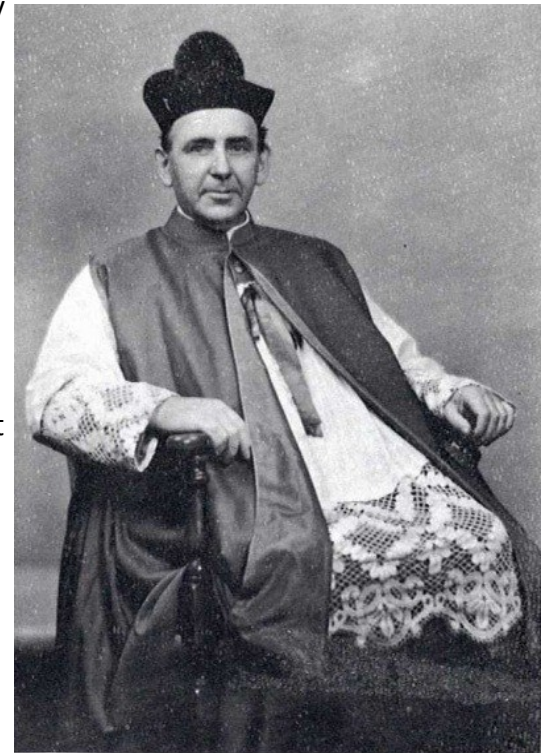


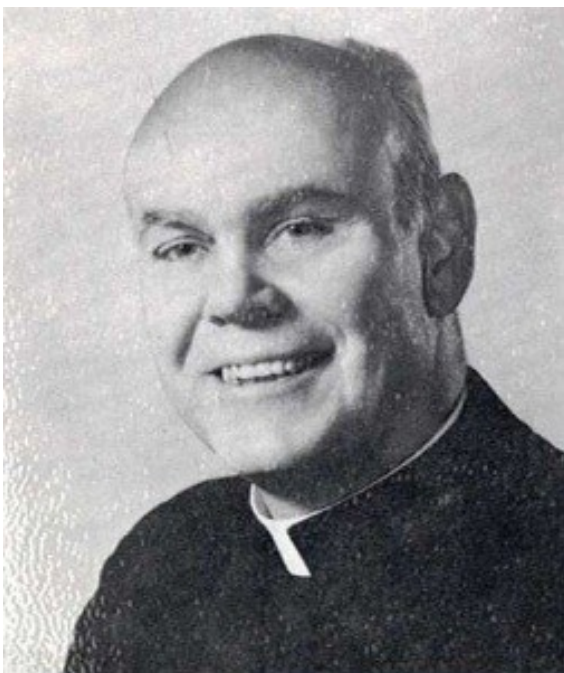
**St. Mary's School
Grand Forks 1929-2005**

In 1928, the late Pastor Monsignor M.J. Fletcher, and his St. Mary's Parishioners, prepared to build a new school at 216 Belmont Road. The building was skillfully designed by Architect Joseph Bell DeRemer. The building, although no longer a school, continues to be considered a gem in architectural design.

When St. Mary's School opened its doors to 97 students in February of 1929, it was already paid for thanks to the M.F. Murphy family and the families of the St. Mary's Parish. Msgr. Fletcher was proud to say "We had just enough pupils for four teachers, plus an excellent music teacher, Sr. Norberta...two more rooms were opened within a few years. We then went along until the early forties before the last two classrooms were opened. These rooms were fully equipped but there had been no pupils. It was my happy boast that



Msgr. Matthew Fletcher



Msgr. David Boyle

St. Mary's was the only parish in the Diocese that had a hundred percent enrollment and room for more. Every Catholic child that lived in St. Mary's parish attended St. Mary's School, with only one exception." Sister Aquin, the school's first principal, and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet were instrumental in beginning the school. Almost 70 sisters of St. Joseph taught at St. Mary's.

"Msgr. Fletcher had hoped to build a gymnasium just before his retirement. He went so far as to have drawings made of a building,

which the architect assured him could be erected for less than the \$80,000 already in the treasury for it. [It] was only a rough sketch, which Father was not pleased with and had planned to give the matter more attention later – saying he could do a better job himself – but he was never able to follow through on the project.” Fortunately, a new gym and other substantial improvements were added to St. Mary’s School facilities in 1956 under Monsignor D. Boyle.

For over 75 years, St. Mary’s School provided a family-oriented, quality faith-based education. It was led by extraordinary teachers and parents fully committed to its mission. St. Mary’s school, with all of its teachers, staff, parents and children, will forever be a proud part of our history and is missed by all who participated in and enjoyed it.

Today the building is still being utilized for noble purposes just as it once was. The basement currently houses Project Kids, a daycare servicing toddler to pre-school children. Several of the old classrooms have been remodeled to accommodate the parish office, a chapel/choir room, KWTL Real Presence Live Radio, and the Red River Child Advocacy Center.



Choir Room and Chapel

Parish Office





Red River Children's Advocacy Center



KWTL Real Presence
Live Radio Station