

125th Anniversary



Church of Our Lady
1876 • Manannah, MN • 2001

A History of The Church of Our Lady



Church of Our Lady

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Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:00 & 8:00 pm • Sunday: 9:00 am

Our Holy Father



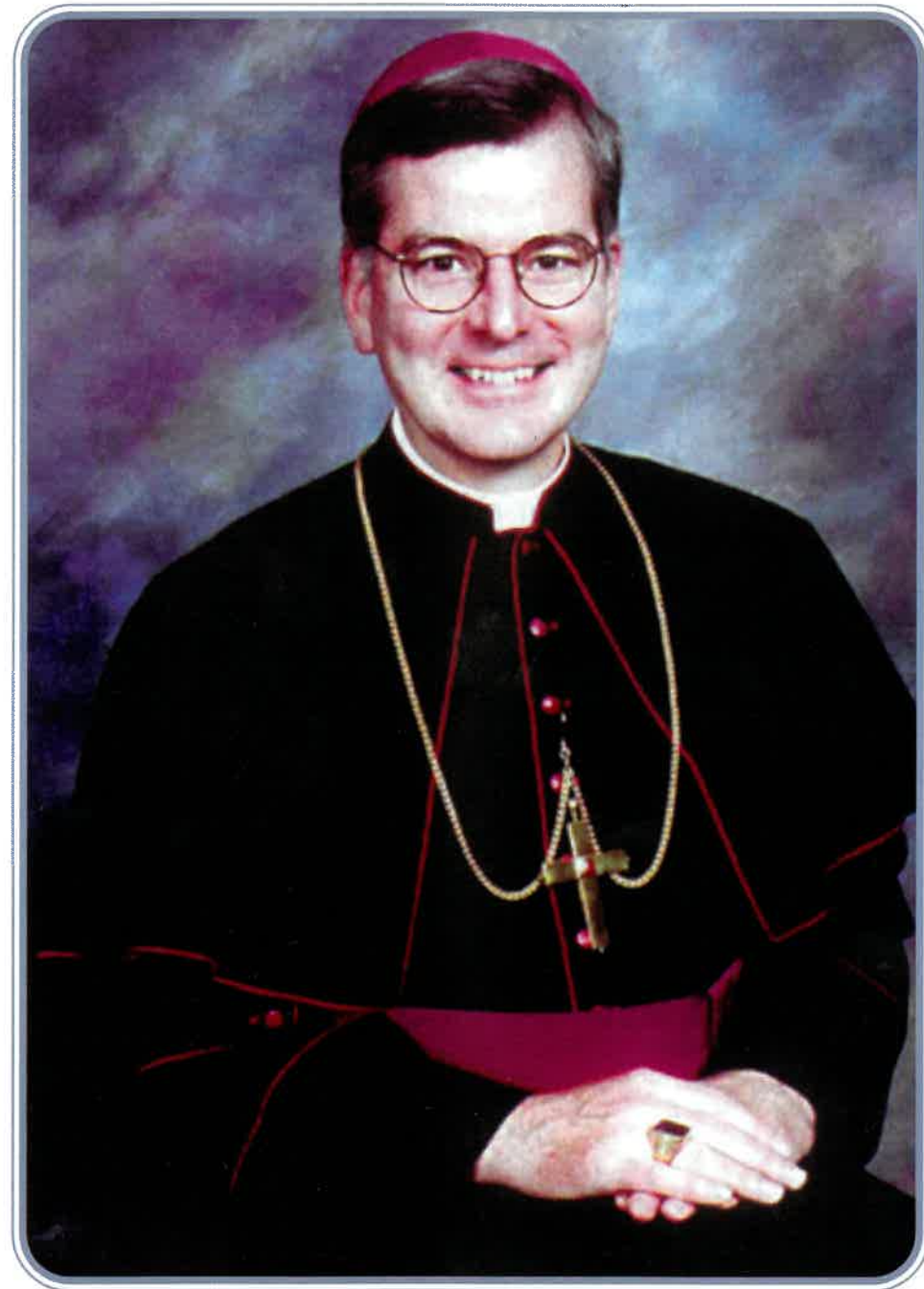
Pope John Paul II

Diocese of New Ulm



Bishop Raymond A. Lucker
Served from 1976 to 2000

Diocese of New Ulm



Bishop John Clayton Nienstedt
Bishop of New Ulm



Fr. Francis J. Garvey
Pastor



Church of Our Lady, Manannah

Dear Parishioners of The Church of Our Lady,

After praying and discussing we chose September 8, 2001, Birthday of Our Blessed Mother, as the date to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of our Parish.

For over a year we have researched information about the Church of Our Lady through past records that we have in the parish, through the Meeker County Historical Society, and from articles and pictures obtained from present and former parishioners. The result is the enclosed booklet.

Needless to say, we were not able to include all the data collected, but we hope the booklet will tell in some detail the story of immigrant people who settled in this area, established the Church of Our Lady, and the many people over 125 years who worked and sacrificed despite from what was a growing business community, to the present community of only a few businesses and a population of 50 people, to keep the parish going.

However, Manannah is like the hub of a wheel. It sits in the middle of four larger communities (Litchfield, Eden Valley, Paynesville, Grove City) and as a result people going from one community to the others often past through this village. Because people are familiar with the community, as well as many having family roots here, the present parish has close to 500 members and is a very viable parish community.

Hence, we celebrate 125 years of Catholic presence with thanks and praise to God and gratitude to all who were, and to all who are members of this parish community.

We welcome and thank all who have come to share in this celebration, and we thank all who have shared their time and gifts to make this celebration possible.

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Francis J. Garvey".

Fr. Francis J. Garvey
Pastor

A Brief History of the State of Minnesota Before It Became a State and After By - Father Garvey

In writing this brief history we used resource books on the history of Minnesota and Meeker County. Our purpose for including this history is to help all of us get a feeling of what the area of the Church of Our Lady - Manannah was like before it became a parish and how it developed since its founding in 1876.

We all have read or heard stories that the first white people to explore this area were people from northern Europe called Vikings, who came here many years before Columbus discovered America in 1492. Whether true or not, we do know that in the 1600's Catholic Jesuit Priests working as Missionaries traveled with fur traders/explorers to this area. Names like Father Rene Menard, Father Louis Hennepin, Father Joseph Marest, are just a few of the names of Catholic Priests who are often mentioned in this early history.

We also know that Native Americans (Indians) occupied this area long before white people came. Throughout the State various bands of Sioux Indians, a powerful and warlike people, were given territory in Central Minnesota by the U.S. Government in the treaty of 1815. In 1858, the Government in an effort to try and get the Indians to adopt the habits and life style of the white people offered to the head of each family 80 acres of land in the area around the Minnesota River in Central Minnesota. Some accepted this offer and became known as "farmer Indians", but most rejected the offer and were known as "blanket Indians". The "blanket Indians" would harass and take produce from the "farmer Indians" resulting in the "farmer Indians" giving up their farms.

Little Crow who was one of the "farmer Indians" began to form a band of dissatisfied Indians in the area known as the Lower and Upper Agency which included areas around

the Minnesota river, in an effort to drive all the white people from the territory. Fort Ridgely was their target. However before attacking Fort Ridgely on Sunday, August 17, 1862 a group of Sioux Indians massacred a man named Jones and his wife and a daughter and a man named Welester and Howard Baker in the town of Acton, in Meeker County. The next day the massacre of the Lower Agency took place and many were killed. From August to December battles were fought as additional military personnel were brought in at places like Birch Coolie, Fort Ridgely, New Ulm, and Wood Lake. This sad chapter in Minnesota history ended in December 1862 with Little Crow, although he was not captured, it was reported he was killed at Scattered Lake in 1863, and his band of Indians defeated and 25 of them were put to death in New Ulm on December 26, 1862 by hanging.

Because of the potato famine in the 1840's in Ireland many families left in search of a livelihood. If you look at the names on the stain glass windows in the Church of Our Lady you will see the names of some of the families involved in the migration. There were many more including immigrants from other European countries. Many arrived in New York or Canada and eventually made their way west to St. Paul. Once in St. Paul, hearing of the rich farm land in Meeker County they came in large numbers to clear and develop this area which many of our parishioners now own and continue to farm. Because of the Crow River flowing through this area and the need for the early settlers to turn part of their crop of wheat into flour, a dam was built and flour mill established in the community known as Manannah. Manannah is a name in Scottish history and was chosen by the earlier settlers to identify their new life and community. The town of

Manannah began to grow with the hope that the Great Northern Railroad would be routed this way. Hence, food and clothing stores, hardware and harness shops, blacksmith and creamery, hotel and saloons were built. And people had dreams Manannah would become the county seat. The early settlers knowing of the presence of Indians felt secure. If they needed shelter and protection the army fort located in Forest City was only 10 miles away and could be reached by horse and wagon within a half day. Thus Manannah became a wonderful community for young families to move to and raise a family.

Since many of them were Catholic the need for a priest to celebrate Mass and the Sacraments was of primary importance. Because priests from St. John's Abby at Collegeville could only come when weather, time and travel permitted to say Mass in various homes, and the trip to Forest City often had to include staying overnight, the Community decided they needed their own church. In the following pages we will try to give you the story of the Church of Our Lady (some documents list the name as the Church of Our Lady of Grace) over these past 125 years. We will try to include family names and stories in as much as our research and/or people have shared with us. It will be done in three-fold way - a brief history in a chronological way of pastors and events. Then we used the history that Peg Rueckert wrote for the 100th Anniversary, which includes besides names and dates many interesting side notes. Thirdly, is Fr. Francis Garvey's story of the parish, which will include stories for the last half of the 125 years of which he has been a part of. By doing it this way there will be some repetition of names and dates, but hopefully will give you feeling of what life was and is for the many people involved in the Church of Our Lady and the Manannah community for the past 125 years.

Town of Manannah

Nathan C. Caswell, Ziba Caswell, Christopher Davis, and Green Sykes made a trip through Meeker County in November 1855 in search of a mill site and land for farming. This county pleased them, in the area of the latter town of Manannah. In spring 1856, with Alonzo, Silas & Albert Caswell, James Nelson, Edward Brown & A. D. Pierce, they returned and took up claims in the neighborhood, which was afterwards known as the town site of Manannah, which was laid out and surveyed in Dec. 1856. The new settlement was reinforced the same autumn by the arrival of Andrew Hamilton, Charles Caswell, and John Tower.

After the Indian outbreak on Wednesday, Aug. 26., eleven citizens of Manannah were staying at Forest City. Finding that there was a great lack of stoves, bedding, provisions, etc., men volunteered to go to their homes and procure the necessities. They were Linus Howe, Moody Caswell, Chauncy Wilson, Thomas Ryckman, David Hoar, James Nelson, Wilmot Maybee, Philip H. Deck, Nathan C. Caswell, R.D.C. Cressy, and Joseph Page. They went to the house of Carlos Caswell at Manannah. After loading the wagon with bedding, stoves, and provisions, Joseph Page was shot by the Indians. And then Deck and Howe were shot. As Wilmot Maybee ran, he too was shot by the savages. Chauncy Wilson & Thomas Ryckman witnessed this cold - blooded murder of their comrades. On the 30th of that month, 24 men moved to Hutchinson to procure the government arms left there.

In that year 12 persons of Meeker County were killed by the native Indians. They were, Robinson Jones, Mrs. Ann Baker, Viranus Webster, Clara D. Wilson,

Philip Deck, Joseph Page, Linus Howe, Wilmot Maybee, Nels Olsen, Caleb Sanborn, Daniel Cross, and Thomas McGannon.

Township of Manannah

It contained 25,393 acres. The rich farms were charming. South of the river, the land was chiefly prairie interspersed with groves of timber. Pioneer settlers here were Nathan C. Caswell, Ziba Caswell, Alonzo M. Caswell, Edward Brown, Silas Caswell, and A.D. Pierce, who came here in 1856 and put up their cabins in and around the town.

That same fall John Tower, Carlos Caswell, Andrew Hamilton, J. W. Walker, Moody Bailey, and Moody Caswell came here.

In 1857 the following people settled here: Jonathan Kimball, Linus Howe, Mark Bridges, Freeman T. Gould, E. B. Kingsley, C.O. Whitney, David Dustin, J.J. Baston, John Setter, G.W. Lamb, Robert Lyon, W. D. Magill, Thomas Faloon, Porter Loveless, Robert Lang, Henry Fleming, Henry Harrideen, Ephraim Pierson, Charles Maybee, Wilmot Maybee, James Shearer, Alexander Lee, R.D.C. Cressy, John Adcock, Henry Whitman, J. Hubbard, J. Marden, J.C. Hollis, S. Sterrett, James Lang, E.O. Britt and Chauncey Wilson.

In 1858, Samuel Clyde, Michael O'Keefe and Robert Carroll settled here.

In 1859, Rev. Mr. Kidder, a Methodist clergyman, held the first religious services in the village of Manannah.

In 1860, Joseph Page and Philip Deck settled here and were killed during massacre days.

The first Mass of the Roman Catholic Church was celebrated by Fr. Anthony of St. Cloud in 1865, at the house of Frank McIntyre.

On Oct. 13, 1857, an election was

organized at the town of Manannah at the house of J. W. Walker and the following were elected: N.C. Caswell - Assessor, J. W. Walker & E.B. Kingsley - Justices, Nathan Caswell, Mark Bridges - Constables, Ziba Caswell - road overseer.

In the spring of 1856, J. W. Walker & Ziba Caswell gave this village the name Manannah taken from a Scottish history. Halcott platted the village and N.C. Caswell acted as claim bearer.

A post office was established in 1857 with Jonathan Kimball as postmaster.

On March 4, 1857, Ziba, Nathan C. & Albert Caswell put up a big building, 18 x 26, and Jonathan Kimball opened a hotel in it in May 1857.

In May 1857, J. W. Walker opened a store, which was the first one in the village. In the spring of 1857, Walker put in the dam and in the next fall put up the sawmill, which was burned down in 1862.

Manannah Village

This village was laid out in 1871 by Hines, Kimball & Beedy. The plats were filed for record on Sept. 6, 1871. It occupied a small part of section 30, 31.

In 1869, Ziba Caswell, put in a dam. In 1871, he erected a stone building and opened a general store of goods.

In 1872, T.P. Murray started a furniture depot, which was later turned into a shop for general merchandise business.

In 1871, a boarding house was started, which was later turned into a hotel.

In 1872, the flouring mill was erected by Hines, Kimball & Beedy and was operated by N.C Hines until 1874. There was roller system in it. 8 sets of rolls were added 60 h/p engine operated. It was 50 x 40 and 12 x 40 was added.

A school building of 24 x 40 was constructed.

In 1871, Hines, Kimball & Beedy built the sawmill.

A Brief History of the 123 years of the Church of Our Lady

In the 1850's and 60's, pioneers such as McCusker's, McIntyre's, McCarney's, O'Keefe's, McCann's, Martin's, Ryan's, Reagan's, Garvey's, Schreiner's and many others, came to this area to farm. A small village, north of the present site, which they called Manannah (a Scottish name), was established. Later, to be near the flourmill on the Crow River, the site was moved to its present location.

In 1865, Father Anthony, OSB, from St. John's Abbey in Collegeville visited the area. Later, Father Burns, also from the Abbey, came occasionally to say Mass and administer the Sacraments. He was followed by Father Hurley and Father Cahill from the Diocese of St. Paul.

In 1867, a Catholic Church, St. Gertrude, was built in Forest City. Catholics from this area made the long trip regularly to attend Mass.

Because of a growing Catholic population in the Manannah area, in 1876, under the pastorate of Father John McDermott, the first part of the Church of Our Lady was built. The land for the site was donated by Anthony Kelly.

In 1884, under the pastorate of Father Patrick Kenny, the church was incorporated as a parish in the state of Minnesota, and was made a mission of St. Philip's of Litchfield. At this time a cemetery was also established.

