

HISTORY OF ST. STEPHENS MISSION 1940-1950

Father A.C. Zuercher, S.J., Superior of St. Stephens Mission since 1932, was succeeded on January 1, 1940 by Rev. George P. Prendergast, S.J., who remained Superior until September 8, 1946, when Father Zuercher was again appointed Superior which position he now holds.

Priests at the Mission besides Father Zuercher were in 1941, Rev. Thomas W. Cummings, S.J., Rev. A.C. Riester, S.J., Rev. Leo A. Doyle, S.J., and Rev. Leonard J. Fencel, S.J. In the Fall of 1942 Rev. William F. Farrell, S.J., was added to the number of priests.

At Christmas in 1943 Father Leo Doyle entered the Armed Services as Chaplain, and following Summer Rev. John C. Rawe came to St. Stephens. In 1944 Rev. John F Lyons, S.J., and Rev. Francis J. Coffey, S.J., arrived at the Mission.

Rev. John C. Rawe, S.J., remained a year and a half when he grew seriously ill and was taken to a hospital in Omaha, Nebraska. He recovered but did not return.

In the Fall of 1945, Rev. Joseph Melchior, S.J., came and was stationed at the Mission only one year. After an absence of nine years, Rev. M.A. Connell, S.J., returned in August of 1946. The following August Rev. Jerome Zummach, S.J., was sent to the Mission to be prefect of discipline, athletic director, and teacher in the high school. In March of the same year two Brothers arrived, Brother Paul Hofer, S.J., and Brother Patrick Kinney, S.J. These are the Jesuits present at the Mission now, four priests and two Brothers.

The number of Sisters, (St. Francis Sisters) with their Motherhouse at Glen Riddle, Pa., and Pendleton, Oregon, has been nine until the Summer of 1950 when a tenth was added. Three of these Sisters, Sister M. Clementina, Sister M. Expedita, and Sister M. Firmina have a

combined record of more than a century of service at the Mission, 104 years in all.

In September 1939 the Mission was forced to conform to the general government policy of doing away with boarding schools and converting them into day schools. It was felt that the children could exert some good influence by returning to their homes each day and also help to cultivate greater responsibility on the part of the parents. The merits of the two systems are still debatable.

During boarding school days the Mission had a contract with the government for \$125.00 per child for 125 children. For any above that number nothing was received, and the enrollment has averaged a little more than 200 each year during the past decade. When the day school was begun and busses had to be purchased to transport the children to and from school each day, the per capita payment was dropped to \$50.00, but the number was increased to 175 children. In 1946 the payment was the same but the number was cut to 150. In 1949 the number was still further cut to 125 but the payment per child was raised to \$90.00. It was only after several years of efforts that Rev. J.B. Tenny, Director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions, Washington, D.C., was able to secure this raise in the per capita payment. (It is Father Tenny who negotiates the contracts between the government and the Mission.)

Through the appeal of Most Rev. Patrick A. McGovern, the following grants have been given by Father Tenny from annual collections for Indians and Negroes: In 1946, \$6,800.00. In 1947, \$5,800.00. In 1948, \$5,800.00. In 1949, \$6,800.00. In 1950, \$6,800.00.

Besides the central church and school, the Mission also has five small chapels on the reservation, Blessed Sacrament at Fort Washakie, St. James at Ethete, Sacred Heart at Mill Creek, St. Joseph at Arapahoe, and St. Edward at Morton. At Arapahoe and Fort Washakie Mass is

celebrated every Sunday and on First Fridays, and at the other three chapels twice a month.

On September 10, 1949 lightning struck the Blessed Sacrament chapel at Fort Washakie. The fire destroyed everything. The chapel had been built by a poor working girl from New York, N.Y., in 1949. A total of \$26,000.00 was collected to rebuild it, \$3,000.00 of this having been given by the Extension Society. Work on the new chapel was begun in June of 1950, and should be completed by Easter of 1951.

In the Summer of 1942 St. Stephens was created a parish. The new parish is defined as the diminished portion of the Wind River Reservation from the confluence of the Big and Little Wind Rivers, southwest along the left bank of the Little Wind River to its junction with the Popo Agie River, continuing southwest to the junction of the North and South Forks of the Popo Agie River to the south boundary of T. 2, S.W.R.M. north of west boundary of R. 6 W to the Big Wind River and southeast to its confluence with the Little Wind River. This puts St. Edwards chapel at Morton in St. Margaret's parish of Riverton, but, owing to the fact that the pastor at Riverton is as yet without an assistant and cannot take care of it, the Mission still says mass there.

On May 14th, 1942, The Most –Reverend Patrick A. McGovern administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 31 boys and 36 girls; on September 7th, 1947 to 30 boys and 49 girls.

