

# Hartford St. George

Hartford (Minnehaha County) St. George

German and Irish Catholics living near Hartford in 1882 were attended out of Marion. The next year Father John Brogan took up residence among them and organized St. George's Parish. He also served Montrose, Salem and Wheeler. In 1884 Hartford was served from Montrose, but church-building plans continued. In 1885 a church was erected at a cost of \$1,800, all paid for except \$100. St. George's remained a mission of Montrose until 1893.

The 40 or more Catholic households in Hartford were given a resident priest in 1900. Father Michael Sack (1900-12) ministered also to Wellington and Humboldt. He was succeeded by Father Benedict Birkle (1912-13) and Father Hugo Victor (1914-19). When Father T. J. Manning began his pastorate in 1919, there was already a movement for the erection of a new church at a more convenient location. The ladies of the Altar Society had already raised \$2,500 by means of bake sales, etc. A contract was let in 1920 for a \$35,000 brick structure. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Urban and Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Urban donated the high and side altars, respectively, complete with statues. Five years later a rectory costing \$10,000 was built. From 1921 to 1931 Father J. N. Fitzgerald was resident pastor.

The 60 Catholic households in St. George's Church had increased to 90 by 1973. A youth center was opened in 1966 in a remodeled warehouse. (CD)



# Humboldt St. Ann

Humboldt (Minnehaha County) St. Ann

Humboldt was founded in 1877. Catholics among the first settlers worshipped at Hartford, 10 miles to the southeast, or the priest from there came to offer the Holy Sacrifice in one of the homes. By 1911 there were 18 Catholic families in the vicinity and they wanted a church of their own. They delegated N. B. Maloney and J. P. Gallagher to collect funds for the church building. So successful were these men that they showed Bishop O'Gorman \$2,700, and he gladly gave them permission to proceed with their plan under the direction of Father Michael A. Sack of Hartford. In 1912 Father Sack offered the first Holy Mass in St. Ann's church and in 1914 Father Hugo Victor became its pastor. He found that more space was needed at Saint Ann's so he directed construction of an addition and the refurbishing of the interior. When Father T. J. Manning was appointed first resident pastor in April of 1919, he had a fine church but no rectory.

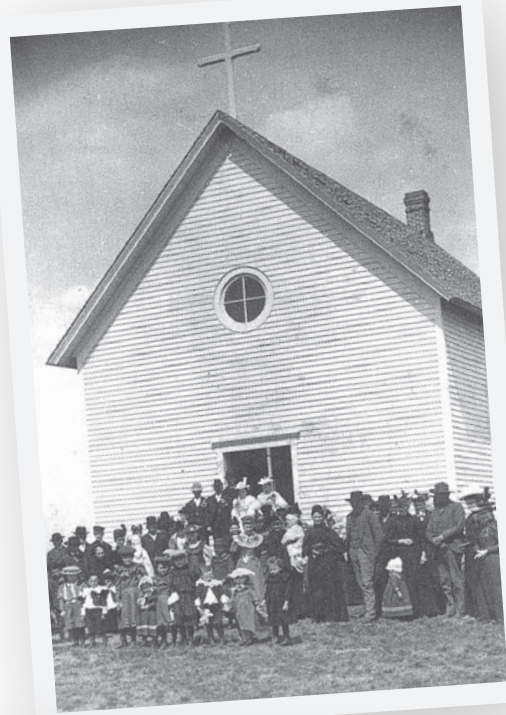
The parishioners asked Father Manning to proceed with a Sister's school for their children. The 50 families were ready to support it. In the fall of 1920 excavation began for the two-story 57x90 ft. building with basement. St. Ann's School was dedicated on Aug. 28, 1921. The pastor had been successful in obtaining six Presentation Sisters from the Aberdeen community to instruct the 108 children, 25 of whom were boarders from neighboring towns. All eight grades were provided. On Sept. 14 Father Manning sponsored a shower to help furnish the school and convent. St. Ann's Parish in a town of 700 had an active altar society, a Young Ladies Sodality and the Holy Name Society for men and boys.

Father Manning did not rest with the erection of the parish school. He and his people had their sights set on a more worthy house of God. In 1922 Humboldt, a railroad town with a population of 700, was also an active trading town, so there was much optimism and the new church was completed in 1925. Though the cost was to be kept down to \$10,000, the debt Depression. considerable concern for the pastors during the Great