Father Hugh McDevitt followed Father Kenny in 1885 and built a rectory, and became the first resident pastor of the Church of Our Lady, which had grown to 95 families and 250 people. He remained pastor until 1897.

Some time between 1895 and 1903, the Church was enlarged. Father Michael Cowley and Alois Kartigar served as

pastors until 1900 when Father Patrick Boland became pastor of St. Philip's, Litchfield with the Church of Our Lady as a mission.

It was re-established as a parish in 1903, with Father Francis McDermott as the pastor, and St. Peter's in Eden Valley a mission. One year later, St. Peter's became a parish and the Church of Our Lady again became a mission. This situation remained until 1937. The pastors serving the parish from 1904 to 1937 were: Father Joseph Powers, Father James Burns, Father Jeremiah O'Callaghan, Father Henry McCall, and Father Robert Cogwin.

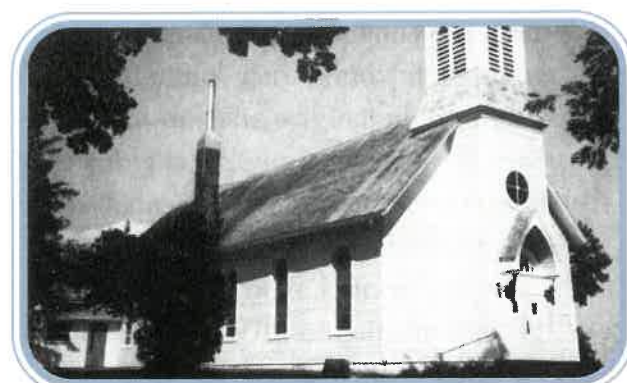
In 1937, Manannah was restored to a parochial status with the Church of St. Columbanus in Greenleaf as its mission. This association of Parish/Mission would remain until 1960.

Father Jeremiah O'Callaghan served as pastor from 1912 to 1926. During his time the stained glass windows were installed and a new altar was built.

In the fall of 1937, Father James Westfall became the first resident pastor since 1904, and during his pastorate of 3 years a new rectory was built at a cost of \$10,000.00.

From 1939 until 1947 Manannah had a number of pastors: Father James Coleman, 1939-1941; Father Mark Williams, 1941; Father Francis Wilkens, 1941-1942; Father John Phelan, 1942-1945; Father Joseph Esser, 1945-1947; Father Kachinsky, 1947.

Father Raymond Rypel was a pastor from 1947 to 1955. During his pastoral, a new well and heating system were installed; nuwood was put on the interior walls of the Church along with new floor covering. In 1951, the Woodman Hall or "Town Hall" was purchased for \$3,000.00



and moved on to Church grounds to serve as a social center.

John Ward was pastor from 1955-1958. During his time, besides many repairs, a Perpetual Fund was established for the Cemetery.

Father Dufresne was pastor from 1958 to 1968. During this pastoral, the Church of Our Lady had its first native son, Father Francis Garvey, ordained for the New Ulm Diocese. In addition, Vatican II brought many changes to the parish.

Father Joseph Enders was pastor from 1968 to 1980. During his pastoral, bathrooms for the Church and a new garage were built, and in 1980, a new organ was installed. Also, a Parish Council and Parish Education Committee were established.

Father Robert Merth was pastor from 1980 to 1985. Father John Gleason from 1985 to 1992. Father Robert Clark from 1993 to 1996. Father Francis Garvey from 1996 to the present.

In 1997, the floor was redone in the social hall, new gas furnace installed in Church and rectory. In 1998, a new roof and steel siding were put on the Church.

In 1999, the parking lot was black-topped, and the interior of the Church was completely remodeled with sheet rock walls, new floor and pews. Also, the social hall was shingled, and new sewer systems were installed for the Church and rectory. An addition of almost an acre was added to the cemetery.

In 2000 a new well, and construction began on a 54 x 70 addition to the parish center, which included 7 classrooms, office space, expansion of social center, and handicap washrooms.

A reprint of the History of the Church of Our Lady which was written by Peg Rueckert for Centennial of the Parish in 1976.

The name, Manannah was selected from an old Scottish history. Nothing remains of the old and original townsite of Manannah, or is there anything to mark its location.

The present townsite of Manannah was surveyed and plotted by Hines Kimball and Beedy and the plot was filed for record on September 6, 1871. Cressy's addition was plotted by R.D.C. Cressy and filed for record on November 16, 1874.

Ziba Caswell, who was one of the first settlers to settle in the township and was among those who settled on the original townsite, built a dam located in the present townsite in 1869, which was partially washed out the following spring. It was presumably rebuilt at the same location in 1872 which furnished water power for the flour mill built by him in partnership with Otho H. Campbell and was operated by N.C. Hines until 1874.

The old millstones were discarded eventually in favor of a roller system of grinding and a sixty-horse power machine. Two of the millstones can be seen at the Marlon Parsons' Property in Manannah. Henry C. Parsons, his grandfather, was a co-owner of the mill from 1907 to 1910. The mill was sold to William Schreiner, one of our pioneer parishioners. The mill was blown down in a heavy windstorm, and all the machinery and lumber were sold. It was one of the last mills in the county to stop operating.

Manannah can claim a certain amount of its picturesque beauty of a century or so ago with its many shade trees and the flowing Crow River surrounded by rich farms. It is easily reached by state-aid

roads which branch off state highway numbers 4, 22, and 55. The people of the present can no longer view the millpond, the mill, and the falls as part of the scene. For many years, the sound of the falls could be heard which was part of living in Manannah, also. Instead, there are other sights and sounds which time has brought with it. In winter, the snowmobiles can be heard as the snowmobilers manipulate their snow craft on well beaten trails on the east side of the river and, also, trails some distance to the west of the river.

In the summer Crow River is used by the canoeists who find it a pastime and a challenge to canoe as far as possible down the river. If the river is high enough, the Manannah Bridge is the designated beginning for a Canoe Derby, which is held every summer in connection with the Watercade of Litchfield.

The early settlers, also, used the river but as a means of getting to their destination in small boats. Many of the early settlers were of the Catholic faith, and among the first to come were the Michael O'Keefe and Robert Carrol families who came in the year 1858 and took acreage along Crow River. They looked for a suitable place to settle, and when they found one they built a crude house of hand-hewn logs and settled there.

In the year 1859, Fergus McCusker located in Harvey Township. He came by team and found a suitable place on the prairie to build a home.

Four years later Frank McIntrye came up the river looking for a location for his family. He found a suitable place and built a home. His family joined him very shortly. It was in this home in

Section 26 of Manannah Township that the first Mass was said by Father Anthony of the Benediction Abbey of the St. Cloud Diocese. The Boyer brothers, very recently, owned the farm on which the house was located. Mass was also said at the home of Dennis Ryan and later at the home of Daniel Cashman.

Other pioneer parishioners are: James McCarney, James McIntyre, James McIntee, John Martin, Manus O'Keefe, Pat McCann, Michael and Patrick Dillon, William Schreiner, Louis Hanses, Peter Mitchell, Patrick Hughes, Thomas Hollihan, Thomas Staunton, Dan Hawkins, Michael Wynn, Thomas and John C. Connole, Mike McCann, Martin Brandley, Charles McAloon, Mitchell Reagan, Mike and John Foley, and Owen Gibney. There may be other pioneers whose descendants live in the parish and if their names are omitted, it is because there are no records.

In 1865 Father Anthony, from the Abbey at St. John's was the first priest to visit these parts of the county and the people of Manannah. Father Burns, also of the Abbey, came through occasionally to say Mass and administer to the needs of the people. Later Father Hurley of the diocese of St. Paul was appointed to look after the spiritual wants of the Catholic people and to make occasional visits. He was a zealous priest with many missions to attend to. He could make only occasional visits to each section of the community. Father Cahill was the next priest to serve the needs of the Catholics of our vicinity.

In 1867 the Catholics had great cause for rejoicing. The first Catholic Church was built at the County seat at that time, Forest City.

Priests were scarce and Mass was not

celebrated every Sunday, as their mode of travel was as primitive as that of the settlers. Roads were mere trails across county with an eye of hope toward the building of railroads.

Each year more settlers and more Catholics came to this part of the country looking for homes. Many settled to the North and West of Manannah, which meant traveling a long distance to Forest City. Some would start out on Saturday and spend the night at a farm along the way. Others would leave very early Sunday morning taking food with them.

Mass hour was at 10:30 and often night would overtake them before they reached home. Going to Mass had its hardships, but it also had its joyous moments, as neighbors would be waiting for those who lived farther away to come so they could join them with teams or on foot. On September 16, 1868, the Bishop of St. Paul, Most Reverend Grace conferred the sacrament of Confirmation for the first time in Meeker County at the Church of St. Gertrude in Forest City. In the spring of 1869, a class of twenty-five children received their First Communion from Father Burns. No doubt that some of our Catholics from Manannah were in those groups. Because of the missionary status and frequent changing of priests many of these records were mislaid, or lost, or scattered and will never be recovered.

More and more people were settling around the Manannah area as well as other areas in Meeker County, which meant a growing population and a need for a Catholic Church for the Manannah area residents.

In 1876 the Catholic Church of Our Lady at Manannah was established by Rev. John McDermott of Darwin under

whose direction was built a portion of the present building. The ground, which the church stands, was donated by Anthony Kelly. It is situated on a rather high elevation, part of section 31 Meeker County, Minn.

It was, also, in 1876 that the Church was dedicated to Our Blessed Mother. Father McDermott served the Church at Forest City and Darwin and the mission at Manannah.

The next priest to serve Manannah was Father Patrick Kenny. In 1884 the church was incorporated as a parish in the state of Minnesota, and became a mission of St. Philips of Litchfield. About the same time part of the parish cemetery was established. The title to the land was taken in 1890. Patrick Enright and Louis Hanses were the first trustees.

Father Hugh DeVitt saw the need of a resident priest for the Church of Our Lady of Manannah, when he followed Father Kenny as our mission pastor. With the permission of the bishop a parochial residence was established in 1885 at a cost of \$2,000.00. The church was in flourishing condition with ninety-five families, and a population of two hundred fifty. The tower portion of the church was not completed and would be added later.

The first baptism recorded was that of Thomas Connole, son of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Connole, which took place on May 4, 1885. Mary O'Sullivan was the next recorded baptism on May 10, 1885. She was the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jeremiah Sullivan. The first recorded marriage was that of Manus O'Keffe and Patricia Raftis who were married on November 24, 1885.

There were no recorded deaths at the time the Church of Our Lady became a

parish, but according to the cemetery book, Ellen Vaughn, wife of Patrick Vaughn was buried in our cemetery in 1876. There were two deaths; one was Peter Connole, who according to the cemetery book was buried in 1877. This is verified in the History and Biography, Meeker County, Minnesota of 1888. Which reads: "His death was the result of a run away on August 22, 1877." The other death recorded in the cemetery book is Steven Mitchell. The time of his death is also verified in the History and Biography, Meeker County, Minnesota as taking place on August 18, 1877.

In 1886 Father DeVitt became our first resident pastor and served in Manannah parish as a resident until 1897. In 1892 a bell was ordered from the McShane Bell Foundry of Baltimore at a cost of \$450.00. The bell arrived on July 21, 1892 and was put in place with the historic comment, "It is the largest bell in the county weighing with mountings something like 2,500 pounds." However, St. Gertrude's of Forest City arrived three years later and it weighed more than that without the mountings, according to those who repaired it in 1972. The ceremony of blessing the bell was performed on the Sunday following the mounting of the bell.

Between the years 1895 and 1903, the church was enlarged, according to a reliable source, by cutting through the middle, moving one end out and adding to the middle making it the size it is today.

Father Michael Cawley succeeded Father DeVitt and served as the pastor until 1900. Father Alois Kastigar served for a short time during 1900. Then it became a mission of Litchfield with Father Boland as the pastor.

It was re-established as a parish in 1903, with Father Francis X. McDermott as the pastor who also had Eden Valley as a mission. A year later Eden Valley became the parish and Manannah its mission until 1937.

The pastors serving the parish at that time were: Father Joseph Powers, Father James Burns, Father Jeremiah O'Callaghan, Father Henry McCall, and Father Robert Cogwin, who was the last of the group of priests to serve Manannah as a mission.

In 1937, Manannah was restored to a parochial status with the Church of St. Columbanus in Greenleaf as its mission.

Father Jeremiah O'Callaghan, a native of Ireland served the parish from 1912 until 1926. He was a frequent visitor to Manannah and was often seen during needed repair work in the Church and on the Church grounds.

While he was the pastor the beautiful stained glass windows were installed. Each window has the same pattern with a different religious symbol on each one. The windows have the names of former parishioners inscribed on them which serve as a memorial and a reminder of our early parishioners. One window is a memorial to Father Hugh McDevitt who served as the pastor from 1884 until 1897. During Father O'Callaghans pastorate the original altars were removed and new ones put in. The original altars were probably built by one of our very early parishioner who was a carpenter and had constructed altars for neighboring churches. The high altar, which was renovated in 1976, remains in the sanctuary, but the side altars were removed in the same year and replaced by statue shelves. Another project that was finished in 1915 was the reshingling of the roof.

In the summer of 1919, Father went to Ireland to visit his relatives who were living there. Father Meade served during his absence. In 1926, Father O'Callaghan got a call to go to South St. Paul where he would have a much larger parish. The people from St. Peter's at Eden Valley and the Church of Our Lady of Manannah had a combined farewell party for him in the old Lahr Hall in Eden Valley.

Father Henry McCall served the two parishes from 1926 to 1936, which was the time of the Great Depression. He was a priest of great charity, which was clearly shown by his many acts of generosity to his own people and those who weren't of his faith. During his pastorate, he requested that the church bell be rung morning, noon, and night summoning people to say the prayers of the Angelus. On a clear day the sound of the ringing bell could be heard for several miles.

The evergreen trees in front of the church and the blue spruce at the south entrance of the cemetery, which were planted at his request, will serve as a living memorial to him during this Centennial.

Father Cogwin was pastor when an important event took place. The R.E.A. Rural Electric Association was established in Meeker County for the purpose of providing electrification for the rural population. In 1937 the church and parish house were wired for electricity and electric lights installed. As there had been no previous electricity this was something of a luxury.

In the fall of 1937, Father James Westfall came to be the first permanent pastor of the parish since 1904. St. Columbanus of Greenleaf became a mission of the Church of Our Lady. One of Father's tasks was to start the

construction of a new rectory and to have the old rectory torn down or removed.

The old house was sold to Mr. & Mrs. Donald Martin for \$300.00, who moved it to its present location by means of horses. Mr. & Mrs. Nick Schmit resides in the original parochial residence at the present time.

The new house was completed in 1938 at a cost of \$10,000.00. Father Westfall stayed as the pastor until 1939.

Father James Coleman followed Father Westfall. He immediately initiated a program of improvements with the help of the men of the Holy Name Society, and the women of the Altar and Rosary Society who donated money for needed supplies, the improvements started. The entire yard and cemetery were renovated and beautified. The sacristy had major repairs and the siding on the church as well as the cross on the steeple were repaired and painted. A storehouse was completed, painted and moved. Two of the parishioners laid the sidewalk and built a new garage.

The young people of the parish got involved in fund raising by putting on "home talent shows" and "home talent plays," in the old hall. They gave their plays in other towns for others to enjoy. Another "first" was holding a picnic and a bazaar under a "big top" which was a huge rented tent put up on the parish grounds to house the festivities for the day.

Sometime between 1939 and 1941 Father Coleman went to Minneapolis. While he was there he founded and incorporated the Church of St. Olaf. In his absence, Father Mark Williams acted as an administrator.

Father Francis Wilkens was pastor of the two parishes from 1941 until 1942.

Father John Phelan had a different fund raising project, new to the parishioners. He called an all parish meeting and presented the plan called "Livestock Project." Farmers shipped their livestock to South St. Paul by truck, as is the custom at the present time. It was decided that any farmer who was willing, could designate one of his animals as property of the Church of Our Lady, and a check would be sent directly to the Parish. This did not involve all parishioners but a considerable amount of money was added to the finances of the church.