The Diocesan Clergy Retreat formerly held every three years, later every two years, has, since June 1947 been held annually, and will continue to be held each year, the week after the First Friday in June. The following priests conducted the retreats: 1944, Most Rev. Henry Joseph Grimmelsman. 1947, Rev. Keith Hoffman, Chicago Mission Band [S.J.?]. 1948, Rev. Raymond Hellinger, Chicago Mission Band. 1949, Rev. James A. Dolan, Chicago Mission Band. 1950, Very Rev. William J. Kenneally, C.M., Rector of St. Thomas Seminary, Denver, Colorado.

On June 11,12,13, 1948, the first closed retreat in the diocese for laymen was conducted by Rev. Stanislaus E. Kalamaja, S.J., of St. Francis Mission, St. Francis, South Dakota. It was sponsored by the Wyoming State Council of the Knights of Columbus whose deputy at the time was Mr. Carl Everhardt of Laramie, Wyoming. Twenty-two men made this first retreat. So enthusiastic were they, that at a meeting held after the retreat, they decided to have one annually immediately following the Diocesan Clergy Retreat. In 1949, twenty-nine were present with Rev. Stephen R. Krieger, S.J., of Regis College, Denver, Colorado, conducting it, and Mr. V.P. Noonan of Casper, State Deputy. In 1950 the number increased to 72. It was conducted by Rev. Leonard M. Murry, S.J., Rector of St. Stanislaus Seminary, Florissant, Missouri. Mr. Louis Boschetto was the State Deputy.

In the past five years about \$10,000.00 was spent on repairs on the property of the Mission, new roofs of asphalt shingles, all five chapels painted, all Mission buildings painted inside and out and windows re-puttied.

St. Stephen's Mission
Jesuit Fathers and Franciscan Sisters
SUMMARY HISTORY OF THE MISSION
requested by the Diocese of Cheyenne.
1960-1970

1960.

9/5 addition to the High School completed.

9/6 new enrollment record— 110 in High School; 350 in grades.

11/20 First Communion for Parish children.

12/4 School play, "Little Blue Angel".

12/8 Basketball season begins—New State record—46 consecutive victories.

1961.

3/27 St. Stephen's publicized in Sports Illustrated.

3/28 Tony Gamble 1st Prize in Zoology; District Science Fair, Powell.

4/8 Tony Gamble 3rd Prize in State Fair, Casper.

4/9 Bob Spoonhunter 2nd in County Spelling Contest.

4/24 40 foot well completed for Football field irrigation system.

5/26 Graduation—Tribal Scholarship to Martin Underwood.

6/4 Bishop Freking of Salina, Kansas, started first of two retreats for Priests.

6/9 Father John R. Padberg, S.J., started first of four lay retreats.

6/1 Father Kurth home for his father's funeral.

6/1 Father Zummach—temporary Superior.

7/1 Father Kurth leaves for new office of Novice Master for Brothers, St. Bonifacius, Minnesota.

9/1 Father John Flannigan becomes Superior of Mission.

9/9 Mr. Edwin Staples, retired executive of N.Y. Tel. Co. arrives as volunteer for the Mission.

10/10 Father Provincial's Visitation.

1962.

4/12 Father S. Dillon rushed to Riverton Hospital—heart attack.

4/15 Father Flannigan takes Father Dillon to Denver.

8/18 Father Joseph Haller joins St. Stephen's Community.

10/2 Father Provincial's Visitation.

1963.

1/4 Bishop Newell here for a visit.

3/8 Bishop Newell awards trophies at Wyoming Catholic Parochial B.B. Tournament.

3/10 Bishop Newell confers Sacrament of Confirmation.

5/8 Father Dillon and 10 Indian students to Bozeman, Mont., Indian Educ. Conf.

5/15 Mr. Clyde Hobbs, Superintendent of the Indian Agency, Dinner Guest.

5/19 Graduation Mass.

5/24 Graduation speaker: Senator Robert Murphy.

6/3 Diocesan Priests' Retreats [sic] by Father Francis Conneell, C.S.S.R.

[2]

7/28 Father Zummach to Milwaukee for his father's funeral. Mr. Zummach, a generous Benefactor of the Mission.

8/1 / Fathers Lowry Daly, Ed Vollmar, Martin Hastings, historians from St. Louis University, visit Mission to photostat documents.

8/3 Father Flannigan offers Field Mass and Blessing at Pow Wow.

8/29 Brother John Szczesniak, S.J., joins St. Stephens Community.

8/29 Father Flannigan arranges 'with Bishop Newell for the transfer of the Chapel from Arapahoe to Ethete.

9/5 At the invitation of Tribal Council, Father Flannigan becomes member of the O.E.D.P. Committee.

