Then, in October of 1957, he moved into a two-room suite at the Gould motel. In January, Mr. & Mrs. Mihelich allowed the pastor to move into their home for 5 months while they would be out of town. On their return, he had to find other quarters, and rented a 3-room apartment, which he still occupies at this writing. However, plans are underway for a new rectory to be built on the grounds next to the new Church.

As of June 1, 1960, there are 89 practical Catholic people in the parish. There will be 23 children in the catechism classes to be conducted next week by the Sisters for the summer vacation school.

Mention must be made of many special gifts to St. Ann's Church during the past three or four years. First of all, tribute must be paid to Mr. Shively and Mr. Joe Munz for their unflinching devotion to this parish during all the lean years when Mass was held but once a month, and for all their courtesies, contributions, and generally long hours of patient planning to see the day that they would have their own priest for their spiritual needs. Then, mention must be made of the underwriting of the cost of the plumbing and heating of the new Church, entirely by Mr. & Mrs. Shively. The generosity of Mr. James Chapman of Rawlins, in paying for the electrical installations and the time and effort of Mr. Faye Cully for his work on the Church. Then, Mr. Mark Doherty deserves a word of thanks and gratitude for his work of filling and leveling the lots with dirt and covering them with gravel. Mr. Elbert Cooper deserves special mention for his work, even though not a member of the parish, he did his work gratis. Many out of town friends of St. Ann's have contributed handsomely towards a new set of vestments: Mr. Victor Gallagher of Evansville, Indiana, and Mr. E.F. Deline of Denver, Colorado, Mrs. Julia Pickup and Mrs. Mary Grooman of Florida and

Illinois, too, have contributed regularly towards the new organ soon to be purchased for St. Ann's. These, and all our benefactors, share in a special Mass offered for their spiritual and temporal welfare each Sunday of the year. May God Bless them and all who Made St. Ann's a reality.

[signed] Rev. Herbert Kraus

June 1, 1960

**History of the Parish**  
**SARATOGA, WYOMING**  
**1960-1970**

Prelude. St. Ann's Church, built in 1957, was constructed under the supervision of Father John Meyer, Pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Rawlins, and ably assisted by John Glode of Saratoga who worked feverishly acquiring funds by calling on many townspeople collecting pledges. By the time of Farther Kraus' arrival, the church was completed except for the furnishings.

Under the guiding hand of its Pastor, Father Herbert Kraus, St. Ann's parish continued making strides to become a full-fledged parish with the construction of its first rectory in 1961. A beautiful and practical one-level home, it has two bedrooms, kitchen, dining room, living room with full fireplace, bath and garage. Off the kitchen is the housekeeper's quarters, which has been used as another spare bedroom. Landscaping added to the surroundings with a lawn and many pine trees. An underground sprinkling system would be later added. A large backyard was enclosed with a 7 foot fence and gives privacy for anyone desiring it. The parish house was designed by Kenneth Wilcox and built at a cost of \$20,800.00. A loan was made from the Diocese of Cheyenne of \$10,000.00. \$3,800.00 was on hand with \$7,000.00 in pledges. John Glode helped supervise its construction and donated the heating system and labor. The living room furniture was donated by Mrs. Dottie Ferguson of the Saratoga Inn.

A word of gratitude would not be enough for the work of Father Kraus in building the new rectory and furnishing the new church with pews, etc. He was the first resident Pastor of St. Ann's coming in 1957 from Ranchester, Wyo. At his departure the Church debt was liquidated by a donation of \$5,000.00 from Mrs. David (Esther) Caldwell in January 1959. A debt of \$10,000.00 to the diocese remained for payment on the rectory.

Father Sean Farren assumed the new pastoral duties in the Fall of 1961.

In the interim, Father Gilbert Callahan of Laramie was temporary administrator.

In 1957 a large crucifix was purchased in memory of Jack Shively, son of Mr. & Mrs. E.J. Shively of Saratoga, who died in World War II. Placed above the altar of the Church, the hand-carved corpus made in Oberammergau, Germany, is most impressive and adds immensely to the interior of the Church. Mr. & Mrs. Ed Shively are long time residents of Saratoga and surely rank as the pillars of the Church in Platte Valley. The local airfield was also named after Jack Shively who lost his life as an air pilot.

Trustees of the parish during this time were Ed Shively and Joe Munz. On March 3, 1965 the parish was saddened by the death of Joe Munz, a faithful parishioner and friend of many in Platte Valley. John Glode succeeded Joe as Trustee in Sept. of 1965.