Father Joseph Esser came in 1946, after serving as a chaplain in World War II for three years. He stayed until 1947 and left to return to the United States Army as a chaplain. Father Kachinsky was here for a short time in the interim between Father Esser and Father Rypel.

Father Raymond Rypel came to the parish in 1947, and in a short time changes began to take place. The first thing that had to be installed was a well for the rectory. Following this, a new heating system was installed in the church, a new covering was laid on the floor, the roof was resingled and new wood was placed throughout the interior. The painting "Our Mother of Perpetual Help" was permanently superimposed upon the wall over the high altar. In keeping with the "new look" the old wooden stations were replaced by more modern ones. In 1954, the old fashioned reed organ was replaced by a modern one.

During the summer of 1951, lightning struck the church building causing considerable damage to the west side of the bell tower. The cross had been damaged and had to be repaired before placing it on the new steeple. When all

the repairs were finished the bell tower presented a somewhat modified appearance.

Contrary to the axiom, "Lightning never strikes twice," the church tower was struck shortly after the bell was installed. Lightning rods were installed in hopes that these safety devices would prevent such a happening a third time.

In 1951, with misgivings on the part of some of the parishioners the Woodman Hall or the "Town Hall" located west of the Manannah store was purchased by the parish for \$3,000.00. The initial cost was covered by special donations and shares owned by William Cashman Sr., Mike McCann Jr., Mr. & Mrs. James McCarney, John McLaughlin, William Mitchell and the Hollihan Estate. The hall was moved to a location on the church property near the church where the grounds were made ready by hired help and a great deal of donated help. A basement was dug and the hall was placed where it is today. Much renovation was necessary in the hall, and a new modern kitchen was added. Later, other needed equipment was purchased or donated making the old hall a very usable building.

The Social Center as it is called is the scene for many of our church activities. It provides rooms for the religion classes, and for most of the fund raising activities. People of other faiths find it useful to rent for social affairs. It is used for voting purposes, town meetings, and non-profit organizations may use the facilities. Most everyone, who is a parishioner or has been a parishioner, has experienced some kind of a religious or social event in the Social Center. There are also many people who experienced many happy events when the Social

Center was the Woodman Hall.

Father Rypel was called to serve at St. Peters Church in St. Peter in 1955. Father John Ward replaced him and stayed until 1958. One of his lasting contributions was the work of reorganization of the plotting of Our Lady's cemetery. With the help of one or two faithful workers, Father Ward proceeded on this work, which took many hours and days. On June 25, 1957 an Endowed Care Plan was adopted in order to form an opportunity for those listed in Our Lady's Cemetery to assist in providing for its future care. An Endowed Fund was established and gifts at the rate of \$100.00 a lot were invited.

On November 16, 1958 Father bid the parish "farewell", and eventually came the first Superintendent of the New Ulm Diocese.

Father Oliver Dufresne came to serve the Church of Our Lady of Manannah and St. Columbanus of Greenleaf in November of 1958. St. Columbanus remained a mission of the Church of Our Lady until the early 1960's. During his tenure many activities took place, the first of which was to promote a better quality of education for the elementary children by devising a way to send them to a Catholic School.

In 1960, Father Dufresne spearheaded seven other citizens of Meeker County who were interested in obtaining a regional library for Meeker County, which would provide mobile libraries for all the little villages that didn't have a public library. Many of the members of the parish became involved by attending meetings and getting other people involved. At that time the project was voted down, but in 1972 a state and federal grant was given to Meeker,

McLeod and Kandiyohi Counties.

Manannah now has a mobile unit visiting the village every two weeks from which magazines, records, tapes and any other library materials can be obtained. The bringing together of people of different faiths working towards a common goal was truly an ecumenical movement.

In 1965 six families from the Church of Our Lady were hosts to a group of underprivileged and minority children from the Minneapolis area, who spent eight days enjoying rural life. They were met at the Litchfield Bus Depot by members of the host families. This was a part of the Minnesota Interracial Vacation Visits Program.

In the summer of 1966 four young people from our parish took part in another worthwhile project, sponsored by the Catholic Youth Center in Minneapolis. They spent two weeks in the following places: Northside Neighborhood House, located in a predominately Black section of Minneapolis, the poverty stricken Appalachia area of Kentucky, helping to build a new chapel and working with young people, also at an Indian Mission in Pine Ridge, South Dakota helping with teaching duties.

Father Dufresne was the pastor during Vatican II, which brought new life for the liturgy and many other changes too. Father started instructing the parishioners in the new liturgy, and initiated some of the changes so we were prepared, to some extent, when all the Roman Catholic Churches began to assume the responsibility of conforming to Vatican II.

These were a few of the people's involvements and activities under the pastorship of Father Dufresne.

In the afternoon of March 19, 1968,

St. Joseph's Day, Father Joseph Endres became our pastor. Father saw much work ahead of him and went to work immediately.

He organized a School Board to assist with the religious education of the parish. The work of the Cemetery Board, which was started while Father Dufresne was here, continued after a meeting was called in 1968. A set of rules was drawn up in accordance with the Minnesota State Laws and adopted for the needs of the parish. On October 27, 1970, the first Pastoral Council meeting was called by Father. The purpose of the Council is to assist in governing the parish and to function according to the regulations set up in the Constitution.

In 1969, a new organ was installed replacing the first electric organ that was installed on 1954. The parish was pleased to know that Father's singing voice would be much help to the choir, and the laity as they participated more and more actively in the singing of the liturgy.

In 1969 and through the year 1976, much work was done on the "Parish Plant." First, the Social Center received new windows and some renovation was done in the Center, the basement was painted, a new ceiling and new lights were installed. Folding doors were purchased which were used as dividers for the large room. The kitchen in the rectory was changed and remodeled making it a very attractive and a better working area.

In 1973, the top of the chimney of the church was repaired. The communion railing which had not been used for sometime was removed. In March of the same year, many more improvements were initiated. Two exits

were built, and an enclosed ramp leading into the church was built with new carpeting on the floor of the ramp and sacristy. A much-needed double garage with a cemented driveway was constructed.

In 1974, the church tower was repaired, reshingled, and the house and church painted.

In 1975 and 1976, the interior of the church was completely renovated. A platform was built, so that the Altar of Sacrifice was more prominent.

The statue of the Sacred Heart was moved to a significant location in the southwest part of the church and the statue of the Little Flower was placed inside the entrance of the newly remodeled part of church.

The next project was the windows. They were repaired, stabilized and cleaned adding much to the beauty of our stained glass windows. The final improvement was putting carpeting on the entry steps, which lead to the main entrance of the church.

Father Endres also takes time out to help when there is a need in neighboring parishes. He fulfilled the pastoral duties for St. Peter's in Eden Valley in late 1974 and early 1975, in the interim between Father Rypel and Father Halloran. He served several years as Moderator of the Litchfield Deanery of the Council of Catholic Women. Presently he is appointed Diocesan Moderator of the Council of Catholic Women, on the Marriage Tribunal, elected to the Priests Council and Retirement Board.

"There are, however, many other things that Jesus did, but if every one of these should be written, not even the world itself, I think could hold the books that would have to be written." John 21:25.

Our parish proudly claims four of its

sons as priests but only one said his first Mass here.

Father Francis Garvey was born on March 2, 1933 in Manannah Township. He attended school district number 28 for seven years and the Eden Valley Public School for four years. He then entered Nazareth Hall Minor Seminary in St. Paul where he spent three years. He spent six years at the St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul and was ordained a priest by Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler at Holy Trinity Cathedral in New Ulm on February 22, 1959.

He served as assistant pastor in Hutchinson and Silver Lake and Holy Trinity Cathedral, New Ulm. He was made pastor of St. Patrick's church in Kandiyohi and chaplain of the Willmar State Hospital on July 18, 1962 where he is at the present.

In 1965, he founded the St. Francis Half-Way House in Atwater, Minnesota, and was made supervisor of Clinical Pastoral Education in 1967, became Chairman of the New Ulm Personnel Board in 1969 to 1974. In 1975, he was made a member of the Board of Examiners for the United States Catholic Conference.

The other three priests were born within the confines of the parish but later became members of St. Philip's at Litchfield.

Monsignor James Ryan was born in Manannah Township on November 5, 1892 to James and Mary Ann Ryan. His parents became members of St. Philip's Parish. He was ordained a priest on June 10, 1922, and after many years serving as a pastor, he retired and is living in St. Paul.

Monsignor Patrick Ryan, son of Patrick and Johanna Ryan, was born on December 3, 1902, in Manannah

Township. His father died before he was born and later he and his mother moved to Litchfield where they became members of St. Philip's Parish. He was ordained a priest in 1927. After spending many years as a United States Army Chaplain, having been promoted during those years to major general and chief of chaplains, he retired and lives in Washington D.C.

Monsignor Roger Connole was born in Harvey Township on November 27, 1900, to John and Agnes Connole. His parents, also, moved to Litchfield and became members of St. Philip's Parish. He was ordained to the Holy Priesthood in June of 1929. He was an assistant parish priest for a few years, and later became Superintendent of the Schools in the Archdiocese of St. Paul. Monsignor Connole was the author of "Christian Inheritance Religion Series." He died on August 23, 1972.

All religious instructions were given to the children in the parishes by the priests with the assistance of some lay teachers until about 1944. Most of this instruction was given on Sunday after Mass supplemented by a week or two period during the summer season. About 1940, arrangements were made to have nuns come to the parish for two weeks during the summer. During the middle 1950's, nuns came to instruct the children on Saturday mornings.

In 1959, the parish purchased a bus to transport the elementary children to the Assumption Catholic School in Eden Valley. An organization called the Marian Bus Association was started by the parents of the Church of Our Lady and a few parents from Assumption and St. Peter's parish in Eden Valley. The first bus was traded or sold and a Volkswagen and another bus were

purchased, a joint owned project, which at one time transported thirty-six children. This included most of the families of the parish who had elementary children. The few children not attending Assumption School attended religion classes in the neighboring parishes or were taught religion by their parents. Adult parishioners taught C.C.D. high school classes one night a week and some attended release classes. In the late 1960's and 1970's most of the children attended C.C.D. classes taught by lay persons in the homes, church, rectory and Social Center. The nuns came to the parish for the summer school until 1975, then the priest, teachers and lay teachers took over the task of instructing the summer school religion classes.

In the summer of 1974, the teacher and students of the high school classes were the co-sponsors of a carnival complete with many concessions and types of entertainment. Two groups from the senior and junior classes attended weekend seminars at the Gatherin' House in Marshall during the 1975-76 school year.

In the past eight years, annually, about sixty students attended religion classes on Wednesday evenings for one hour from October through April. These students represent a cross-section of the area schools which are: Eden Valley, Watkins, Grove City, Paynesville, Litchfield, and St. Philips of Litchfield, where a few children from the parish attend but, also, chose to come to the parish C.C.D. classes.

During the 1960's an adult C.C.D. program was activated which included eight discussion groups from different areas of the parish meeting regularly in the homes, classes which met during Lent, and a Christian Family Movement

group. In 1970, an Adult Education Course was offered with men and women participating.

In 1975, the women's organization known as the Altar and Rosary Society had its name changed. The official name became Our Lady of Manannah Council of Catholic Women and to be known informally as Our Lady's Council. In earlier years, the meetings of the Altar and Rosary Society were held in the church after Mass, and in the homes. Later, the Social Center was used for evening meetings. One Sunday a month was reserved for the Society to recite the Rosary and celebrate Mass as a group, a practice discontinued for some time.

Dinners and suppers were often held in the old hall and with no modern conveniences this was indeed a task. In 1939, a bazaar was held on the parish grounds as has been mentioned. The Social Center was completed by 1952, and a dinner and bazaar were held in the Center and on the parish grounds. This type of money raising activity continues until 1967. To make the dinners and bazaars successful, the combined effort of men, women and children was necessary. Several of the area farmers took turns donating livestock to be given as prizes and raffles. The women donated homemade articles, and neighboring stores donated prizes. On the day of the bazaar anyone who was able to work had a job.

Since these big events discontinued, the women have other kinds of fund raising projects such as: Bingo parties, rummage and food sales, pot luck suppers, breakfasts, ice cream socials and raffles.

Our Lady's Council has three circles, which deal with immediate needs of the parish such as fund raising, care of the

altar and church, upkeep of the hall and providing meals for funerals. Money obtained from fund raising, dues and donations is usually given to the church, unless it has been designated for some other purpose.

In the last part of the century technology has made the world seem smaller and problems outside the parish need attention. There are six commissions whose aims and goals overlap with the circles, but the commissions are more involved with current problems. An important one concerning the members is all phases of the Right to Life with abortion having priority. The members of Our Lady's Council are engaging in an active campaign by writing letters to government officials, signing petitions, attending meetings, demonstrating and working to get others involved in the fight against the great evil of abortion.

Some members visit nursing homes, distribute fruit baskets during the Christmas season to the sick of the parish, take treats to the Eden Valley Nursing Home, and take turns with other churches serving birthday lunch to the patients at Bethany Home in Litchfield.

A dedicated group of ladies meet regularly at homes to do another type of mission work. They sew, buy and assemble layettes for missions and Birthright. They also make bandages and donate cash for the Guatemala Missions or other needy places.

The officers and commission chairmen and others attend the fall institute of the Litchfield Deanery and the spring convention of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. There are workshops under each commission, where they can learn and exchange ideas relevant to their commission or office.

The Holy Name Society, a men's organization, was recently terminated, after being active for many years. The society added to the parish finances by having "Smokers" which provided entertainment for the men. In addition to helping out with the parish finances, the records show that the Holy Name Society willingly gave their time and talents to help any project sponsored by the parish.

During February, the men of the parish have a sausage and pancake supper, which is increasing in popularity each year. All males who are old enough to work are drafted for this "all male" event.

The Young People's Sodality was a youth group active in the 1940's and 1950's. The Sodality had fundraisers, the favorite being an old-fashioned ice-cream social. Social gatherings were sometimes held in the rectory and this group too, helped whenever they were needed.

In the 1960's, the organization of Young Christian Students was initiated in the parish, an international organization with counterparts of Young Christian Workers and Young Christian Families. A Contact Group was, also, formed along the lines established by the Catholic Youth Center in the Twin Cities. Each year several of the youth participated in a week end seminar at the Catholic Youth Center in Minneapolis.

On November 23, 1963, an invitation was extended to the member's of the parish to become active or auxiliary members of the Legion of Mary. The "Legion" has many facets, but the underlying purpose is to give homage to Mary, their Queen and dedicate themselves to her. A few members remained active until 1967.

Many special events have taken place in the last century, many of which are known or forgotten but there are a few which have been recorded or recollected.

"Our Mother of Perpetual Help," a nineteenth century oil painting, has been a cherished possession of the parish for almost one hundred years.

In 1952, the Minneapolis Tribune became interested in the history of the painting, and on August 31, 1952, the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune Picture had a story complete with pictures of the interior of the church taken during Saturday evening devotions to "Our Lady of Perpetual Help." Among those pictured were Mrs. William Schreiner, daughter of John Hanses, and her daughter, Clara Schreiner, granddaughter of John Hanses.

This story of the picture taken from the Minneapolis paper, "as the Eden Valley Journal points out, the history of the painting goes back to 1880. It was then that John Hanses, a pioneer settler of the Manannah community sent to his birthplace at Westphalen, Germany, an order for a well know artist to do the painting, although Hanses knew the artist, the latter's name has since been lost to the family. When the painting arrived it cost more than Hanses had anticipated, so he was obliged to sell his best horse to help pay for it. The family had the picture hung over the high altar in the then new church, but it ultimately was relegated to relative obscurity at the rear of the church. Some fifteen years ago it again was placed in a position of prominence and recently that position was made permanent."