9/10 Chapel from Arapahoe placed on new foundations at Ethete. Unfortunately, Chapel had been referred to as Brown's Chapel. Old man Brown claimed ownership. Call to Father Al Zuercher at Omaha confirmed the fact that Fr. Z. had built Chapel with Mission funds. At Ethete, Chapel known as St. Joseph's Church.

9/13 Father Provincial's Visitation.

9/13 Mass of the Holy Spirit—Record enrollment 490 children.

10/10 CYO at Casper—13 girls, 4 boys from St. Stephens attend.

10/12 Sister Mary Clementina, O.S.F., who served St. Stephen's Mission for 52 years died and was buried at LeGrand, Oregon. Fathers Flannigan and Zummach flew out to attend the funeral.

10/25 Homecoming Game. Football Eagles won Big Horn Basin Class "B" crown for third consecutive year.

1964.

1/8 Adult Night Classes for Indians—typing and Spanish.

2/3 Six St. Stephen's teachers actively participate in Teachers' Workshop for Basin and Fremont areas.

2/5 Purchase of third new bus in three years.

3/5 Four awards won at District Science Fair.

3/10 Father L. Barry, S.J., received citation from American Association of Physics Teachers—for outstanding competence and guidance in Physics. Father Barry was first teacher to receive this award in Wyoming.

3/15 Mistress of Novices from Our Lady of Angels, Portland, Oregon, addressed High School student body.

5/1 32 boys and girls accompanied by Father Dillon and Mr. Comboy attended N.W. Regional Indian Youth Conference at Montana State U. Ten parents also attended. Father Flannigan obtained financial underwriting of the trip from Tribal Council. Father Dillon was the first

non-Indian to be asked to present one of the principal addresses for this convention.

5/24 Graduation—Mr. Archchoker of the Indian Bureau addressed graduates at Elk's Club breakfast.

6/4 Bishop Adolf Marx of Corpus Christi, Texas, conducted the Priests' retreats. Father Zummach gave 3 lay retreats; 2 for Men, 1 for Women.

6/16 Father Small, American Assistant of Society of Jesus from Rome visits St. Stephen's.

[3]

7/1 54'x38' addition to High School started.

8/31 Buildings completed in time for school.

12/3 Catechetical Program: Fathers Barry, Zummach, Clerkin, 2 Sisters, and 5 High Schoolgirls taught 175 children. New Liturgy being well received.

12/5 Cry Room installed in N/W corner of Church.

12/8 First Communion for 31 children.

12/8 St. Stephen's hosts annual Episcopal-Catholic Dialogue.

12/23 Butternut Club of Omaha again supplies gifts and goodies for Christmas Party.

1965.

1/10 Bishop Newell visited and spoke on the Third Session of Vatican II.

5/10 Father Dillon home to his mother's deathbed. She died 5/14/65.

5/25 Seven Indian seniors received Tribal Scholarships. One of the Councilmen announced publicly that St. Stephen's graduates do better in College than Indians from neighboring public schools.

5/29 Representative Ben Reifel, a Sioux Indian from South Dakota, addressed graduates.

6/5 Priests' Retreats by Father Bill Federer, S.J. Lay Retreats also by Father Federer.

8/4 Bishop David Hickey, S.J., arrives to give Sisters' Retreat.

8/12 Father John B. Tenny, of Catholic Bureau of Indians & Negroes in Washington, D.C., arrives for a few days visit.

11/15 Three Indian girls attend State CYO convention in Cheyenne.

1966.

2/11 Arapahoe School District shares services of Mrs. Mary Ito, R.N., in health program.

2/28 Formal Meeting: Father Superior, Father Dillon, and Father Barry. Our Father General's letter to Bishop Newell sent to us by Bishop Newell. High School had to go. We retained 9th grade for time being.

3/8 Announcement of closing to Parents. Shocking! A bad night!.

3/9 Area communications of closing made simultaneously.

3/20 Father Dillon plans with Riverton and Lander High Schools for transfer of students in September.

6/5 Father Gratian, O.S.F., conducted the Priests' Retreats.

6/13 Father Flannigan active in support of Central Wyoming Junior College at Riverton. Passed by a narrow margin.

A step back to 1965: The High School was flourishing and graduated 33 students. The Faculty consisted of 8 lay teachers, 8 Franciscan Sisters, 5 Jesuit Fathers, 3 Scholastics, and 3 Brothers. This was the Faculty for the combined Grade School and High School. From the far-flung area of the Wind River Reservation and a little beyond in Lander and Riverton, half a dozen buses picked up and returned the students to and from their homes. Our cattle ranch operated on 685 acres of Mission land and on 1475 acres of land leased from the Indians.

[4]

1966.

The school year terminating in June 1966 was much the same as it had been in 1965, but the number of graduates was reduced to 19.

1967.

