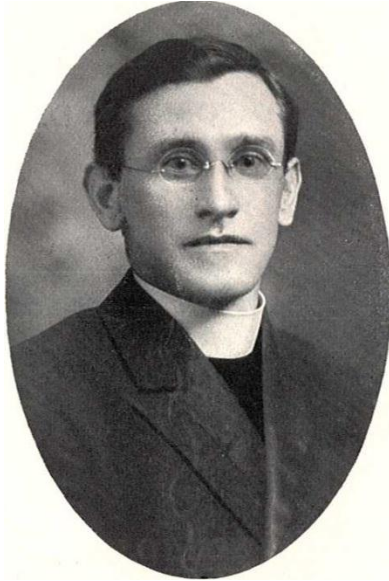


Fr. Michael J. O'Driscoll 1880-1941

Fr. O'Driscoll will forever be remembered as the founding pastor of St. Mary's. Under his direction this parish was erected with only 83 families in the register.

The following is an obituary from Catholic Action News provided by the Diocese of Fargo, ND.



The Rev. Michael J. O'Driscoll who since 1936 has been pastor of St. Stephen's Church at Larimore, was buried on Saturday, November 8. The Most Rev. Bishop was the celebrant of the Pontifical Requiem Mass and preached the sermon.

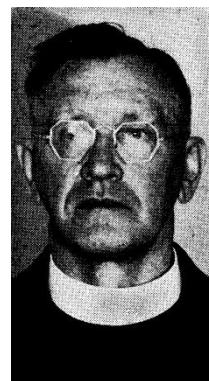
Assisting the Bishop were Msgr. Mulloy as assistant priest; Rev. John Mulvaney and Rev. William McNamee as deacon and subdeacon. Rev. William Klinkhammer and Rev. Charles Fay were deacons of honor; Msgr. Dworschak and Rev. John Smith were masters of ceremonies. The priest's choir under the direction of Rev. Charles Veach, with Rev. Howard Smith at the organ, sang.

Father O'Driscoll died on Wednesday November 5 in St. Michael's Hospital, Grand Forks, where he had been a patient for some few weeks. He was born in Baudow, Ireland on September 14, 1880 to John and Janette O'Driscoll. He studied classics at the Murphy Graves Art School at Bandon, Ireland from 1895 to 1897 and at St. Mary's College, Rugby, England from 1897 to 1901. His course in Philosophy and three years of Theology he pursued in Monte Calvario College, in Monte Calvario, Italy. He came to the United States in 1906. In September of that year he registered at the St. Paul Seminary as a fourth year Theologian.

He was ordained in Fargo on July 2, 1907 by Bishop John Shanley. He was appointed secretary to the Bishop immediately and remained in that office until the death of Bishop Shanley in 1909. He was reappointed secretary by Bishop O'Reilly upon the latter's installation in June 1910. He served as secretary for two years.

In July of 1912 he was appointed pastor of St. Alphonsus Church in Langdon. In 1914 he was appointed first pastor of St. Mary's Church in Grand Forks. He served there until December of 1917. Early in 1918 Father O'Driscoll volunteered as a Knights of Columbus chaplain and served over seas during the remainder of the World War and with the army of occupation. He was wounded in the battle of the Meuse Argonne, [a battle noted for the largest loss of American life in a single battle during WWI].

He returned to the Diocese of Fargo in 1920. He was appointed pastor of Page which he served from 1920 to 1925. He was then transferred to St. Thomas where he remained until 1930. From 1930 to 1936 he was pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Mt. Carmel, N. Dak. He was appointed to St. Stephan's Church in Larimore in 1936.



Father O'Driscoll is survived by one sister in this country, Miss M. O'Driscoll of Colorado Springs, who was present at the funeral. Burial was in the Catholic Cemetery in Larimore. Upward of forty priests assisted at the funeral.

Father O'Driscoll had a brother, also a priest, who preceded him in death. He Was the Rev. Timothy O'Driscoll of Omaha, Neb.

The following is an article from the October 22nd, 1918 edition of the Grand Forks Herald about Fr. O'Driscoll while serving in WWI.

O'DRISCOLL IS SOME SPRINTER

Former Local Priest, Now at
Front; Beats Germans
Back to Lines.

Father Michael O'Driscoll, formerly rector of St. Mary's Catholic church here, and now helping the rest of the Yanks urge the Boches to head in the general direction of Berlin, by working in the front lines as a K. C. volunteer chaplain, is some sprinter if one may believe the tales sent home by one Jack Remington, and published in a Twin City paper.

The story as it is told therein goes like this:

The Germans who failed to check the American advance in the early stages of the recent engagement at Soissons, may be some sprinters, but they could not run so fast as to prevent the Rev. Michael O'Driscoll of Grand Forks, from overtaking them. In fact, at some stages of the race Father O'Driscoll was away in the lead of the German rear guard, but he did not know it.

Trench warfare had been abandoned when the American force approached the Soissons line, all of the fighting taking place in the open. Father O'Driscoll, Knights of Columbus, volunteer chaplain with the famous Thirty-second division, made up largely of Wisconsin and Michigan troops, was working in the field with a unit of this division, assisting in the care of the wounded. The American advance was very rapid and Father

O'Driscoll was so interested in his work that he, with an American army officer, wandered into the German fighting lines.

It still is undecided whether the Germans were more bewildered than the two Americans when each discovered the other. The Huns apparently though Father O'Driscoll and the American officer were leading other fighters in the attack, for they beat it hastily in the direction of the general German retreat. Father O'Driscoll and the American officer ran back toward the American lines, both arriving safely.

"It's my one regret," said Father O'Driscoll, "that we did not call to the Germans to surrender. I believe we could have bagged the whole outfit on the spot, although the only weapon between us was a pistol carried by the officer."