In 1976 it was necessary to move the picture from its place above the high altar

because of the extensive renovation going on within the church. It was retouched by a professional artist, then framed and hung on the east wall of the church.

After a year's delay on October 28, 1952, the Church of Our Lady observed its seventy-fifth year as a parish. Former pastors and parishioners were invited to join the parishioners in celebrating the event. His Excellency, the late Archbishop John Gregory Murray was present for the celebration of the Solemn High Mass at ten-thirty and preached the sermon. Dinner was served in the new Social Center after the service.

Father Francis Garvey celebrated his first Solemn Mass in the Church of Our Lady on March 1, 1958. Dinner was served to the pastor, visiting pastors and relatives by the ladies of the parish. In the afternoon, a reception was held for all the parishioners and friends.

In June 1969, the parish was happy to host an informal reception for a delayed celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of its pastor. Father Joseph Endres was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on January 29, 1944, and celebrated his first Solemn Mass on February 2, 1944 at St. Mathias Church, Hampton, Minnesota.

On June 17, 1958, Bishop Alphonse J. Schladweiler confirmed a class of twenty-six and on June 18, 1975, he confirmed a class of twenty-two. These were the first and last classes of the Church of Our Lady to be confirmed by him as Bishop of New Ulm.

Since our Blessed Mother of the Patroness of our parish, special emphasis is given to various devotions to her. The Annual May Crowning of Mary, as Queen of Heaven was a fitting beginning

for May devotions. In anticipation of August 15, the Assumption of Mary, her altar was beautifully decorated depicting some stage of Mary's role in the church using the statue as a nucleus for the display. At one time there was great interest in having outdoor shrines of Mary - another way of showing honor to her. Some of these shrines can be seen in farm yards and yards of the parishioners. In 1955, many attended Father Peyton's Rosary Crusade. A bus and private cars provided the transportation for the people who attended. Many can recall the very heavy rainfall that could have spoiled the evening but the timing was right.

On September 18, 1974, Mr. Williams visited the parish with the Pilgrim statue, a replica of Our Lady of Fatima. The importance of the Brown Scapular was explained by Mr. Williams. A period of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed, concluded by Benediction.

Day's that had special ceremonies were: St. Isadore's Day, by having seeds and soils blessed; Thanksgiving Day, by displaying products of farms and fields or any special blessings, followed by prayers of Thanksgiving; Corpus Christi, by participating in an outdoor procession on Sunday afternoon.

In the 1960's many parishioners had a ceremony of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart performed in their homes. The members of the family both living and dead were consecrated to the Most Sacred Heart.

After 1965, when the changes in the liturgy were initiated because of Vatican II, men of the parish became our first lectors. Presently, both men and women serve as lectors and they are: Herbert Brixius, James Caron, John Garvey Jr.,

Mrs. Harold Larson, Mrs. Wayne Johnson, Mrs. Michael McCarney and Richard Schmit.

The following men have given of their time for the welfare of the church since it was organized in serving as trustees are: Patrick Enright, Loius Hansas, Peter J. Mitchell, Maurice Foley, Martin Flynn, Mike Ryan, Thomas Hollihan, William C. Cashman Sr., Charles McNulty, James McCarney, William Schreiner, Henry Brummer, Everett Summers, Leonard McCarney, Frank J. Nistler, Donald Martin, John Brummer, John Garvey Sr., Jerome McCarney and James Wuertz.

The present members of the parish council are: Mrs. Frank X. Nistler, Mrs. Gene McCann, Mrs. Victor Topp, Jerome McCarney, James Caron, James Wuertz, Math Lahr, and Mike Garvey.

The members of the Cemetery Association are: Joe Brummer, Nick Schmit, Mrs. Wesley Rueckert and Mrs. Walter Tintes Sr.

The following serve on the Parish School Board: Mrs. Jerome McCarney, Mrs. Mike Reagan, Mrs. Donald Danielson, Walter Tintes Jr. and Victor Topp.

The following are the officers of Our Lady's Council: Mrs. Victor Topp, President: Mrs. Ralph Boyer, Vice President: Mrs. James Wuertz, Treasurer: Mrs. Michael McCarney, Secretary.

The chairmen and co-chairmen of the circles are: Mrs. Ralph Boyer and Mrs. Michael McCarney, Mrs. Wayne Johnson and Mrs. Richard Struthers, and Mrs. Paul Anderson.

The Commission Chairmen are: Mrs. Walter Tintes Jr., Mrs. Gene McCann, Mrs. Donald Danielson, Mrs. Wesley Rueckert, Mrs. Frank X. Nistler and Mrs.

Richard Struthers.

The C.C.D. teachers during the 1975-76 school year are: Father Joseph Endres, Mrs. Donald Danielson, Principal, Mrs. Ralph Boyer, Mrs. Cletus Hoerchler, Mrs. Frank McIntee, Mrs. Arthur Haag, Mrs. Michael McCarney, Mrs. Richard Struthers, Mrs. Arthur Birong, Mrs. Wesley Rueckert, Mrs. Robert Haag, Mrs. Paul Anderson, and Mrs. Mike Reagan.

Father Joseph Endres and Joe Brummer take care of the custodial duties of the church grounds and cemetery.

Our Parish Choir has been operating for a long time with these people acting as organists and sometimes as directors: Miss Tillie McIntyre, Miss Alma Fick, Mrs. Anthony Staunton, Miss Clara Schreiner, Mrs. Donald Martin, Mrs. Art Quinn, Mrs. Harold Larson and Mrs. Wayne Johnson. If any names are omitted, it is due to a lack of records. Mrs. Vince Rothstein is the present organist. Mrs. Michael McCarney is the organist, guitarist and music director for the religion classes. Mrs. Herbert Brixius, Mrs. W. L. Henfling and Mrs. Vernon Struthers are senior members of the choir. The junior members are: Cheryl Anderson and Debbie Anderson, Lori Crusoe, Lynae Haag, Donna Kalkbrenner and Kellie Kalkbrenner, Jackie McCann, Mary Jo McCann, Theresa McCann, Monica McCann, Barbara McCann, Jodi Topp and Lori Topp, Lori Tintes, Pam Weiss and Beverly Weiss.

A number of our young men served their country throughout the wars and conflicts of the century. As of now, one of our young men, Mike McCann, is in the service. Two members of the parish

gave up their lives while serving in World War II, and two are suffering from the effects of fighting in the same war.

Many of the furnishings in the church, rectory and hall have been donated by past and present benefactors, some wishing to remain anonymous. Because of a lack of a complete list of donors and donations, it was decided not to list them. The whole parish throughout the years have given generously to their own church and have been quick to respond to causes requested by the Diocesan authorities. The parish has about ninety families with a population of approximately three hundred members.

1976, marks the Centennial for the Church of Our Lady of Manannah - one hundred years as a successful mission and parish center under the guidance of Mary, its Patroness. A community celebration of this event will be observed on August 22.

Credit for assisting in the final stages must be given to Father Joseph Endres for editing and publishing the history and to Mrs. Ralph Boyer for typing the material. The resource persons are: Mrs. J.L. McCarney who compiled an earlier history of the parish, parishioners who had personal recollections, priests and people who answered letters of inquiry and written statements. Other sources are: Lamson's Condensed History of Meeker County, 1939; historical data of this booklet, page 1, paragraphs 1 - 4, is taken from the history. The Litchfield Independent Review in "Times Past" section, July 21, 1892, and the Church of St. Gertrude's Bulletin July 23, 1972, from which the data concerning the

church bell, page 3 was taken. History and Biography, Meeker County Minnesota, 1888; A History of St. Gertrude's Parish in Forest City, Minnesota, 1857-1957; St. Raphael's Parish, Springfield, Minnesota, 1874-1974; "The Catholic Church in the Diocese of St. Paul," James Michael Reardon, P.A. 1953; Minneapolis Sunday Tribune, August 31, 1952; clippings from Litchfield Independent Review, Litchfield, Minnesota and parish files, minutes, and Sunday bulletins.

A brief history of the Church of Our Lady is ending with the writer fully aware of mistakes and omissions, with no intent to slight anyone. The amateur status of the writer and lack of complete records may be blamed for some deficiencies. "Compiled and written by Mrs. Wesley Rueckert July 1976."



The History of the Church of Our Lady By: Fr. Francis Garvey

Because there was little money when the Church was founded in 1876, in order to have a church building, hitching post, coal bin, etc. the people of the parish had to donate their time and skills to build them. Louis Hanses, an immigrant and early settler from Germany was one of those men who helped build the first part of the original and present church. A few years later they build on what is now the sanctuary area. The home sawed timbers which form the frame of the present church can be seen in the small basement/furnace room or in the bell tower and holding as firm as the day they were placed there. What strength and ingenuity it must of took to put them into the former 80-foot bell tower, which was shortened after being struck by lightning in 1951.

The road, now grown over by grass, through the center of the cemetery established in 1884, was used for delivering coal to heat the church. The furnace, since replaced with a fuel oil furnace that blew up in 1980, and again replaced in 1997 with LP gas along with an air conditioning unit, was placed in the center of the church. The checker like grate in the center isle half way up the church was a place to gather when coming to church on a cold Sunday morning, and I loved the fact our family pew was next to it. When a new furnace was installed in 1948 heat ducks were built up the sidewalls. They were removed in 1999 when the interior of the church was remodeled making it more convenient for the people to walk down the side isles.

During the years between 1900 and 2000 the men were called on many times

to build, remodel, and repair buildings and equipment, including the cemetery which meant digging the graves by hand, fixing up the stones and mowing.

When Fr. O'Callaghan, residing at St. Peters in Eden Valley, took care of Manannah from 1912 to 1926, and many stories are told about his speeding back and forth between the two, many improvements, including installing the stain glass windows, shingling the church, new altar, were made on the church with volunteer help by the men. He was followed by Father McCall, 1926 - 1936, who helped people in many charitable ways through the depression era and he ordered the church bell be rung morning, noon, and night to summon people to pray the Angelus. The two huge evergreen trees in front of the church were planted in his time. In 1937 Father Cogwin was pastor for one year and during his time electricity (REA) came to rural Meeker County and Manannah. This meant replacing the gas lamps with electrical lights in the church. Father Westfall followed him and with the help of the men the old rectory, which had no priest living in it since 1904, was raised, and Dennis Garvey with his favorite team of horses, Bob & Barney moved it down the then steep hill & parking lot to its present location to be occupied by Donald Martin who purchased it for \$300.00. Dennis Garvey with his horses and the help of other men dug the basement by hand scapers for the present rectory. With hired help the present rectory was built in 1938 and many parishioners wondered why it had 3 bathrooms when most of them had none.

Father Coleman, enclosed is a letter he wrote with the annual financial report in 1939 and also one for the mission parish of Columbanus, followed and with

help of the men moved in a storage shed which was removed in 1973 and besides work on churchyard built a garage into the south embankment. This was removed in 1994 and filled in. While filling it in Charlie Strate ruined his truck when it tipped over unloading, and when in 1998 Father Garvey was asking for farm trucks to haul & fill in the ditch in front of the church for parking, Charlie said he wanted no part of it. John McCarthy did and now it is a parking lot. John died in February 2000, and he will long be remembered for the many hours of work he put into repairing buildings, and doing yard work. Some weeks he spent more time at the Church than the pastor.

As the enclosed shows men along with the women in the 1940's became noted for their "home talent shows."

From 1941 to 1947 there were a number of priests who were pastor for short periods of time. I got acquainted with all of them because this was when I began to serve Mass even though I did not know all the Latin responses. Father Mark Williams, 1941. Father Francis Wilkens, 1941-42. Father John Phelan, 1942-45. During his time he got families to donate the funds of a cow or pig when they shipped to stockyards to the Church. This "livestock project" helped pay off the debt from when the rectory was built. Father Joseph Esser, 1945-47. He was formerly a chaplain in the military and could make do with difficult situations. For example, when the Sisters came to teach summer school he gave them the rectory to live in while he lived in the storage room opposite the sanctuary. Father Kackinsky was here for a short time in 1947, but because he was such a jolly, outgoing person I remember

what a joy it was to serve Mass for him.

In 1947 Father Raymond Rypel came, and besides organizing a softball team of which he was the pitcher, many improvements were made. First a new well and heating system were installed, nuwood was put on the interior walls of the church and remained until 1999 when it was covered over with sheet rock. A new floor covering was installed and it also remained until 1999 when a new floor was laid and carpeted. On May 19, 1950 Father Rypel took me to register as a seminarian at Nazareth Hall. I was ordained on February 22, 1959, the only native son of the parish to be ordained to the priesthood for the parish in 125 years. Monsignor James Ryan born November 5, 1892, son of James & Mary Ann Ryan, ordained June 10, 1922, and Monsignor Patrick Ryan born December 3, 1902, son of Patrick & Johanna Ryan, ordained in 1927, and Monsignor Roger Connole born November 27, 1900, son of John C. and Agnes Connole, because their parents moved all became members of St. Philip's parish in Litchfield and were ordained for the St. Paul Archdiocese from St. Philip's

In 1951, Father Rypel, seeing the front door of the Woodman Hall, or "Town Hall" built in 1926, laying out on the street and the building deteriorating, encouraged the people of the parish to purchase it for \$3,000.00 and move it on the church property. A basement was dug and an addition for kitchen area was added and became the parish social center. In 2000 and 2001 the building was remodeled and a 54 x 70 addition built on provided 7 classrooms, additional social hall space, offices and handicap access bathrooms.

From 1955-58, Monsignor John Ward, became pastor while also serving as Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the newly formed Diocese of New Ulm in 1957. During his pastorate many improvements were made, a Perpetual Care Fund for the Parish Cemetery, which prior had almost no funds and today has \$25,000.00, was established. In November 1958 while unpacking a new set of dishes for the rectory in preparation for Father Garvey's ordination, Monsignor Ward received notice that he was appointed pastor of St. Anastasia Parish in Hutchinson.

It needs to be noted that in 1937, while Fr. James Westfall was pastor that St. Columbanus, Greenleaf, MN became a mission parish of Manannah until 1960. The priests in Manannah made the 23-mile trip often to provide Mass and the Sacraments to this small rural church with a cemetery. During Father Rypel's time they built an addition onto this small cement block church, which also served as a social hall for dinners by moving the pews. I taught summer school religion classes there in the 1950's and while at St. Anastasia, as an assistant with Monsignor Ward, we took over this mission in 1960. The parish became a mission of Darwin and was closed in 1965. The church is gone and only the cemetery remains.

Father Oliver Dufresne followed Monsignor Ward as pastor, and using his gifts in ministry spent much time in working with the youth and young adults. During his pastorate Vatican II Council was held, which meant instructing the people and making changes in the Liturgy. Also, while Fr. Dufresne was pastor, I was ordained and said my first solemn Mass. I am grateful for the help and assistance he gave me.

Fr. Joseph Endres was pastor longer than any other priest since Fr. O'Callaghan, 1976 to 1980. During his time following Vatican II many liturgical changes were made such as removing the Communion rail and getting various lay ministers to assist at Mass. He developed a school board, parish council, and promoted an active Council of Catholic Women, and he became the Diocesan Moderator for CCW. He lead the people in making improvements on the parish social center, building a double garage, bathrooms and handicap access to the church, and painted and put carpet in interior, isles and sanctuary of the church, along with repairing the stain glass windows.

In 1980 Fr. Robert Merth became the pastor in a quiet way kept the people very active and involved in their parish community.

In 1985 Fr. John Gleason became pastor until 1993. During his pastorate the Diocese, with a growing shortage of priests, began to close some parishes and cluster others. The people met and spoke out in an effort to keep their church open.

They were successful because in 1993 Fr. Robert Clark was made parochial administrator. He used his gifts in providing well-planned liturgies, mass servers, and adult education.