For economic reasons the decision was made to reduce the course to that of a Junior High School terminating with the 9th grade. The Faculty was reduced to 3 Fathers, 3 Brothers, 8 Franciscan Sisters, and 6 lay teachers.

The Office of Economic Opportunity leased some classroom space from the Mission for the purpose of conducting a Head Start Program. They also used one of our buses, reimbursing us on a per mile basis.

On September 1, 1967, Father John J. Flannigan was succeeded by Father Leonard M. Murray as Superior. During October Brother Keeven, ranch manager, terminated the Mission operation of the ranch.

1968.

In addition to their strictly pastoral work, the Three Fathers teach Religion in our Elementary School.

Pastoral duties of Father Zummach include caring for the 2 mission stations, Blessed Sacrament at Fort Washakie and St. Joseph's at Ethete, Wyoming.

Father Clerkin regularly hears confessions of the Sisters (11) and of the school children. In addition to going on weekly supply at Hudson or Lander, he offers one Mass here at St. Stephen's, hears confessions, and helps with Communion at 2 Masses here. He also handles most of the Baptisms at St. Stephen's.

Father Murray offers the Pro Populo and one other Mass at St. Stephen's on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and goes on supply occasionally when the need is great and we can handle our own work without difficulty.

Brother John Szczesniak is Sacristan, operates the Post Office, buys for the Community and pays the bills.

Brother Hofer is general maintenance man and supervises the workmen.

On January 21, 1968, His Excellency, Bishop Newell dedicated the new St. Joseph's Church at Ethete. Its new location, a few miles removed from its former site, was donated by Mr. and Mrs. John Whiteman, Arapahoe Indians, on a 2 1/2 acre plot adjoining their own home.

Through the Catholic Church Extension Society, St. Joseph's Church and its furnishings were the gift of Mrs. Joseph P. Hartnett of New York. She (at 85 years young) and her daughter Mrs. Mary Cordier flew out here in mid-January for the Dedication. They loved it and were in turn loved by all. Of course, Bishop Newell gave his generous approval to the project and encouraged EXTENSION to extend themselves in our regard.

Our property, 703 acres, exclusive of about 25 acres on which we have our School, Church, Convent, Jesuit Residence, recreation grounds, and playing field, was leased to rancher, Bill Lozier. The remaining hay was sold. The cattle had already been disposed of in October and November 1967. Indian property, formerly leased by us, was also leased by Lozier.

[5]

Shortly after the close of our first semester, Mr. Edwin Staples, dedicated donor of full time services, left for a “sabbatical.” He was a 7-year veteran teacher and financial adviser here.

Providentially at this time, Mr.. John Cavanaugh offered his services. He was a great asset, a good teacher and prefect who carried a full teaching load. He was very affable and well liked by students, faculty, Sisters, and Jesuits.

In early March with Episcopal and Provincial approval we decided to discontinue the Ninth Grade after June 1968. We notified 3 teachers we would not renew their contracts. They were all highly paid. We also notified the public at this time.

We set about seeking Indian Mission volunteers by sending posters to our Universities. We secured two married couples. All four teachers are well qualified.

Our boys won first place in the Parochial Grade School Tournament (B.B.). Before the end of the Tourney, by secret ballot, our girls also won first place as Cheerleaders. St. Stephen’s hosted the tournament.

One of our teachers, Sister Bernadetta, was chosen as one of 30 from field of 200 applicants to attend a 6 weeks course in Indian Education and Culture held at Regis in Denver. She received a grant of free tuition and board.

The weekend retreats were held in June 1968, one for laymen, the other for laywomen. Each retreat was attended by about 40 persons. Father L.M. Murray, S.J., conducted both retreats.

During August 1968, a few scholastics painted the woodwork around the windows on the front of our residence building and did some carpenter work.

Brother Hofer prepared a new Chapel in the Sisters' Convent with walnut paneling, new electrical fixtures, etc. It was also newly carpeted by externs.

This year's enrollment for the 8 grades is 234 children. 5 different bus routes transport them to and from school. Our 5 new lay teachers, quasi volunteers, are doing a wonderful job.

Just before classes started this Fall, we had to put a new roof on the school building at a cost of \$3600. Likewise we have to replace two buses at a cost of \$15,000. To counteract these major expenditures, but with no particular connection, we received \$9000 from the Diocese of Cheyenne and \$9000 from the Catholic Bureau of Indian Missions.

Mr. George Lundy of Extension Magazine came here spontaneously to do an article on St. Joseph's Church at Ethete. He expanded it into an article of the whole of St. Stephen's Mission. It will appear to the Jan-Feb 1969 issue of EXTENSION.

With a hint from Mr. Lundy, and Bishop Newell's approbation, we applied for a grant through EXTENSION for a Catechetical Center and a parish hall to adjoin St. Joseph's Church. Thanks be to God, we have secured the grant for \$10,000.