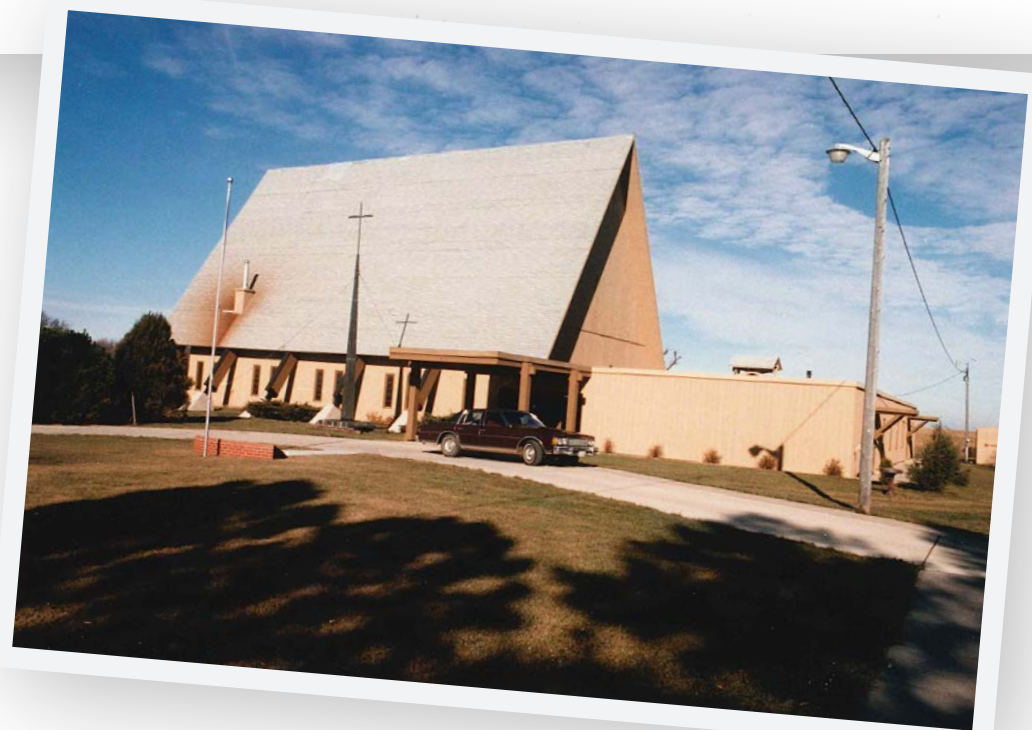
In the early 70s the new Humboldt Church cost \$215,000. The school was closed in 1970. (CD)



# Hunitmer St. Joseph the Workman



The Parish of St. Joseph the Workman of Hunitmer was founded in 1889. The first family came in 1878, one year before the Vicariate Apostolic of Dakota was established within the boundaries of Dakota Territory. The Rev. Martin Marty consecrated its first Bishop on May 1, 1880. Everyone was grateful when a bridge was put across Skunk Creek to make crossing the river easier, with a ferry running at Dell Rapids to cross the river. In 1886 a priest was sent occasionally to say Mass in one of the homes, but people began clamoring for a real church. One woman told her husband, "If there will be no church, we are going back to Iowa." By 1888, Fr. Flynn of Madison, who was the first priest ordained in the Dakota Territory in June of 1881, helped 11 families organize the building. In 1889 the goal was reached and edifice was raised. In 1891 came a cemetery and 1907 the rectory. After 20 years, the church was outgrown with 43 families and 8 single people, and a new church building got underway. Young people donated money for a new bell also. In 1909 a second church was built at a cost of approximately \$5000 and had seating capacity of 170. By 1950, that was too small to serve a growing parish. A plan to enlarge church by moving the sanctuary north to make additional pews did not materialize, but by 1960 it was decided to build the 3rd church northwest of the present location. After many meetings with parishioners and some architect friends from Sioux Falls, plans were put in place. On May 2, 1965, there was a ceremony of solemn blessing on the ground where the church would stand. Construction crew was under the direction of Dan Sandven of Carthage and two other carpenters, young men from the Hunitmer Parish, and several young volunteers from Sioux Falls. On August 1, 1965 the first Mass was celebrated in the new structure, people sitting on steel chairs and kneeling on bare cement, and September 6, St. Joseph's Church was solemnly blessed by Bishop Lambert Hoch. At this time the name was changed to St. Joseph the Workman. St. Joseph's was one of the first parishes in the diocese to have a Mass on Saturday nights, which fulfilled the obligations of attending Mass on Sunday morning. By 1889, there were 130 very active families, with a public breakfast the last Sunday of the month April through September and a soup supper in October, with people coming from miles around.



# Idylwilde St. Boniface

ST. BONIFACE CATHOLIC CHURCH (IDYLWILDE)  
Freeman, South Dakota

The first Catholic families to come to this area were the John Heirigs and the Brunner families who came in 1878. In 1880 Christopher Goettertz and Ignatz Dangel and their families made permanent settlements. Other settlers coming in 1881 were Jake Rudinger, Kasper Schweitzer, Peter and John Weier, and Frank Bartsch.

Between 1879 and 1885 Mass was held in the homes. About once a month a visiting priest from Yankton or Wahpeton would come to one of the parishioners' homes on Saturday and would spend the night. The John Heirigs, Christopher Goettertz, and Ignatz Dangel homes were host to these Masses. When the priest arrived on Saturday, one of the older children would quickly go around the neighboring families and would announce that Mass was to be held in the morning. Mass was always said in the living room. After Mass, Father held separate catechism classes in the bedroom first for the girls and then the boys. Everyone stayed for dinner and visiting was enjoyed by all into the afternoon.