In 1996 I became pastor and seeing the church building in need of repair, with the support of the people, the exterior of the church was completely redone with a new roof and steel siding in 1998. In 1999 the interior of the church was redone with sheet rock walls & ceiling, new floor and carpet, new pews and the vesting cabinet from St. Peter's in Eden Valley upon it closing in June 1999, was installed in the sacristy.

With all this completed Bishop Lucker on January 1, 2000 dedicated the Church of Our Lady. From August of 2000 to February of 2001, a \$300,000.00 addition was built onto the Parish Center which included 7 classrooms, office space, handicap access bathrooms, more than doubling the social hall space, along with remodeling the old hall and kitchen. In 1998 the hedge in front of the church and rectory were removed, ditch filled in this area along with other parking area were black topped. In 1999 almost an acre of land was plotted and added to the cemetery. From 1996 to 2000 a number of improvements and repairs were made on the rectory.

In 1996-97 I organized a very dedicated prayer group, which helped motivate a steady growth of the parish. By 2001 the parish had almost doubled in size, some of this growth came with the closing of St. Peter's Parish (about 85 people), which enabled the parish to move from a mission status to a small parish status in the Diocese. A Social Concerns Committee was formed and besides providing a parish food shelf, by taking 10% of the regular parish income, helped many local social needs as well as foreign.

In June 2000, I besides remaining pastor was given a half time position as Director of Priest Personnel for the Diocese. With this position I began to recruit priests from India. Fr. A. Melchizedech came in December and did his 6-month internship at the Church of Our Lady. In June 2001 I, along with remaining pastor at the Church of Our Lady and Director of Priest Personnel, was appointed Parochial Administrator of St. Anthony, Watkins, and Father Melchizedech and Father Brian Thurn associate pastors of both Our Lady and

St. Anthony.

Hence, as the Church of Our Lady celebrates its 125th Anniversary in 2001, it is a growing, active, viable parish community, and as a native son am very proud of my roots and even more proud to be pastor of this prayerful, evangelistic parish community.



Priests who Served as Pastors of the Church of Our Lady

- 1876 - Church of Our Lady was established by Fr. John McDermott
- 1884 - Church was incorporated while Fr. Patrick Kenny was priest
- 1886 - Fr. Hugh McDevitt
- 1897 - Fr. Michael Cowley
- 1900 - Fr. Alois Kastigar
- 1900 - Fr. Patrick Boland
- 1903 - Fr. Francis McDermott
- 1904 - Fr. Joseph Powers
- 1910 - Fr. James Burns
- 1912 - Fr. Jeremiah O'Callaghan
- 1926 - Fr. Henry McCall
- 1936 - Fr. Robert Cogwin
- 1937 - Fr. James Westfall
- 1939 - Fr. James Coleman
- 1941 - Fr. Mark Williams
- 1941 - Fr. Francis Wilkens
- 1942 - Fr. John Phelan
- 1946 - Fr. Joseph Esser
- 1947 - Fr. Kachinsky
- 1947 - Fr. Raymond Rypel
- 1955 - Fr. John Ward
- 1958 - Fr. Oliver Dufresne
- 1968 - Fr. Joseph Endres
- 1980 - Fr. Robert Merth
- 1985 - Fr. John Gleason
- 1993 - Fr. Robert Clark
- 1996 - Fr. Francis Garvey

Letter to Parishioners from James R. Coleman of Church of Our Lady in 1939 in the Annual Report.

Dear Parishioner:

I have purposely called this pamphlet the annual report and not merely the financial report, because I wished to include a mention of the accomplishments and progress of the Parish which no mere summary of financial contributions would have done.

Your monetary contributions here recorded are but a poor and imperfect indication of the support you have given your Church during the past year. You worked long and hard at Parish activities for parish support, which came too often because of the large debts to be met. Many of you men who, thru no fault of your own, have been unable to contribute the usual amount of pew rent and other cash donations, have worked many days and even weeks at hard manual labor on the Church grounds, thereby saving the Parish hundreds of dollars in wages. In some few instances, in exceptional cases credit has been allowed on Church obligations for this great saving to the Parish, but in the great majority of cases, you have discharged your obligation to support your Church, although it may not show in dollars and cents on the report. Let everyone bear this in mind before passing judgment on anyone in regard to this obligation.

Next I want to thank you for your response to my appeal for a more corporate and enlightened Catholic Life among you. You have been most docile and obedient in your acceptance of all suggestions offered. I am most happy to report that nearly everyone is now "praying the Mass" with the help of the Sunday Missal. The number of Holy

Communion has been greatly increased. Now this appreciation of your religion is due in no small measure to the response you have shown to the Catholic Literature placed at your disposal. The Sunday Visitor, The Denver Register, The Catholic Worker, The Sacred Heart Messenger, The Catholic Bulletin, The Catholic Digest, The Sign, and The Queen's Work, have been read faithfully by you during the past year. The free public circulating library located in the Parish Social Center, has brought the best of Catholic and other books into your homes. This reading deepened the love for your Church in your heart, and resulted in a desire to improve and beautify the physical appearance of the Church and grounds. This transformation will be dealt with next.

The spring of 1939 found the parish grounds and church badly in need of much improvement, which our financial indebtedness made impossible to accomplish in the ordinary way. The cost of materials alone caused me to despair of getting them started for years to come. Then one day I mentioned that I would much like to get the Church painted if that were only possible. The good Ladies of the Rosary and Altar Society immediately volunteered to buy the paint if the men of the Holy Name Society would do the painting. That offer was the beginning of as fine a program of self-help as it has ever been my pleasure to witness.

A simple announcement that men and teams were needed to work on parish improvements was all that was needed. All the months of May and June groups of men were to be seen at work on various projects. As a result of this generosity the following improvements were accomplished:

Entire yard graded up and seeded in lawn grass, delapidated fence removed

from in front of yard, stumps and rocks removed from front yard, siding on Church repaired and Church given two coats of paint, Cross on Church steeple repaired and painted, foundation of Sacristy repaired, Sacristy plastered and painted, roof of Sacristy shingled, drainage ditch dug and tile drain laid from well pit to ravine, sidewalks built, storehouse completed, moved and painted, garage built, trees trimmed, and Cemetery beautified.

No mere words can express my gratitude to the good people of the parish for their wholehearted cooperation in these tasks as well as in all others which were undertaken during the past year. You do not expect thanks I know, because you did these things for the greater honor and glory of God's Church, and God has your reward in store for you, but I do want you to know that your kindness and cooperation are deeply appreciated by,

Your devoted Pastor,

James R. Coleman

Letter from James R. Coleman to the Parishioners of Church of St. Columbanus, Greenleaf, MN in the Annual Report 1939.

Dear Parishioner:

Much of what I have written of the "Mother Church" applies to St. Columbanus. The record of monetary contributions recorded here does not begin to tell the story of the fine spirit of cooperation and sacrifice exhibited by the good people of this Mission Church. No record could show or words express the help given to the Parish by those good Families who donated the use of their

homes and work accompanied the promotion of Parish activities. In some cases these same people have given generously in cash donations to every Parish need. Other families were unable to make the usual monetary contribution, but fulfilled their obligation of Church support in this way.

Our happy association began one year ago on a black winter day. Twelve Families comprised the Parish. With an income of \$26.00 that first month the future looked none too bright, but with deep faith in the providence of God, and confidence in our own efforts we struggled on. We prayed as if all depended on God, and then went to work as if all depended on ourselves. The result is now history that he who runs may read.

Nearly everyone is now "praying the Mass" with the aid of the Sunday Missal. There has developed a deep appreciation of Catholic Literature, as evidenced by your continued use of the periodicals and books placed at your disposal. The number who receive Holy Communion monthly has greatly increased. Twenty families now attend Mass regularly. With these blessings fully appreciated by all, I feel that there is little need to stress the importance of your continued interest in the spiritual and temporal welfare of St. Columbanus.

May I at this time express my heartfelt gratitude for your kindness and cooperation during the past year, and assure you that the good God who is not outdone in generosity will shower His choicest blessings upon you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

James R. Coleman



Msgr. John C. Ward

Letter from Msgr. John C. Ward

I welcome the opportunity to salute the pastor and people of the Church of Our Lady, Manannah, on 125 years of glorious Catholic parish life. It was my happy privilege to serve as your pastor from July 5, 1955 to November 18, 1958. These were some of the happiest years of my priestly life. The people were generous, kind and most cooperative in every respect. Deep Catholic faith and commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ was ever present. Mass attendance and participation in parish life and activities was outstanding. I have happy memories of teaching religion in the evening in the parish hall from eager young people who attended four high schools: Litchfield, Eden Valley, Grove City and Paynesville. The sisters of St. Benedict from Eden Valley taught grade school youngsters on Saturday mornings and summer school after celebrating a community Mass.

Your pastor, Father Francis Garvey who has done such marvelous work in the parish is the fourth native son to be ordained a priest. The other three are Msgr. James Ryan, ordained in 1922; Msgr. Pat Patrick Ryan, ordained in 1927, Chief of Chaplains in the U.S. Army in World War II; and Msgr. Roger Connole, ordained in 1929.

It is my pray that many in this present generation will respond to God's call to serve Church as priests, brothers and sisters in this present time of urgent need. May God Bless you one and all.

Memories for Manannah 125th

Anniversary

By Fr. Oliver Dufresne

I served as pastor of Manannah from 1959 to 1967. Upon arrival, I visited first with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. There, I was immediately struck with the beautiful painting of the Mother of Perpetual Help. I was impressed with the unusual faith of those early parishioners that led them to import the painting from Europe. The same faith requested a priest to offer Masses (the priest offered the first Masses in the Martin family house on a hill, which later became the parish site). I feel the Mother of Perpetual Help has always guided the parish: from the beginning; while I served there; and that she continues to guide today.

I recall with fondness the faithful service of: altar boys, Readers, the Choir (their special efforts -even when no organist), and the parishioners' participation in the liturgy after Vatican II, which edified visitors.

I was pleased with the youth activities of Contact and Y.C.W., and also with Adult Discussion Clubs that met in the homes.

I was particularly proud of the zealous participation of the parish ladies in the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

Also, there was a fine spirit of the parish working together - as with volunteering for repair work, or with the outstanding work on the annual parish Dinner and Reunion.

The zeal of the parishioners to provide a parish bus, so our children could get a Catholic education in Eden Valley was inspiring.

God used the parish to produce many holy lives. To mention all would be



Fr. Ward and First Communion Class



Fr. Dufresne and First Communion Class



Fr. Clark and First Communion Class

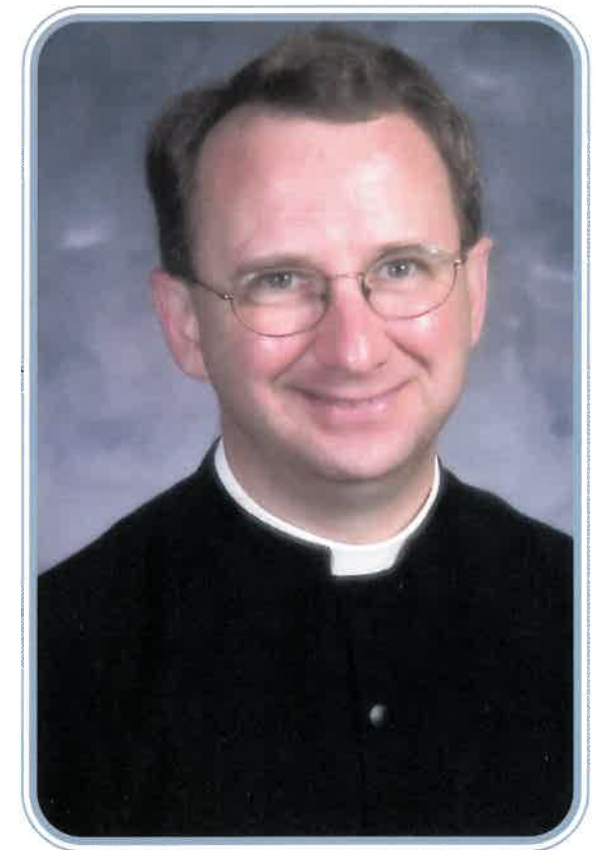
impossible. I believe parishioners will agree that the three names listed below symbolize and embody all:

- 1) Karen Henfling - who died from cancer at 17 years of age. She considered her bed as an altar where she offered her prayers and suffering with Christ; she affected many people in the community and in the Litchfield Hospital. She eagerly looked forward to heaven where she promised to pray for us all.
- 2) Joe Brummer - a middle age man, whose very ordinariness and simplicity reflected the beautiful lives of so many others. His humility and faith and charity was a replica of so many other parishioners.
- 3) Margaret Summers - a woman of faith. Her faithful work and charity in cooking and housework at the parish house made it possible for me to function healthfully.

I also felt God's blessing in the county too, as at the Hospital, or with the Library Bookmobile Project, or in friendly and inspiring relations with members of other denominations.

I have always been grateful to God for Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish of Manannah, - and to its parishioners whose lives were channels of God's grace and love to me and to others.

I always keep all present and past parishioners (living or deceased) in my daily Masses and prayers. I salute and congratulate all. I ask God's blessing on all today and always.



Fr. Clark

Dear Father Garvey and Members of Our Lady's Parish,

Congratulations on the 125th Anniversary of the Church of Our Lady! It was my privilege to be your pastor from, 1993 - 1996. As a parish family you have a rich history dedicated to knowing and loving and serving the Lord.

In the 1995 pictorial letter, I stated that "the most glorious work of all was to praise God!" How beautifully this was done in our weekly celebrations of Holy Mass and the annual participation in Forty Hours, the Corpus Christi Procession, Christmas and Holy Week. In that same year how fondly I remember that in our small parish we sold over 100 copies of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* - a testimony to your dedication to the truths of the Faith and to the importance of educating your children.

May the 125th Anniversary of your parish be a great blessing and the opportunity to grow in holiness.

Cordially,

Father Clark

Father Robert Clark

The "Women" of the Church of Our Lady



Ladies of the Church



CCW Officers



Springtime in Manannah Bake Sale

The role of women at the Church of Our Lady, like all small rural Catholic Church, from its beginning to the present day, has been and is significant. As this picture shows, with their aprons on, there was no social or fund raising event or task beyond what needed to be done, that did not involve the women of the parish.

In the early days they were known as "Mission Groups." If it was a parish dinner this meant not only cooking over a hot wood/corn cob or kerosene fed stove with no fans, but also carrying water and all the plates, cups, dishes needed to put on the dinner. Doing the dishes meant also getting water by pumping the well, heating it, and then using hand made soaps to wash them.

Cleaning the Church was done on a rotating name bases and involved mops and pails and/or down on your knees with brushes and scrub rags. We must not forget on the list of things to do the outdoor toilet. Several times a year the floor and pews got a good coat of wax to make them shine and of course this meant it had to be all done by hand.

The chore of keeping the altar linens sparkling white, starched with well-designed pleats was normally done by a few chosen women who volunteered their time. Margaret Summers was one of those chosen women who from 1930's to the 80's faithfully saw that there were always clean linens for the Eucharistic Sacrifice. More recently Donna Caron sees that that tradition is very well kept.

Music was and has always been an important part of Sunday liturgies. The Church of Our Lady has been blessed with women sharing their gifts in music whether playing the pump organ or the more modern electronic organ. Playing

the organ also meant leading the singing - For many years, since the congregation didn't sing, the organist and maybe a few other women were the only singers. Adie Staunton was one of those special women who for many years provided the organ music and voice from the choir loft. More recent Tuttie Rothstein, Diana McCarney, Janet Johnson, Marlene Ruprecht, Kim Kloster have lead a now active congregation in praising the Lord in song.

From 1876 to 1950 it was the pastor who assumed responsibility of teaching religion to the youth using the Baltimore Catechism. With Vatican II the laity began to take on this role and especially the women in the parish. Gen Danielson, Peg Ruckert, Mary Boyer, Diana McCarney and many others assumed roles as Director of Religious Education and CCD teachers using more modern text with great emphasis on involving Scripture. After using rooms in the rectory, social hall and church, and sometimes private homes to teach religion, in the year 2001, 125 years after the parish was founded, finally permanent classrooms were built.