[6]

1969.

February—Our two new buses ordered in late 1968 arrived at a cost of \$15,050.

March—Our completed financial report revealed excess expenditures over income to the amount of \$26,347.20 for the year 1968.

April—Accumulated expenses at Fort Washakie Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall billed at this time, \$8200.

May—The last few weeks prior to Memorial Day and in preparation for it, the Indians redecorated most of the graves and had a general clean up of the Arapahoe Catholic Cemetery at St. Stephen's. On May 30, Father Zummach offered an Indian Mass for the repose of the souls of all of the Indians on the Reservation at the Cemetery. For this occasion and for other occasional Indian Masses at St. Joseph's at Ethete and at Pow-wow Field Masses, Father Zummach dons a beautiful Indian beaded vestment, beaded moccasins, and an eagle-feathered war bonnet. Sharpnose Memorial Society, St. Anne's Sodality, and the Altar & Rosary Society collaborated on a few fund-raising projects to replace the old altar and the decaying cross in the cemetery. They extended the cemetery area by several acres, prepared a new entrance road into the new section, poured a concrete platform for the new portable altar decorated with an Indian Christ offering the Chalice. The existing bronze corpus from the old weathered wooden cross was mounted on a newly welded cross of 4 inch diameter metal pipe.

June—Father Joseph Small, S.J., of Seattle Prep gave the two lay retreats here this June to 26 men and 35 women.

After 20 years of all kinds of weather, the guttering of the Convent building is demanding extensive repairs. They are projected for this summer.

July—Less than a month before his death, Ed Staples had just returned from his sabbatical year (he had taught “gratis” at the Mission for over 6

years) when at the urging of his physician in Riverton he decided to submit to surgery at the hands of a specialist in Cheyenne. The stomach surgery seemed successful, but Ed had been back home from the hospital for only a week when he collapsed just outside our Jesuit Residence. Father Clerkin anointed him and summoned an ambulance. Ed was declared dead on arrival at the hospital. Earlier that morning, July 1, 1969, Ed had been to confession and had received Holy Communion. RIP.

With the help of 5 Scholastics under Brother Hofer's direction, extensive repairs and renovation go on this summer and every summer.

September—215 children enrolled in 8 grades. Much new audio-visual equipment was obtained for the classrooms. Learning centers, listening stations with batteries of headphones are new this year. For the first time, First Grade joins the Follow Through Program this year. The Program harmonizes with that of the Jefferson Public School in Riverton. Our First grade Sister is assisted by two aides furnished by the Program. Follow Through also supplies some learning materials without cost to us.

Our Saturday morning CCD classes for public school children, by virtue of inaugurating bus pick-up for them, has attracted about 70 boys and girls.

[7]

With the other 3 grade schools (public) on the Reservation, St. Stephen's cooperated in the Title VI Program of special assistance for children with learning disabilities. In this connection, our teachers enrolled for credit in the U. of Wyo. Extension Course, "Diagnostic and Remedial Procedures to Aid Slow Learners."

From His Excellency Bishop Newell, we received a gift of \$6000 plus \$480 which he endorsed over to us from the Catholic Church Extension Society.

Natural gas now available and obtained for St. Joseph's at Ethete.

October—New 4-car garage for Mission personnel erected back to back with bus garage. Concrete block wall serves as back wall for both structures.

Our teachers attended the local ALL INDIAN Education Institute held at Riverton. This was the third such Institute held in this area within a year.

October 30, Feast of St. Alphonsus, patron of Brothers. While preparing roof lumber for the new garage, Brother Hofer sustained an accident. The power saw he was using slipped and ripped the back of his right index finger to the bone of the second joint. He was hospitalized overnight but was back on the job without delay the next day. Bandaged and splinted for 2 months, the finger finally emerged as usable, a bit the worse for wear and injury.

Gas line was extended from Main to the St. Joseph Church and Hall, and water was installed.

December 6, 1969 Catechetical Center finished on time. Deo Gratias! A real good job and a credit to Contractor Ed Bartel.

Father Tennyly of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions sent \$8000 through Bishop Newell.

Financial report of 1969 reflects another loss of total assets this year amounting to \$25,196.34.

After 20 years of wearing out, the old gutters and eaves of the Convent Building were replaced. New ones all around were installed and received two coats of protective paint. In this connection, the Convent Bell Tower was also repaired and repainted.

Water and sewage backing up in the basement of two of our dwellings for Mission personnel led to the discovery of the disintegration of two of our metal septic tanks. These had to be replaced with 2 new concrete ones.

1970.

Furniture for St. Joseph Catechetical Center—tables and chairs—cost \$482.29. Accordion pleated folding walls for same is last major expenditure of Center, \$1434.64.