Between 1879 and 1883 mail was received at the Childtown Post Office two miles north of Herbert Weier's farm. This mission was called "Childtown Mission" by the visiting priests. Our own Post Office, Idylwilde, was established November 21, 1883 and located in the southeast corner of Section 5.

The first wedding in Idylwilde was that of John Heirigs and Mary Brunner, April 19, 1884. The wedding took place in the new wooden schoolhouse of District #3 located one-half mile north and one-half mile east of the present "Idylwilde" Church.

In 1885 the Catholic families of this community built their own church on the northeast corner of Section 15, Salem Township. The land was donated by Christopher Goettertz and the land for the cemetery was donated by John Heirigs. The first person buried in the cemetery was John Heirigs on April 22, 1886.

The church was built of stones called "niggerheads" from the prairie and was 20 by 30 feet. After a number of years the Idylwilde Post Office closed but the name "Idylwilde" remained. There were about fifteen families in the first parish. In addition to the ones aforementioned there were the Buchmeiers, Zitelsbergers, Holzbaues, Voglers, Stecklers, Heiders, Bucks, and Bauers. The congregation was incorporated July 30, 1880.

In the summer of 1894 the stone church was replaced by a wooden church. The old stone church was torn down and some of the stones were used to make the new sidewalk around the new structure. One of the early customs during Mass, was for the ladies and girls to sit on one side of the sanctuary and the men and boys on the other.



# Marion St. Mary

Marion (Turner County) St. Mary

In 1879 Marion was the terminus of the Milwaukee Road. When the North Western was extended from Volga to Pierre, it crossed the Milwaukee at this point (impossible!) so the place became known as the Marian Junction. Turner County was created in 1881. Bishop Marty offered the first Mass for the settlers in a private home. He had come to offer the people the opportunity to make their Easter Duty. Soon after, he assigned Father John Lerche to take up residence in Marion and care for Catholics along the railroad lines. The priest inspired the Marion parishioners to erect a rather pretentious frame church valued at \$5,000 (1880). Father John Hermeling served in 1880-82 out of Marion the missions of Parker and Rome (Dimock). He was followed by Father W. O'Hara who from 1883 to 1884, also cared for Hartford, Lennox, Montrose and Parker. The next year Marion took its turn as a mission of Bridgewater, but after a year Father J. V. McInerney was in residence, serving also Lennox, Menno and Scotland. When Father Edward Power succeeded him, he added Swan Lake to his missions but dropped Lennox.

At Marion a large boarding school -- planned to accommodate 200 children -- was constructed under the direction of Father F. P. Grabig. It cost \$15,000. Franciscan Sisters of Milwaukee accepted the school. In 1918 the Franciscans withdrew and were replaced by the Presentation Sisters of Aberdeen. The parish at Marion had lost so many members (in the early 1930s) that the remaining parishioners were no longer able to support the school.

Father Joseph Zimmerman served Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Marion, from 1934 to 1951. He had the parish house remodeled. (1938) tragedy struck the community of 400 Catholic families on April 10, 1949.

An explosion in the basement of the church demolished the building, killing six worshippers and injuring three. Pastor and people were stunned, yet by November of 1952 a new edifice was completed. Two years later Father Fabian Chartier succeeded to the pastorate, ministering after 1955 to Idylwilde, too. (CD)



The worst tragedy in the first hundred years of the diocese occurred at Marion on April 10, 1949, when an explosion destroyed St. Mary's Church and killed six parishioners. They were the only known deaths attributable to the dozens of storms and fires which battered churches, schools and rectories, seemingly in a continuing test of faith. Over and over again the people rebuilt with the hope and tenacity of the early Dakota pioneers. (Argus Leader)

# Lennox St. Magdalen

St. Magdalen Catholic Church

Founded in 1881, St. Magdalen Catholic Church of Lennox is now in its second century of existence and ranks among the older congregations in Lincoln County. Thirteen charter members were listed when the congregation was organized. However, records indicate that the first baptism was in 1875 and mass was celebrated in homes in the area for approximately five years before the congregation was established.

The first priest assigned was Rev. Fr. William Maher, and the first of the three church structures that have served the parish was erected in 1881. The first two churches were frame buildings and were located three blocks east of Main Street on the north side of Second Avenue.

The Lennox church was served by priests from Sioux Falls, Marion, Montrose, Hurley, and Parker until 1902. In that year Rev. Fr. Charles Boley came to the parish as the first resident priest and in 1903 a parsonage was constructed on the church property.

On February 29, 1909 the second frame church building was demolished by fire. The congregation then worshipped in the former Dindot & Son Furniture Store building until the present brick structure was completed in 1971. It is located at the corner of Six Avenue and State Highway 17.

Since 1918 priests who resided in Lennox have also served St. Nicholas Church, and in recent years priests serving St. Magdalen's have from time to time served churches at Centerville, Worthing and Parker.

Three young women from the parish have entered convents and have served as sisters, and one young man from the parish has entered the priesthood.