Hence, the legend of the women who were/are members of the Church of Our Lady for 125 years lives on. From Mission Group, to Altar and Rosary Society to Council of Catholic Women with its 5 commissions, and 3 circles, with Springtime in Manannah to the Annual Ice Cream Social on August 15th, the women continue to be a strong force in making the Church of Our Lady a viable, growing, active parish. Like the women in the Gospel who attended to Jesus' needs, so the women of this wonderful parish continue to be the backbone of making sure the Good News is proclaimed, lived, and acted out. We thank each and every one of them.



Mission Group



Golden Years of Ministry



Antique Car Run

Earliest Families of Manannah

Michael Delaney - A native of Ireland, he was born in Leitrim County July 28, 1826. In 1852, he immigrated to the US and landed in New York. From there, after stopping a short time in Connecticut, he went to Virginia. After 4 years in railroad construction, he moved to Minneapolis in 1856 and remained there until 1877. Delaney married Miss Mary Garvey, a native of Mayo County, in June 1858. They were married at St. Anthony's Church, Minneapolis and had 7 children.

Charles A Staples - A native of Waldo County, ME, he was born Feb. 17, 1843. His parents, Jacob and Elizabeth were married in 1828. They came to Minnesota in Oct., 1854 and settled in Sauk Valley, 6 miles west of St. Cloud. His mother died Oct. 17, 1874 and his father on Nov. 26, 1879. Charles took up carpentry. He came to Union Grove Township in July, 1864. He joined the infantry. After 3 months, he was discharged. In 1883, he sold out and went to Dakota to deal in hardware, lumber, and farm machinery. In Nov., he returned to Manannah and started business with J. H. Staples, his brother. By diligence and business tact, he had accumulated a fine farm of 240 acres of land and \$3,000. He was active in all educational work in Manannah.

A.M. Caswell - His parents came to Minnesota in April 1856, camped on the bank of the Crow River, crossed the river, and went about hunting. He then went above the woods, in the vicinity of Manannah. His mother died of cancer and she was the first woman to be buried in the Manannah graveyard. After 1856, there was famine. The only way to get money was to hunt or trap for fur, which was hard earned

money. Getting tired out or starved out of Manannah, his brother, Albert, himself, and Ziba and Nathan Caswell started out to Pike's Peak in Colorado. Hearing of Indian war, they came back. Caswell married Vesta J. Britt. They had a hotel at Coon Creek. After one year, they sold it and went to Anoka and remained 3 years. After some stay in Harvey township, they moved to Litchfield in 1888.

At the end of his life he wrote, "I believe, there is a bright future for Meeker County, and that it is bound to be one of the richest and best stock producing counties in the Northwest."

Charles W. Butterfield - He was born on May 8, 1835. His early life was spent on farm and in carpentry. In 1854, he married Mary E. Beedy. They had 3 children. In 1861, his wife died and later, he married Mary A. Pineo. In 1865, Charles came west and settled in Greenleaf.

Ole Amundson - He was a pioneer of Meeker County and born on April 9, 1823. He came to America in 1855 and arrived here in July, 1857. After the close of the war, he took an 80-acre homestead and built a house on it. On Oct 10, 1860, he married Oline Marie Syvertsdatter and had 7 children. In 1862, he suffered at the hands of the Indians. In the spring after the outbreak, he met with 3 disasters of his crop, by hailstorm and grasshoppers. He had over 200 acres.

Nils Danielson - He came to this country in 1855 and first settled in Rock County, Wisconsin. In 1857, he moved to Meeker County with Kittel Haroldson and Ole Amundson. He died in 1869.

E. Kimball - Born on Jan. 4, 1832. After his studies in Maine, he came to Forest City, MN in the fall of 1867. That same year, the firm of Hines, Kimball and Beedy built the large flouring mill and opened a store in the village. In 1873, Mr. Hines retired, having the company erect the Manannah Flour Mill on the Crow River, 10 miles above Forest City. Hines operated this for several years.

Menus O'Keeffe - He was a farmer and stock- raiser and resided at Manannah Township. He made good building improvements on his farm. Born in Ireland on Nov. 1, 1830, he remained there until Jan. 1853. He landed in New York on April 12, 1853. For 6 months, he worked as a gardener and express wagon driver in New York. He then worked in a hotel and then in Central Park, NY. Then he came to Minneapolis and worked on the Manitoba railroad and did brick making. In the fall of 1866, he came to Meeker County. He owned 240 acres of land, the major portion under cultivation. He raised stock. He married Julia McLoney in July 1856 and had 9 children - William, Menus, Mary, Sharlotte, John, Elizabeth, Julia, Margaret and James. Mary, Sharlotte, and William were buried in New York. Mr. and Mrs. O'Keeffe were prominent members of the Catholic Church.

Rudolph Schwarz - He was the blacksmith of Manannah. He came to Meeker County in 1883. He was a native of Mecklenburg, Germany. He was born on Sept. 14, 1853. At 15, he learned the trade of a blacksmith and worked for 3 years. Then he immigrated to America and remained in Milwaukee, WI and then in Duluth, MN. In 1883, he came to

Manannah. Schwarz married Miss Addie Shepherd, a native of Meeker County and the daughter of Charles and Adeline, on Sept. 21, 1886.

Patrick McKarney - He resided in Section 8 of Manannah Township. He was born in Monaghan, Ireland in 1832. His parents were Patrick and Catherine. In 1849, he came to the USA and landed in New Orleans. After one month of stay, he went to Rock Island, Illinois and spent the winter. On Aug. 15, 1862, he was enlisted in Company B, 90th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. After his service, he was discharged on June 6, 1865. Then he came to Minnesota and settled in Dakota County, and remained until April 1866. Then he came to Meeker County and settled in Section 8, Manannah Township. He had 150 acres of land, a major portion of which was cultivated and he raised stock.

McKarney married Mary O'Keeffe on April 4, 1869 and had the following children: Charlotte, born July 15, 1870, Catherine, born May 26, 1872, James, born Jan. 8, 1874, Peter, born May 16, 1876, and Menus, born Jan. 16, 1878.

McKarney's parents came to America from Ireland and died in Meeker County. Mr. McKarney and his wife were exemplary members and active supporters of the Catholic Church.

Michael Lovett - He was a prominent citizen of Manannah. Though a native of County Cavan, Ireland, he came to the USA in 1848 and stayed in Boston, Massachusetts. After 2 years, he went to New York and lived there for 2 years and then went to Canada and stayed there 18 years. In 1879, he came with his family to Meeker County and located on a farm, which is now

Manannah Township. He remained there until his death on April 29, 1879. He married Miss Bridget Fanley and had 5 girls and 4 boys. They were Bridget, Alice, Peter, Catherine, Mary, Ann, John, Michael, and James. They had 80 acres of land. They were members of the Catholic Church of Manannah. James Lovett, son of Michael and Bridget, owned 40 acres of land in the township of Manannah. He was born in Canada on Nov. 13, 1865 and resided with his mother in Manannah and was a member of the Catholic Church.

Rev. Hugh McDevitt - He was resident priest of the Catholic Church at Manannah. He was a native of Donegal, Ireland. He was born on Feb. 3, 1843 to Winifrede O'Flaherty and William McDevitt. He studied at the Missionary College of All Hallows, Dublin and was ordained a priest on June 27, 1865 and served for some years as a missionary in the diocese of Sydney. He returned to Ireland and, with the permission of his superiors, he came to America and became affiliated to the diocese of St. Paul. On May 1, 1885 he came to Litchfield. Manannah was united to Litchfield, services being held every other Sunday. Seeing the necessity of Manannah having a resident priest in consultation with the Bishop, he began the erection of the Pastoral residence at a cost of \$2,000. The congregation rejoiced because a priest lived with them. All subscribed nobly and cooperated with their priest, in providing every requisite.

Patrick Enright - He was a prominent and enterprising farmer and stock raiser of Meeker County. He resided on Section 18 of Manannah Township. He was born in Limerick,

Ireland on March 25, 1834. His parents were John and Eliza (Blake) Enright. He left his native land in 1847 with his parents and settled in Canada where his parents remained until the time of their death. Patrick remained in Canada until 1874. Then he came to Meeker County and settled. He had 400 acres, most of which was cultivated. He also raised cattle. He was the supervisor of the township for 6 terms.

He married in Dec. 1855, Miss Mary Fitzpatrick and they had 9 children: Patrick, Mary, Eliza, James, William, Catherine, Michael, Margaret and John. They were exemplary members and active supporters of the Catholic Church of Manannah.

John Hill - He lived in section 28 of Manannah Township. He was born in Tyrone, Ireland in 1829. His parents were Francis and Mary Campbell Hill. In 1851, he came to the USA and landed in Boston and proceeded to Lowell, Massachusetts. He worked there in a cotton industry for 11 years. Then he went to San Francisco and worked for 5 years. Then he returned to Massachusetts. After 16 months, he came to Meeker County to the house of Owen Quinn in Manannah Township and purchased land in Section 28, and had 240 acres of land. He devoted much of his attention to farming and stock raising.

Mr. Hill was married on Feb. 21, 1855 to Hannah McAloon and had 3 children: Francis, John and Charles II. They were exemplary and active supporters of the Catholic Church.

William H. Wilcox - He was born on May 22, 1835 to Horace and Polly Wilcox. At the age of 21, he left his parents and came to St. Paul from Ohio.

In 1857, he bought a squatter's claim to 160 acres in Manannah Township in Meeker County paying \$50 for it. Mr. Wilcox was married on Nov. 9, 1867 to Miss Ellen Peterson. He was the clerk for 3 years in the township of Manannah. He owned the first cheese factory in Meeker County, established in 1864. He also had substantial farm buildings and 2 spacious barns.

Timothy Gibney - He resided in Section 27 Manannah township. He was born in upper Canada on Nov. 22, 1849. His parents were John and Anna Gibney of Ireland. In 1865, he came with his parents to the USA and settled in Manannah Township. Timothy had 120 acres and was very successful in farming.

On Feb. 4, 1883, he was married to Miss Mary E. McCaffery and had 3 children. They were James, Elizabeth and Patrick. They were exemplary members and active supporters of the Catholic Church.

Otho H. Campbell - He was a prominent and leading citizen of Manannah. He came to Kingston in 1866 and did general merchandise trade. After 3 years, he purchased Lake Ripley House and ran the hotel for 2 years. Then he disposed of all property and moved to Manannah and purchased an interest with N.C. Hines in the flour and gristmill. In 1877, he became the sole proprietor and improved it. In 1880, he put in a steam engine and boilers so that he could run either by steam or water. In 1887, the mill was remodeled and full sets of rolls placed in it.

O.H. Campbell was born in Hartford, Connecticut on Aug. 1, 1844. His parents were James and Esther. When he was 17, he entered an Insurance office at

Hartford, where he remained until Sept. 1862. Then, he was enlisted in Company B, 22nd Connecticut Infantry and served in the army for 16 months. After discharge from army, he spent time in the insurance business in Hartford for one more year. After one year at Clearwater, he came to Meeker County and was married to Miss Isa Creath on April 24, 1867 and they had 4 children: Arthur born on March 8, 1868, Ernest born Nov. 9, 1869, Marian born May 16, 1876, and Harry born Aug. 4, 1879. He served as the chairman of the board of town supervisors. In 1887, he was only defeated by a small majority for the office of State Senator.

Ambrose Wall - He was Auditor of Meeker County. He was born in Cayuga County, New York on Dec. 7, 1852 to Michael and Alice Wall. After his schooling, he passed 2 terms at Port Byron Academy. In the spring of 1880, he came to Meeker County and purchased a farm on Section 26 Manannah Township. On the initiation of the farmers' Alliance Movement in 1885, he adopted their views and principles, believing them to be for the best interest of the working classes. In the fall of 1886, he was elected for the office of auditor, with a handsome majority. He was the Secretary of the Meeker County Farmers' Alliance, independent of party lines. He looked to the elevation of the agriculturists and laboring classes.

James Lang - He was one of the old settlers of Manannah Township and the merchant, postmaster, and hotel proprietor of the village of Manannah. He was the son of James and Margaret (Leech) Lang, of Scotland. In 1822, he

migrated to the USA and settled in Vermont. Then they moved to Canada where his father died in 1886, his mother in 1887. James Lang was born in La Prairie County, Canada on Dec. 20, 1838. At the age of 18, he came to the USA with his brother Robert, to Harvey Township. In 1857, he built a house there and lived there for 2 years. Indian outbreak took place in 1862 and so Robert and himself, Lang and several others started for Forest City. Hearing that some Indians had been going toward Manannah, he joined the organization of Captain Whitcomb's Company of Home Guards and participated in all its movements until he was disbanded. In March of 1863, he enlisted in Company C, First Minnesota Mounted Rangers and served in the west until their discharge in the fall of 1863. In Aug., 1864 he joined the Third division and served until the close of the war. After his discharge, he came to Meeker County and lived in Manannah.

On March 29, 1870 he married Miss Juliet Murray of Waukesha, Wisconsin and had 4 children: Lily M., Mary J., James A., and Lizzie.

In the spring of 1875, Lang and A.P. Grey bought out the store of Hines and Campbell and for 4 years, ran it in partnership. In 1881, he was appointed as Postmaster. For 6 years, he also served on the school board.

Edward H. Murphy - He lived at Section 34 of Manannah Township. He was born in Tipperary, Ireland on July 5, 1830. In 1848, he came to America and stayed in Vermont for one year. Then he worked in the railroads for some time and came west to Chillicothe, Ohio. For 4 years, he was a butcher and then for 6 years he worked as foreman of a warehouse. In 1854, he went to

Louisiana, Missouri, and remained there until the break of the rebellion. In spring 1861, Murphy enlisted into Missouri Infantry for 3 months. At its expiration, he enlisted into First Missouri Infantry and participated in the siege of Springfield, MO. Then for 3 years, he worked in the Missouri Infantry. He was then detailed for secret services and penetrated the rebel lines and traveled throughout their country. After the war, he was discharged and in 1865, he came to Meeker County. On May 10, 1852 he married Miss Margaret Kinsella in Chillicothe, Ohio. They had 2 children: James and Edward.

Nathan C. Caswell - He settled at Manannah on Section 31 in 1856. He is a native of Brompton, Canada. He was born on Aug. 28, 1835. His parents were Carlos and Anna (Wakefield) Caswell. In 1855, he came to Minnesota, locating at Monticello. He traveled in Nebraska and finally he came here. He was one of the Board of County Commissioners.

On July 27, 1861 he married Miss Mary A. Welch and had 2 children: Seth C. and Mark J. Caswell.

Seth was born in Monticello, Wright County on Nov. 19, 1863 and he married Lillian, and had one child, Gertrude Emma. Mark J. was born Feb. 26, 1872.

Miller C. Wood - He was a successful farmer and stock raiser and resided on section 20 Manannah Township. He was born in Logan on Aug. 4, 1818. His parents were Miller and Melinda Campbell. In 1832, with his parents, he came to Nicollet, MN and remained there one year. Then he came to Union Grove Township. In 1879, he moved to Manannah Township and settled on Section 20. He had 80 acres of

land and raised stock.

In 1842, Mr. Wood married Minerva Deatherage and had 7 children. She died in 1853. In 1855, he remarried Miss Lucinda S. Rogers. They had 13 children.

Patrick McCaffrey - He was a prominent and well to do farmer and stock raiser of Section 22 Manannah Township. He was born in Tyrone, Ireland on March 8, 1822. His parents were Patrick and Ellen McCaffrey. In 1844, he started for America and landed in Boston and went to Lowell, Mass. and remained there until May 1865. Then, he came to Meeker County and built a house on Section 30 of Harvey Township. After one year, their house was burnt. After this misfortune, they returned to Lowell, Mass. and remained there until 1876. Then they came to Manannah and settled at Section 22 Manannah Township. He had a valuable farm of 200 acres and carried on general farming and stock raising. He married Elizabeth Quinn in 1842 and had the following 9 children: Patrick, Rose Ann, Owen, James, Thomas, Mary J, John, Mary E, and Charles. They were all members of the Catholic Church of Manannah.