In this ten-year period the parish was blessed with 81 infant and 32 adult Baptisms. Also, from 1960 to 1970 there were 39 marriages, 85 First Communicants, 80 Confirmations and 16 burials.

In 1962 Father Farren began serving the families in Hanna, a community 40 miles north and east of Saratoga on old Highway #30. This mission, previously served by St. Joseph's, Rawlins is a coal mining community along the Union Pacific R.R. It has a beautiful little frame church and is situated on the western edge of Hanna. The church is adequate to take care of the families in and around Hanna including the community of Elk Mountain. (Among the many families who have given long and devoted service to the church there are Mr. & Mrs. Ed McAtee, Sr, Mrs. Ward Fenimore, Mrs. Joe Evans, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Jackson, Mr. & Mrs. Ted Moffitt and many, many more, too numerous to mention.[Writer's note: Since this list is not all-inclusive, I better omit it.]) A boom in the

later part of this decade indicates that many more families will be moving into Hanna to work in the coalfields.

Father Farren also traveled to Medicine Bow in 1966. This mission Church, St. Malachy's, is 20 miles east of Hanna on Highway #30. Because of a lack of Catholic families in that area Father closed the church in 1968. (Again, because of the new coal boom in Hanna this church would be reopened in 1972).

After installing a Radar network at Encampment, Wyo. in 1961, the local Pastor also served that community and Mass was offered in the Air Force Recreation Hall. This town is 20 miles south of Saratoga. Mass was available to the few Catholics there every week.

Father Farren also assisted the priests in Colorado by taking care of the mission of Walden, Colo. in 1969. A salary was paid him by the parish of Kremmling, Colo. He also served the people in Jeffrey City, Wyo. in 1964 by offering Mass there during the week. This uranium mining community belongs to the parish in Lander and they subsidized St. Ann for these trips.

A parish hall was purchased in 1962 for \$10,000.00 by Father Farren. This building, the former Roy Peck residence, is situated on the east corner of the block from the Church. Members of the parish volunteered their time and money to paint and renovate the structure so it could be used as a CCD Center as well as a hall for parish activities. The sum of \$6,000.00 was borrowed from Sacred Heart Church, Greybull, and \$4,000.00 from St. Leo's parish, Lusk. The \$4,000.00 debt was paid to Lusk by 1970. At the close of 1969 the parish debt was \$16,000.00, \$10,000.00 to the Diocese and the balance to Greybull.

Father Farren was still Pastor of St. Ann's at the close of this decade.

[Signature} Rev. Eugene Sullivan

Jan. 20, 1973

## **St. Ann Church**

### **The parish history for St. Ann's Parish in Saratoga, Wyoming, for the years 1970 - 1980 follows:**

1970: In September, Fr. Sean Farren left Saratoga as Pastor and went to pursue his studies in California. Father Averill took his place until the Bishop could appoint a new Pastor.

1971: At the regular Trustees meeting in January, the two trustees were John Glode and Ed Shively. Fr. Gene Sullivan was the new Pastor. In July of 1971, Ed Shively died by drowning, and at a special meeting of the Corporation in September of that year, Bill Bartlett was elected to succeed him. At this time, St. Ann's owed \$6,000 to Sacred Heart, Greybull. Fr. Sullivan and the trustees agreed that a serious effort should be made, not only to pay the interest, but also to reduce this debt. Present also at this meeting was a Captain Grey, U.S.A.F, who wished Fr. Sullivan to start saying Mass in the Episcopalian Church in Encampment for the U.S.A.F. personnel stationed there at that time. Since not enough information was available, the motion to start Mass in Encampment was tabled.

1972: Early in 1972, although the debt to Sacred Heart, Greybull, had only been reduced by \$1,000 and \$6,000 were owing to the Diocese of Cheyenne, Fr. Sullivan determined to press on with work on the church basement used as the Parish Hall in Hanna. In 1972, the debt to Sacred Heart, Greybull, was further reduced to \$3,000, and the debt to Cheyenne to \$5,000. Hanna Parish Hall was completed and dedicated by Bishop Newell. In this same year, Esther Caldwell gave a gift of 100 shares of Union Pacific Common Stock to the Church.

1973: During 1973, Bill Bartlett moved away from Saratoga and his place as Trustee was taken by Gary Babel. A new roof was put on the Parish Hall at a cost of \$355. St. Malachy's church in Medicine Bow, which had been closed for a few years, was re-opened in July. Mass was

offered the first and third Sunday of each month. The Encampment project had developed and Mass was started. It was offered every second and fourth Sunday in the Episcopalian church. Sadly, this effort only lasted until November 1973, and was then terminated due to poor attendance.