[8]

For newly wed volunteer teachers, we obtained and erected a used New Moon Trailer at a cost of \$3,095.67.

Bishop Newell administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 96 children and adults at Sunday morning Mass, April 5. At 4pm the same day he dedicated St. Joseph's new Catechetical Center at Ethete. After inquiring of us about the final cost of Center (\$13,000.), Bishop Newell gave us a check for \$3000 to supplement the \$10,000 from the Catholic Church Extension Society.

MAY—Year book EAGLE dedicated to Sister Macaria who leaves for new post in August after having served as Principal here for the past six years.

Repairs to roof of Trailer being used by Miss Ries, nurse and librarian, gives it the new look of Noah's Ark.

JUNE—Because of tight money, we had to recall \$10,000 from Missouri Province. Disposed of 1957 bus for \$900.

Finally faced Blessed Sacrament Catechetical Center at Fort Washakie with brick approximately matching the brick of the Church.

After occasional exchanges of correspondence through out the year, Volunteer Bob Schum, U. of Iowa track star, came out from Chicago to be of whatever assistance he could offer. Brother Hofer kept him busy

with some carpentry, but mostly with painting. The whole exterior of our Church here at St. Stephen's has been given 2 coats of gleaming white paint. Raphael Norse, an Arapahoe Indian artist, has prepared about a dozen designs to highlight the exterior paint job. Eight different designs have been placed in between the windows on either side of the Church. The colors—red, black, turquoise, and blue—have been rearranged on the opposite side. Around our “rose window” on the Church tower, Raphael has prepared a sunburst design.

Lay retreats given to 32 men and 41 women by Father Robert Imbs, S.J.

Father Starkloff, on a \$1500 grant, is here working on Indian religion. He attended much of the 3 day Sun Dance as an interested and empathetic observer. He has also been visiting and interviewing many Indians young and old.

JULY.

The painting and design work on the Church were completed. Two new doors, also designed and painted by Raphael Norse, rounded out the job.

Father John J. Killoren, S.J., became a permanent member of St. Stephen's Community.

Fathers Carl Starkloff and Paul Pilgram, both former Scholastic teachers here, conducted a weeks Religion Course for Teen-Agers. INSIGHT films shown nightly provided a spring-board for discussion.

AUGUST.

After 6 years as Franciscan Superior and School Principal, Sister Macaria left for her new post in Seattle. Sister Marie Monica succeeds her in these positions. Sister Joan Kiely, new this year, replaces Sister M. Monica at St. Margaret's, Riverton. New teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kane, Miss Judi Klingsick, Miss Mary Staples, R.N.

[9]

Fathers Killoren and Murray visited Holy Rosary Mission to investigate

Father Kurth's successful fund-raising operation. We sought Father Provincial's permission for a similar operation here. After Father Provincial's consultation with Fathers Meehan and Zinkle, we were given green light.

At Father Killoren's invitation, Messrs. Robert Reilly and Lee Dreves of Holand Dreves Reilly, Inc., visited us for a couple of days, got the lay of the land, pictures, and the flavor of the Mission. Back to their study, they came up with proposals. They drafted an appeal letter and designed a brochure, assumed an Ancient Arapahoe Prayer for an insert card in the mailing. They purchased lists for mailing, prepared procedure, suggested type of mail permits, etc. First mailing went out before Christmas.

Mr. William J. Hartnett, friend of Father Starkloff, visited us to familiarize himself with the Mission. He is interested in donating his services for some time. Bill is the President of a Weather Forecasting Co. in St. Louis, Mo.

OCTOBER — At the invitation of Bishop Newell, a panel of Ben Friday, Pius Moss, Sister Maria, and Father Murray toured the Diocese with the Bishop, Father Etchingham, and Mrs. Peyton for a week presenting an Indian Program at each of the 5 Deanery Meetings of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

Deciding to bring his wife and 4 of their children to live at the Mission, Bill Hartnett, through us, purchased a house trailer that we placed on our premises for housing his family. Bill and his wife, Kathleen, are donating services to our work here. Bill, a former farmer, will also advise us concerning the use of our land.

DECEMBER — For Christmas Midnight Mass, a special Indian choir sang, among other offerings in English, an Arapahoe translation of *Adeste Fideles*, under the baton of Sister Maria. Also under her artistic direction, the almost life-size figures around the crib occupied an authentic tipi in the sanctuary space usually reserved for the Blessed

Virgin's Altar. The Nativity scene was composed of all Indian personnel in authentic Indian costumes made by the Sodality Ladies. The Indian Infant Jesus occupied a cradleboard.

[Pictures]

St. Stephen's Mission Parish History 1970-1980

1970: Father Leonard Murray is superior. At Father Zummach's instigation, the church received a beautiful original Arapahoe paint job. Father John Killoren arrived to begin development office and initiate the Wind River Rendezvous -- a project that would literally save St. Stephen's Mission. Father Zummach was pastor (dependent) of Forth Washakie and Ethete.