Frank McLaughlin - He lived upon section 10 Manannah Township. He was from Tyrone, Ireland. He was born on March 16, 1828 to William and Alice A. McLaughlin. When he was 23, he moved over to the USA and spent a year in the Cotton Mills at Lowell, Mass. Then he worked in a rolling mill in Boston for 3 years. Then for 7 years he worked in different places. In 1861, he went to Columbus, Indiana. On April 16, he joined the 13th Indiana Infantry. On

March 23, 1862 he took part in the first battle of Winchester. He participated in the 7 days battle, which terminated at Malvern Hill. He served at the siege of Petersburg, VA in the spring of 1864 and was discharged at Indianapolis on July 2, 1864. In April 1866, he came to Meeker County. He was married on July 31, 1864 to Miss Anna Breen. They had 4 children: William J. born June 30, 1865, Mary A. born on Jan. 10, 1868, Maggie E. born Feb. 21, 1871 and Alice C. Born Jan. 13, 1877.

Peter McIntyre - He did farming in Section 14 Manannah township. He was one of the early settlers in this county, living north of the Crow River. He was a native of Ireland born in 1839. He was reared in Scotland after his mother's death. When he was 19, he came to America and landed at Columbia's shore and lived at Joliet for 2 years. In 1860, he went to Kansas and lived there for one year. Then he returned to Joliet on July 20, 1862. He joined the 19th Illinois Infantry and participated in the capture of Vicksburg, battles of Corinth, Chattanooga, Missionary Ridge. At the battle of Jonesboro on Aug 31, 1864, he was badly wounded on the shoulder and was hospitalized. After recovery, he served in the pioneer corps and was discharged on June 6, 1865. On Aug. 11, 1865, he came to Meeker County and took homestead of 160 acres, which was heavily filled with timber.

On Nov. 7, 1870 at Forest City he married Miss Catherine Klaas and had 10 children: Mary, John, Nellie, Thomas P., Peter, Edward, Matilda, Philip, Sheridan, and Roseanna. He was one of the Board of School Directors.

Family History

Henfling Family History - They were two brothers Nicholas & William Henfling. Nicholas married Adeliade (Lena) Westrup from Winsted on Sept. 1909. They had two sons. Their son Romeo a degree holder married Lorraine Bauer. They lived east of Manannah along county road 3.

William married Anna Westrup in June 1909 the sister of Adeliade. They had three sons and three daughters. Their three sons had a 3 piece band made up of Violin, guitar & banjo. They played at the Manannah Hall, dances and home parties. One of their sons Francis married Marie Moser in Eden Valley in Nov. 1942. They had 10 children, 6 sons & 4 daughters. They lived in Manannah till 1960. All the three Henfling families lived next to each other just off county rd 3. Wayne Henfling son of Francis & Marie and his wife Joyce now live north of Manannah. Their children are Peggy, Sarah & Ryan.

Patrick Enright Family History - Patrick was born in Limerick County, Ireland, March 25, 1834. He first settled down in Canada in 1847 along with his parents and remained there until 1874. Then he migrated to Meeker County and settled in Section 18 Manannah Township. Patrick his wife Mary (Fitzpatrick) had 9 children and took active part in the parish activities in its early years. One of their daughters Elizabeth married Michael Foley on July 2, 1889 at the Church of Our Lady. Mr. Foley came to the Manannah area in 1880 from Ayton, Ontario, Canada. Also was an active member of the parish and helped organize to raise funds to build St. Peter's church in Eden Valley. Two of Michael & Elizabeths children remained life long residents of the Manannah area. A son, Louis who married Gertrude Kramer on May 29, 1929 and a daughter, Veronica

who married Ted Kramer on Oct. 17, 1933.

Being born in 1903, Louis was baptized at the Church of Our Lady. His younger siblings Peter & Veronica born after 1904, the year in which St. Peter's was built, were baptized in that church.

Ted & Veronica's son Dan and Louis & Gertrude's son Pat both reside in Manannah township and like their grandparents and great grandparents are members of the Church of Our Lady.

Ryan Family History - According to old Irish legend the Gaelic families with O' prefixes were horse thieves. The Irish Pedigree Book states about the 14th century O'Righins from the County of Carlow later they migrated to County of Tipperary and angedized to plain Ryan. In the middle of the 17th Century Dennis Ryan was the ancestor of the family who was born in 1823. During the potato famine in 1846 - 1848 with his wife Mary and daughter Hannah he left for America and worked on the Erie Canel. Unsatisfied with his work he left for Michigan and worked in the iron mines and his wife opened a boarding house. Since they had 8 children, Hannah, Katherine, Matthew, John, Elizabeth, Dennis, Bridget and Michael, and found it difficult to feed them they migrated to Minnesota in 1865. They settled in Meeker County and homesteaded 80 acres near Manannah on the banks of the Crow River. The first winter they lived in a one-room log cabin with a dirt floor. In 1868 twins were born but only James lived. They had two more children, Thomas and Patrick.

The Ryan children got married and settled down on nearby farms. Hannah married Mitchell Reagan, John and Thomas married sisters, Tom married Margaret Sullivan and John married Bridget Sullivan.

Jeremiah and Margaret O'Sullivan left County Kerry, Ireland for Ontario, Canada

in the early 1800's. With them they brought their 7 children: Timothy, Cornlius, John, Helen, Mary, Bridget, & Jeremiah. In 1850 Jeremiah married Johanna Cantlon and they had 6 children: Hannah, Bridget, Timothy, James, Cornelius, & Margaret. In 1870 the O'Sullivans moved to Minnesota and eventually came to Eden Valley and there they had their last child, Mary.

John and Bridget Ryan had John Thomas, Etta, Mae, Laura, Beatice, Florence and Jeremiah. Five years after Jeremiah was born Bridget died of influenza, Etta and Mae also had influenza and later tuberculosis and died within the year.

About 2 mile from the Ryan farm was the Schmit home. John Schmit was born in Luxembourg, His oldest son was Matthew married Elizabeth Poos and they had a son named John B. Schmit, he was born in Osweiler, Luxembourg. In 1880 he came to America, first to Hastings, MN then to St. Nicholas. John married Maria Scherer who had recently came to America from Bavaria, she was the daughter of Sebastian & Mary Scherer. They were married in 1889 and in 1900 they moved to Eden Valley. They had a daughter Katherine who later married Jack Garvey who was the son of Elizabeth Ryan who had married Michael Garvey. After Katherine there were two boys Peter & William and then a girl Susan who later married Jack Garvey's brother Dennis. After Susan there was Mathilda Cecelia, Margaret, Mary and Ann, then twin boys George and Joe.

Since the Ryan children and the Schmit children were about the same age they often played together as children. May 3, 1921 Tommy Ryan married Mathilda Schmit in the Church of Our Lady in Manannah. In 1922 they moved to Little Falls where their son Joe was born. They then moved to Crosby-Ironton where William, Johny, Pat and a girl were born.

The family had many ups & downs and tragedies when brothers Johny & Pat drowned in 1936 in Serpent Lake. In 1938 Jerry was born and when he was three weeks old suffered a brain hemorrhage and would never walk or talk. Jerry lived for 4 years. In 1940 Michael was born. In 1944 they moved to the Twin Cities for medical care of their mother, Mathilda. In April of 1946 she died. However they were determined to keep the family together and give importance to family life.

Genealogy of the family as follows. The Garvey family is connected to the Ryan family through marriage.

Most of the family in later years moved to the Twin Cities area. Their son Patrick became a priest and worked in the Diocese of St. Paul. He was the first Catholic Priest to become an army chaplain in Washington D.C.

The Hanses Family History - Michael Goeffrey born 1769 - married to Christena (Kera) Goeffrey , They had 4 children: Louis, Jr., Theresa, Marie, Catherine. Catherine (1830 - 1893) married John Hanses.

John & Catherine Hanses left Germany about 1842 and settled by River Falls or Black River Falls, Wisconsin and later in 1850-51 moved to Manannah. They had 10 children: Louis, Mary, John, Michael, Anthony, Caroline, Augusta, Charles, Elizabeth, Edward. He helped to build the Manannah Church. In the early years of the Church he room and boarded the priest and for this service was given the honor of naming the Church "Church of Our Lady". After the Church was completed he sent to his nephew in Germany, an artist, and had him paint a large picture of the "Immaculate Conception". This picture hung in the Church for some time and finally ended in the basement of the Church torn and dirty.

When the Church celebrated it's 75th Anniversary the church was redecorated and the picture was discovered it was placed above the main altar. John Hanses was the first person to be buried in the Church of Our Lady Cemetery. Numerous members of this family have been buried in the Church of Our Lady Cemetery over the years.

Garvey Family - Michael Garvey was born May 21st, 1856 in Guedlph, Canada. His parents left Ireland during the potato famine. The family immigrated to Minnesota and settled near Manannah. He married Elizabeth Ryan who was born July 4, 1861 to Dennis Ryan & Mary Cummings. Michael & Elizabeth were married in Forest City on Feb. 10, 1882. Their children were Mary Garvey who married Pete Carney, John who married Catherine Schmit, Nora, Katherine who married Dan Kehoe, Dennis who married Susan Schmit.

Dennis was born Oct. 29, 1894 and married Susan Schmit (July 5, 1892), daughter of John & Marie Schmit, on Nov. 28, 1916. Their children were Helen, Kathleen, Joe, Dennis, Michael, Anna Marie and Francis. Kathleen married Tony Wuertz and had two sons James & Michael who are present members of the Church of Our Lady. Francis was born March 2, 1933 in Manannah. On Feb. 22, 1959 he was ordained to the priesthood for the New Ulm Diocese. He is presently pastor of the Church of Our Lady.

Reagan Family - Hannah Ryan, daughter of Dennis Ryan and Mary Cummings married Mitchell Reagan and they had 5 children: Den, Kate, Mary, Mike and Ann. Mike married Anna Neidermeier and they had 5 children: Phil, John, Lucille, Mike and Margaret. Phil, John, Lucille and Mike are currently members of the Church of Our Lady.

Summers Family: Everett Summers was born Dec 1880 by Crow River. He married Mary Madden January 1905 at St. Peter's in Eden Valley. They farmed by Manannah and had 2 children: Margaret born Oct, 1906 and Marie born July 1910. They lived on various farms around the Manannah area thru the years and settled in a house in town. Marie married and Margaret remained single. Margaret remained with her father after her mother's death in 1930. Margaret did housekeeping for various people in the area. For 40 years she did the linens for the Church of Our Lady where she has been a member since her birth and is Church of Our Lady's oldest member at present time.



Mike and Rose Ryan



Tommy & Etta Ryan



Jim & Mary Ann (Dillon) Ryan Family



Mike Ryan Family



First Communion Class



Jack & Bid Ryan



Wedding of Mike & Anna (Neidermeier)
Ryan with Josephine & Philip Neidermeier



Mary Sullivan &
Maggie Mulvihill



Church Choir with Fr. Coleman



Lucille (Reagan) Dillon
First Communion



Mike Reagan
First Communion



Margaret (Reagan) Snyder
First Communion



Wedding of Pat & Mary (Neidermeier) Kehoe
with Mike & Anna Reagan and Marie Gengler



George & Mary Neidermeier sons
Leo, Phil, George & Harold



Wedding of Phil & Clara Neidermeier with
Harold Neidermeier & Clara's Sister



Fr. McCall and First Communion Class



John & Phil Reagan
First Communion



First Communion Class



Children of Chub & Mary (Reagan) Scribner
Bernice, John, Mike & Marcella



Wedding of Mary & Terry Dougherty



John P. Schmit Family



Dennis & Susan (Schmit) Garvey Family



Dennis & Susan Garvey



Johnny Garvey



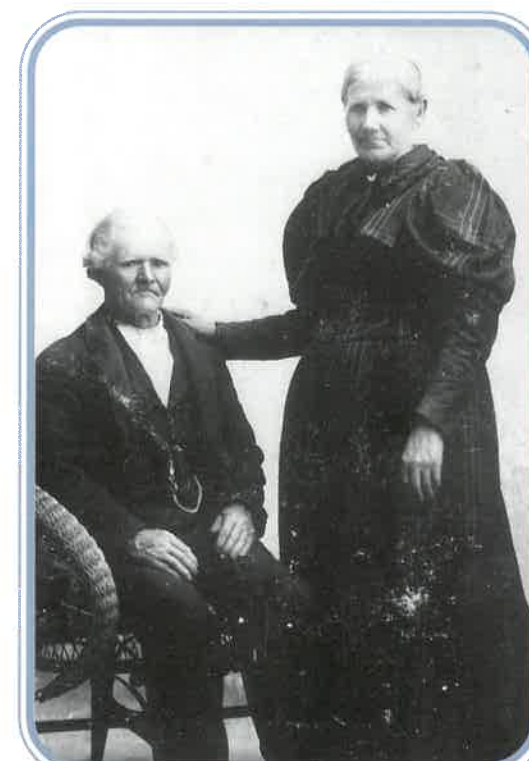
Margaret Summers with Grandpa Summers



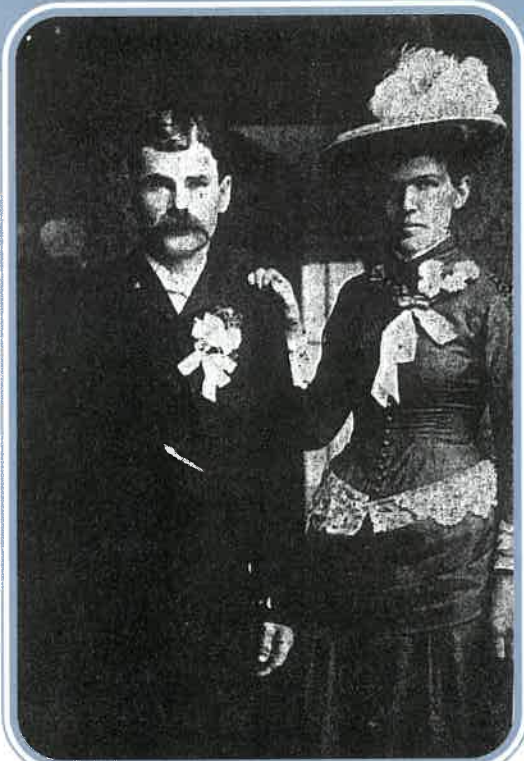
Margaret & Marie Summers
First Communion