1974: In August, Fr. Sullivan left Saratoga to become Pastor of Guernsey. With Father Gene Sullivan's departure, Fr. Tom Sheridan, who had been Assistant to Msgr. Stoll in Sheridan, came to Saratoga as Pastor.

1975: Further improvements were made to the Church and basement in Hanna; natural gas was piped in for heat, and the toilet was put on the city sewer line. Also, because of the steady increase of Catholic families in Shirley Basin, Fr. Sheridan started to offer Mass every week in St. Malachy's, Medicine Bow. This practice began in the fall of 1975.

1976: It became obvious that if Hanna continued to grow due to the energy crisis and the new interest in coal, the church there would very soon become inadequate. This was discussed with Bishop Newell, and it was agreed that the first step toward a new church and center should be taken by the purchase of suitable land. To aid in this, Bishop Newell gave a donation of \$2,000. With the help of Ed Ziolkowski, a tract of land of a little over six acres was purchased from the Union Pacific at a cost of \$6,310. This debt was paid off by the end of 1976.

1977: At the Trustees Meeting in January, the possibility of a Parish Center in Saratoga was discussed and one year later, it was decided that an architect should be consulted regarding plans for such a building. Also in 1977, the first thoughts were conceived of giving Shirley Basin its own Church.

1977: With support from Bishop Hart and financial help from St. Lawrence Church in Laramie, a mobile home was purchased in Shirley

Basin. The church was named St. Barbara's, and dedicated by Bishop Hart. Since then, weather permitting, Holy Mass is offered every second and fourth Monday of the month.

1978: At the end of 1978, the first steps were taken towards making Hanna an independent Parish with the election of Ed Ziolkowski and Ward Fenimore as Trustees. At this time, Jack Sintek was asked to prepare plans for the new Parish Center in Saratoga. These he presented to the Parish Council in February. The plans were accepted and once the legal formalities had been satisfied, the Center was commenced. It was completed and dedicated by Bishop Hart in May 1980.

1979: While the new Center was being constructed in Saratoga, much was also being done over in Hanna. Many meetings were held particularly with the Council of Catholic Women and anyone who else who wished to attend. A Building Committee was formed. Sketches for the proposed "plant" were provided by Ed Ziolkowski and Richard Hunt. Richard Hunt also designed the heating system. In the spring of 1979, Preston Steel Company of Greeley were asked to draw up plans.

1980: In February, bids were opened, and the bid of Carbon County Ready Mix for \$319,000 was accepted. This money was obtained through pledges, loans from many of the parishes of the Diocese, a loan from the Wyoming Bank of Hanna, and the Catholic Extension Society. Shortly after the work on the new Church, Hall and Presbytery in Hanna had begun, Fr. Sheridan was transferred to St. Patrick's in Casper, and Fr. Malcolm Reid came to take his place. The new "plant" was completed and dedicated by Bishop Hart on October 29, 1980. The old St. Joseph's in Hanna, built in 1915, was offered for sale but there were no offers. This being the case, Fr. Reid then gave it to Lawrence Bustos who transported it to Fort Steele where it will be kept as a shrine to St. Jude. The transfer was completed the first week of January 1981.

**St. Ann, Saratoga  
St. Joseph, Hanna  
1980-1990  
Fr. August Koeune**

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

1980 - Fr. Tom Sheridan.

1981 - 1985 - Fr. Malcolm Reid

1985 - Ed Dolinar

1985 - 1990 - John Murray

1990 to present - Fr. August Koeune

2. Notable accomplishments by lay leaders and parishioners:

Sandy Vecchio - installed as SCCW president - May 5, 1982.

Kathy Campbell - St. Ann Bazaar Chairman - 1982.

Laura Felsen - St. Ann Bazaar Chairman - 1984

Laura Felsen - SCCW president - 1989 - 1990.

3. Notable accomplishments by the clergy and religious during the decade: (give dates)

Fr. Reid celebrated his 25th Silver Jubilee to the Priesthood on July 25, 1982.

4. Construction - new or remodeling: (give dates)

1990 - 1991 - Painted outside of church and rectory.

Feb. 1991 - Dismantled old white house. Rented lot to school district.

5. Land acquisitions: (give dates) None.

6. Lay Trustees and term of service for each:

Trustees John Glode and Dorothy Gould served 1981 to 1990.