1971: Father Lewis O'Neil replaced Father Murray as superior-pastor.

1972: Nothing of major note.

1973: Father O'Neil left the mission in October; Father Killoren took over temporarily. Father William Cavey arrived for one year of service as assistant. Father Francis Clerkin retired after nine years at mission.

1974: Father Anthony Short arrived in January to be pastor, with Killoren as superior and development director. Sister Joyce Durosko, Sister Monica Suhayda, and several I.H.M. Sisters arrived as the first non-Franciscan Sisters since the turn of century. S.S.M. announced that the school will have to close at the end of the 1975-76 term. John Gregg was mission business manager. Sister Monica Suhayda prepared to open Tekakwitha Lodge. Brother Paul Hofer left for St. Louis for health reasons; he was replaced by the famous Brother Frank Schmitt.

1975: St. Stephen's Indian School Educational Association Board was formed, with a view to an Indian controlled school board under government contract. Father Carl Starkloff became mission director and Jesuit superior under the new plan. Three corporations were formed: St. Stephen's Indian School, St. Stephen's Indian Mission, St. Stephen's Indian Mission Foundation. Cross-cultural liturgies were begun at mission.

1976: School contract obtained in May. Lois Ewers replaced John Gregg as business manager of mission. Father Zummach left for Denver, and Father Padberg took over the mission stations. Bishop Newell retired, replaced by Bishop Hart. The new contract school opened in the fall under contract, with a released-time arrangement with the mission for religious work. Mission obtained Lilly Foundation grant to do cross-cultural religious work.

1977: Father Short left in August and was replaced by Father Glenn Mueller as pastor. Ernest Sun Rhodes joined the mission catechetical team. School expanded to more than sixty staff members under contract, with Indian self-determination as the policy goal. By 1980, more than half the staff would be Indians. Tekakwitha Lodge now in formal operation for alcoholic rehabilitation under Sister Monica.

1978: Mission became involved in rejuvenated Tekakwitha Conference for a Native American Church. Brother Schmitt and Bill Galles had revamped the mission and school buildings superbly. Sister Patricia Kidd left and was replaced as Franciscan superior by Sister Mary Griffin. Sister Laetitia Lariviere, I.H.M., moved to Ethete as pastoral assistant.

1979: Father John Killoren left in May, and Father Bill Finucane arrived in June to take up the development work. Brother Schmitt left in August to begin studies for the priesthood, and we now have to hire a maintenance man, since Jesuit Brothers are at a premium. Father Starkloff took over as pastor, with Glenn Mueller as assistant. Father Padberg moved into permanent residence at Fort Washakie, and was joyfully received by the people there.

1980: Glenn Mueller left in August, replaced by Father Joseph Damhorst. Brother Hank Broyles arrived to begin an extended novitiate experiment. Arapahoe Mass offered for the first time and several times subsequently. Parish Council was being formed, painfully and very, very,

very, very, very slowly. We also trained a number of lay ministers. Altar and Rosary Society has been rejuvenated under the leadership of Esther Damhorst, Agnes Ortiz, Nan Smith and other active women.

St. Stephens Indian Mission
1981-1990
Rev. J. Robert Hilbert, S.J.

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

1975-1985 - Rev. John R. Padberg, S.J.

1980-1987 - Rev. Joseph Damhorst, S.J.

1981-1985 - Rev. Anthony J. Short, S.J.

1971-1982 - Rev. John J. Killoren, S.J.

1985-1988 - Rev. Richard May, S.J.

1987-present - Rev. John Apel, S.J.

1987-present - Rev. J. Robert Hilbert, S.J.

1988-1990 - Rev. Frank Schmitt, S.J.

1974 - present - Sr. Monica Suhayda, CSJ.

1979-1987 - Sr. Janet Provost, IHM.

1982-1985 - Sr. Antoinette Kennedy, OSF.

1982-1987 - Sr. Joy Halpin, IHM.

1982-1989 - Sr. Ann Corr, IHM.

1985-1987 - Sr. Nancy Sullivan, PBVM.

1987-1989 - Sr. Connie Parran, IHM.

1987 - present - Sr. Mary Schaefer, CSJ.

1988 - present - Sr. Michael Mary Yassick, OSF.

1989 - present - Sr. Teresa Frawley, OSF.

1990 - present - Sr. Florence Petsch, OSF.

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

1985 - Medallion of Honor Award from Central Wyoming College in Riverton was presented to Rev. John J. Killoren, S.J.

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

1984 - St. Stephen's Heritage Center & Gift Shop opened.

1986 - House of Prayer (remodeled residence) dedicated.