Michael & Elizabeth (Ryan) Garvey



James & Mary (Cummings) Ryan



Michael & Elizabeth (Enright) Foley
Wedding July 2, 1889



Fr. Rypel, Gene Thissen & Francis Garvey
1951 First Communion Class



Confirmation Class



Ted & Veronica (Foley) Kramer
Gertrude (Kramer) & Louis Foley May 1929



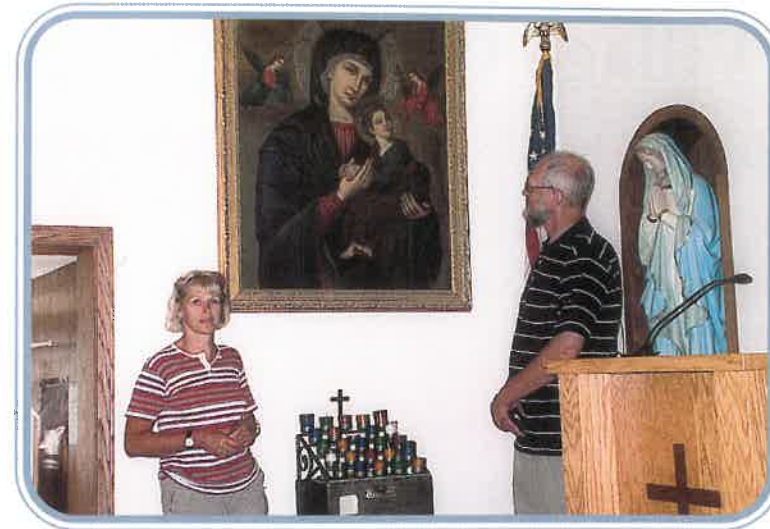
Foley Family 1901



Fr. Coleman with
First Communion Class 1939



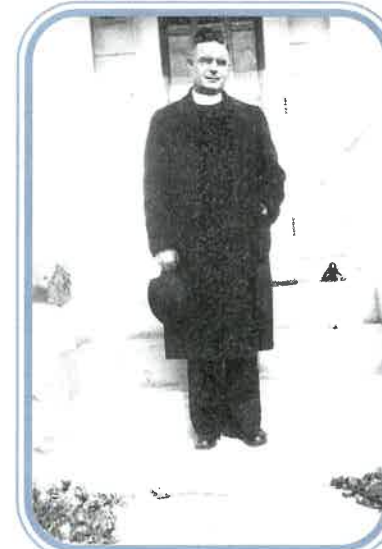
Theresa & John Hanses



A visit from the German Hanses



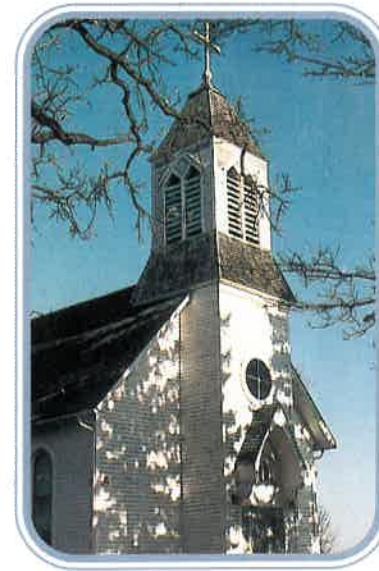
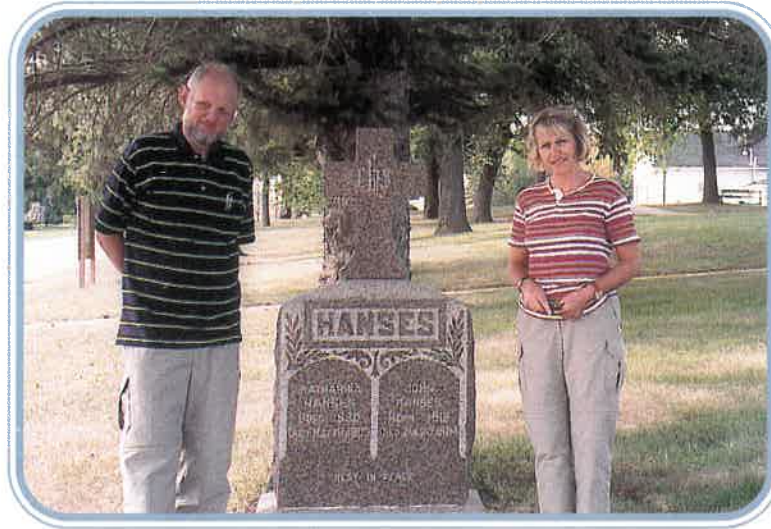
Sr. Ann Cecilla (Fr. Coleman's real sister) and
Sr. Marie Edward Summer CCD teachers



Fr. Coleman in front of
Parish House 1940



Fr. Rypel, Gene Thissen & Francis Garvey
with First Communion Class



At Manannah, near Eden Valley, Minn.

Village Church Owns Valuable Painting



This closeup view of the painting, "Our Mother of Perpetual Help," shows how it has been permanently superimposed upon the wall over the high altar in the Church of Our Lady in Manannah, Minn. The picture is a version of the Virgin Mary holding the Christ Child. Although the name of the artist is not known, the painting is considered valuable.

CHERISHED possession of the Church of Our Lady at Manannah, Minn., a Meeker county village seven miles southwest of Eden Valley, is a valuable 19th century oil painting, entitled "Our Mother of Perpetual Help." The true value of the painting was revealed only recently when the Rev. Raymond F. Rypel, pastor, had the interior of the church redecorated. On that occasion an art dealer examined the painting and offered a large sum of money for it. The money was refused, but the picture gained new prominence and was permanently superimposed upon the wall over the high altar.

As the Eden Valley Journal points out, the history of the painting goes back to 1880. It was then that John Hanes, a pioneer settler of the Manannah community, sent to his birthplace at Westphalen, Germany, an order for a well-known artist to do the painting. Although Hanes knew the artist, the latter's name has since been lost to the family. When the painting arrived it cost more than Hanes had anticipated, so he was obliged to sell his best horse to help pay for it. The family had the picture hung over the high altar in the then-new church, but it ultimately was relegated to relative obscurity at the rear of the church. Some 15 years ago it again was placed in a position of prominence and recently that position was made permanent. These pictures were taken during Saturday devotions to "Our Lady of Perpetual Help."

Sunday Tribune Photos by Nathan Cross



Shown praying with others during devotions to "Our Lady of Perpetual Help" are two descendants of John Hanes, the man who ordered the picture painted in 1880. At right is Mrs. William Schreiner, 92, daughter of Hanes. At left is Clara Schreiner, Mrs. Schreiner's daughter and a granddaughter of Hanes. Both live in Eden Valley.



The painting's "place of honor" above the high altar shows up clearly in this picture. Kneeling with three altar boys is the church's pastor, the Rev. Raymond F. Rypel. Altar boys are Douglas Haagensohn, 12; Ronald Brixius, 11, and Harold Topp, Jr., 13.



Here is an overall view of the church interior, with the painting looking down upon the kneeling churchgoers during Saturday night devotions. The Church of Our Lady will observe its 75th anniversary this fall.

Celebrating 100 years

THE PARISHIONERS OF OUR LADY

INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE

A MASS OF THANKSGIVING

IN OBSERVANCE OF THEIR PARISH CENTENNIAL

ON AUGUST TWENTY-SECOND

AT ONE O'CLOCK P.M.

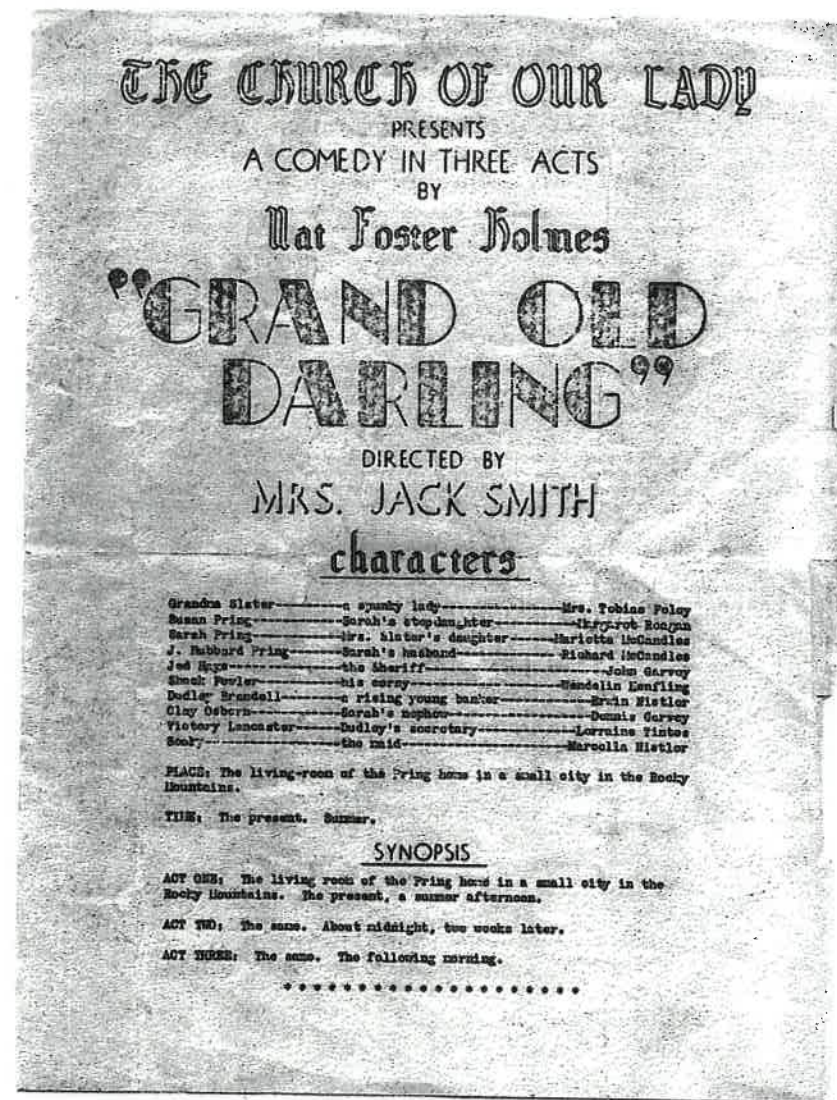
AT THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY

MANANNAH, MINNESOTA



Of Faith





Manannah notes 100th anniversary

by Seppi

Nestled among the lakes and woods on a rural road in upper McLeod County is the Church of Our Lady, established a hundred years ago this summer. It is a quaint, typically rural, white wooden church with a well-kept cemetery and rectory on either side.

The congregation is not the largest in the diocese but the church and grounds were filled beyond capacity on Sunday, Aug. 22, when Fr. Joseph Endres, pastor, and the parishioners played host to Bishop Raymond A. Lucker and neighboring priests and friends. It was a day commemorating the centennial of the parish. You should have been there. It was rural hospitality at its best for the estimated 1000 visitors.

Highlight of the day was the Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated at 1 p.m.

by Bishop Lucker with the Most Rev. Alphonse J. Schladweiler, former bishop of the diocese, and some fifteen other priests.

A luncheon served in the parish social center and on the grounds followed the Mass. For the rest of the afternoon, parishioners and friends visited the centennial exhibit and concession stands provided by the younger members of the parish.

Among the items of special interest to visitors was a nineteenth century oil painting of "Our Lady of Perpetual Help" cherished by the pioneers of the area. Ordered by John Hansen about 1880 from a prominent German painter, it proved to be more costly than he anticipated and he had to sell his best horse to pay for it. It now graces the east wall of the church.

Church Of Our Lady Marks Centennial

An estimated 1,000 persons took part at various times in day-long festivities at Manannah Sunday as members of the Church of Our Lady marked the 100th anniversary of the founding of the parish.

One of the highlights of the day was a solemn Mass of Thanksgiving which began at 1 p.m. with Most Rev. Raymond Lucker, bishop of New Ulm as the principal celebrant.

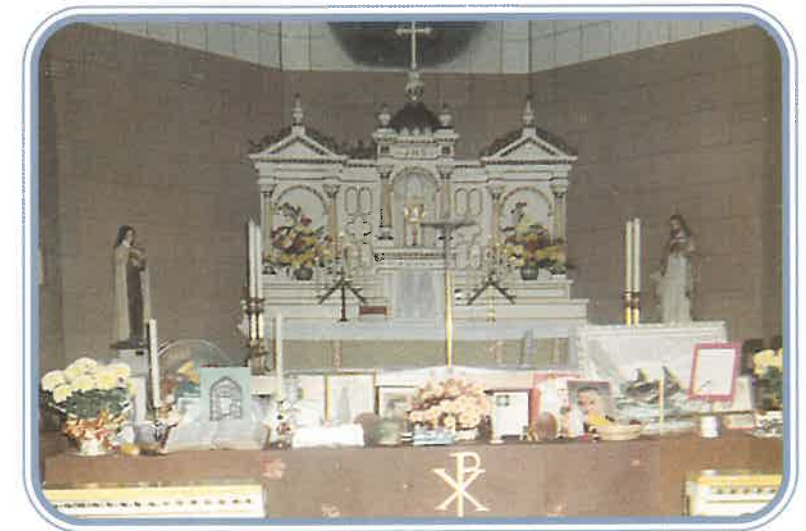
Fifteen other clergymen, including the Most Rev. Alphonse J. Schladweiler, former bishop of the New Ulm diocese, were co-celebrants at the Mass of Thanksgiving.

Former parishioners came from as far away as Washington and California, and there was one visitor from Manila in the Philippines.

A luncheon was served in the Manannah Social Center and parishioners and former church members, along with other area citizens, spent the warm afternoon visiting under the numerous shade trees in the church yard.

During its 100 years of existence, the Church of Our Lady has been served by 23 pastors. Rev. Joseph Endres, present pastor has served since 1968.

The Church of Our Lady



Over the years



The Renovation

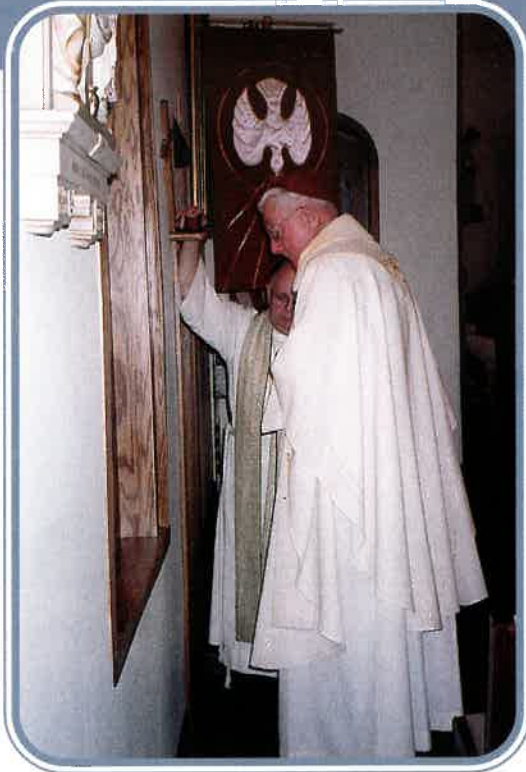


Begins



Renovation and Expansion





Bishop Lucker & Fr. Garvey
Dedication of Church 2000



Dedication of Church 2000



Blacktopping of church parking lot



Groundbreaking service for Hall addition



Removal of Church Chimney



Manannah Daze Parade

Our Parish Social Center



Installation of parking lot light

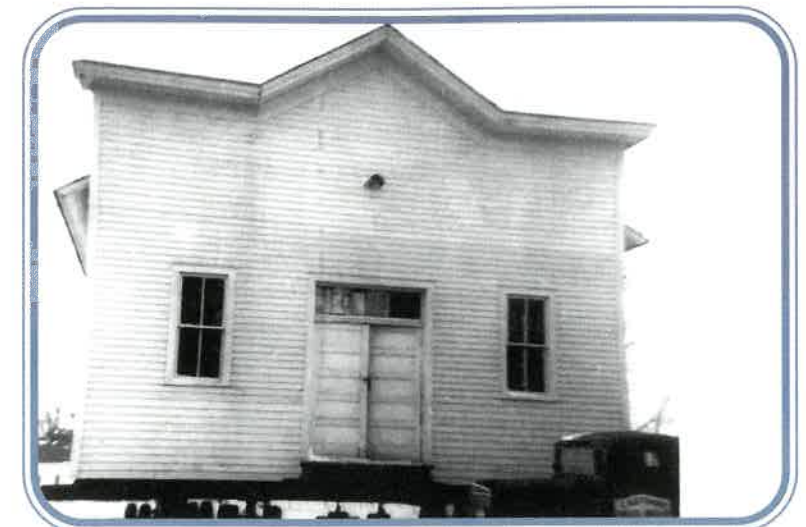


Blessing of the new addition 2001

Then and Now



Blessing of classrooms 2001



Hall being moved to present site



House being moved in 1938



Present Parish Social Center