7. Pastor's overview of the decade:

A lot of economic growth took place in Saratoga, as well as a mild

decline. This has been of time of new church programs and a new church hall. The church membership seems to have maintained itself around 70 families throughout this decade.

8. Significant Parish events and programs: (give dates)

Dec. 8, 1983 - 25th Anniversary of St. Ann new church building.

Annual event - St. Patrick's Day dinner open to community prepared by men of the parish.

Annual event - Ecumenical Thanksgiving Day service.

Ecumenical Desert Storm Prayer Groups, January through April, 1991.

**St. Ann Church, Saratoga  
St. Joseph Mission, Hanna  
St. Malachy Mission, Medicine Bow  
1990-2000  
Rev. Gerald F. Chleborad, Pastor  
Jade McCarthy  
August 2000**

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

Rev. John Murray 1990 - July 1990

Rev. August Koeune August 1990 - July 1993

Rev. Raymond Moss August 1993 - June 1995

Rev. Thomas Kadera July 1995 - June 1997

Rev. Gerald F. Chleborad July 1997 - present 2000

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

Yvonne York ran a religious goods counter for the parish - 1993-1998

Marian (1993) and Charismatic (1994) prayer groups established.

Eucharistic Ministers began conducting Scripture - Communion Services in the absence of the pastor - 1990-present

Eucharistic Ministers began Communion services at the local nursing home -1995

Prayer Line established to pray for intentions of parishioners as well as community-wide needs, 1993

Snowy Range Council of the Knights of Columbus established in Saratoga -1993

K of C ministry to transport nursing home residents to Sunday Mass -1995

K of C sponsors Family Prayer Nights - 1995 to present

Individual parishioners purchase 6 Icons for the church - 1994

Parishioners initiate Adopt-a-Highway cleanup program - 1994

Parish choir established - 1997

Annual Marian Prayer Night established - 1998

The Saratoga Council of Catholic Women hosted Fall Deanery meetings in '92 & '97

CCD program hosted the NET Team Ministry in '97, '98, '99 & 2000

Two parishioners graduated from the Diocesan Lay Ministry Program - '97 & '98

One parishioner is currently working toward a Certificate in Advanced Studies in the Loyola Institute for Pastoral Ministry Extension Program in Casper.

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

Father Gerald Chleborad celebrated his fortieth anniversary of priestly ordination with the Wyoming clergy, his family and friends, May 24, 2000

Father Thomas Kadera and Father Gerald Chleborad — monthly visits to the

Wyoming State Prison for Mass and 5th Steps.

Father Chleborad is a judge for the Diocesan Tribunal.

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

Recarpeting of church and rectory — 1995

Repainting the exterior of the church, rectory and parish hall.

Building of a stone grotto and installation of a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus - '95

Providing wheelchair access for handicapped in two front pews - 1999

Planning stages for wheelchair access to church restroom.

5. Land acquisitions. (Give dates.) None

6. Lay Trustees and term of service for each.

John Glode 1990-1996

Dorothy Gould 1990-1993

Kathleen Campbell 1993-2000

Mike Glode 1996-2000

7. Pastor's overview of the decade.

The parish, under the direction of the pastors, finance committee, parish council, trustees, CCD, Saratoga Council of Catholic Women, and the Knights of Columbus, continued to grow, ministering to the needs of the parish, its many visitors, the community, and to the Christian community through a variety of parish and ecumenical programs. The pastor is the treasurer of the Saratoga Churches Travelers Assistance Program. The parish is financially sound due to the generosity of the parishioners and visitors.

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

The Little Rock Scripture Study was established in 1994.

St. Ann's hosted the members of the First Presbyterian Church from June to November, 1994, while their church was being renovated.

In July, 1994, our parish welcomed the life-size traveling missionary image of Our Lady of Guadalupe for six days of devotions in which a thousand visitors came to pray and view this beautiful replica of Our Lady.

In 1996, the parish began its Outreach program of monthly contributions for the poor, locally and abroad.

St. Ann's hosted a community Passion Play on Palm Sunday, 1999, in the parish hall.

Four other churches and the community choir contributed to the acting; music, lighting and finances. These "stations in still-life" were well received with interest in a future presentation.

In 2000, a hospitality week was held, reaching out to inactive catholics. Instruction and discussion revolved around the changes of Vatican II, marriage, church history and reconciliation.

A Jubilee 2000 Committee was formed to plan monthly special events for the year. The parish greeted the New Year and New Millennium with New Year's Eve exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a Scripture Service, community fireworks. Midnight Mass and a champagne breakfast.