1987 - North American Indian Heritage Center opened.

1990 - Handicap ramps constructed. Mission grounds paved. Sod and landscaping accomplished.

6. Lay Trustees and term of service for each:

1980-1982 - James Doyle.

1981-1984 - Donald D. Johnson.

1982-1984 - Richard Ortiz, Jr.

1982-present - William LeClair.

1982-present - Darwin Griebel.

1983-present - Margaret St. Clair.

1986-present - Audrey Underwood.

7. Pastor's overview of the decade; 8. Significant Parish events and programs: (give dates)

1984 - Centennial Celebration. 1981 - St. Stephen's Parish Council established in 1981.

**ST. STEPHENS, WYOMING
1990-2000**

**Submitted by: Fr. David G. Matzko, SJ, Director/Pastor
April 27, 2000**

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

Fr. Frank Schmidt, SJ 1988-90

Fr. J. Robert Hilbert, SJ 1987-95; 98 - present

Fr. John Apel, SJ 1982-97

Fr. Lawrence Jonas, SJ 1994-95

Fr. Daniel Gannon, SJ 1992 - present

Fr. Eugene Zimmerman, SJ 1995-98

Fr. David Matzko, SJ 1997 - present

Sr. Monica Suhayda, CSJ 1975 - present

Sr. Mary Schaefer, CSJ 1987 - 2000

Sr. Teresa Frawley, OFM 1989 - present

Sr. Florence Petsch, OFM 1990 - present

2. Notable accomplishments by lay leaders and parishioners.

1991 Judy Warren and other parishioners were instrumental in establishing the Pilgrimage Retreat Program which is a retreat based on the 12 steps of AA.

1993 to the present Ms. Patricia Underwood has been the president of the St. Joseph's Guild in Ethete.

1999 Ms. Marge St. Clair was elected president of the Thermopolis Deanery.

Local Arapaho artists Vern Willow, Martin Blackburn, Richard Littleshield, Robert Blackburn, Eugene Ridgeley Jr., Curtis Oldman, and led by Robert Spoonhunter designed, constructed, and produced: a) Stations of the Cross, b) Stain-glass windows for the Church, c) sanctuary murals for St. Stephens Church, and d) interior/exterior artwork for the church at St. Stephens.

Local dentist and parishioner Parnell Taylor constructed the altar drum

and the song bird candles for the altar at St. Stephens.

Continuing excellence in the publication of the Wind River Rendezvous magazine which is our major source of income for the mission. The magazine is edited and produced by Ron Mamot and he is assisted by Kay Fossey and Marilyn Brown.

3. Notable Accomplishments by clergy and religious.

4. Construction - new or remodeling

1995 Renovation of the Church at St. Stephens April - October 1995

1995 asphaltting of the driveway and circle at St. Stephen's.

1998-1999 Repainting of all the Mission buildings.

1997 a partial asphaltting of church parking lot at St. Joseph's in Ethete.

1993-98 planting 50 trees on the grounds of St. Joseph's in Ethete.

5. Land acquisitions:

1994 St. Joseph's purchased a 10' x 200' of land to satisfy code relating to fencing.

1999 The Mission gave the 40 acres of land the School is located on to the school to further its attempts to receive funding for a new high school building.

6. Lay Trustees and terms of service for each: John Warren and Dick Bebout.

7. Pastor's overview of the decade.

It is difficult for me to give an overview of the decade since I have only been here for the last three years. What I found upon arriving here at St. Stephen's Mission was a recently remodeled church beautiful in its native art and design. The mission grounds and buildings were old and in need of maintenance that had been deferred. The Mission was just in a position to begin to do this maintenance.

Leadership at the Mission was in a holding pattern due to the temporary Mission Directors the Wisconsin Province had sent out for specified

short periods of time. I came not as a temporary director and the youngest Jesuit to be out here in a long time.

The Mission has been engaged in a long transition from when it ran the school and the school was the center of life at the mission and for the people. No longer running the school a new center had to be developed. The renovation of the Church was a big step in this direction.

Pastoral ministry to the Arapaho and Shoshone peoples is filling that center. More so with the Arapaho than with the Shoshone. With 40 funerals a year a good part of our ministry has been with death and dying. Over the years we have developed a very good funeral practice which is the most inculturated activity we have combining both traditional and Catholic practices. Although much of our ministry is reactive to crisis we are beginning to become more proactive.

8. Significant parish events and programs

Retreat Program

1. Pilgrimage Retreat program
2. Spritual Excercises for the Staff
3. Weekend closed retreats
4. Lenten retreat in every day life

Social Events

The parish Council has held a number of social events to bring people together. The school in the past brought people together. Now it is our fellowship in the church. We have parish meals and birthday celebrations fellowship after our Sunday Masses.