

# Eden Sacred Heart

# Waubay Immaculate Conception

Eden (Marshall County) Sacred Heart

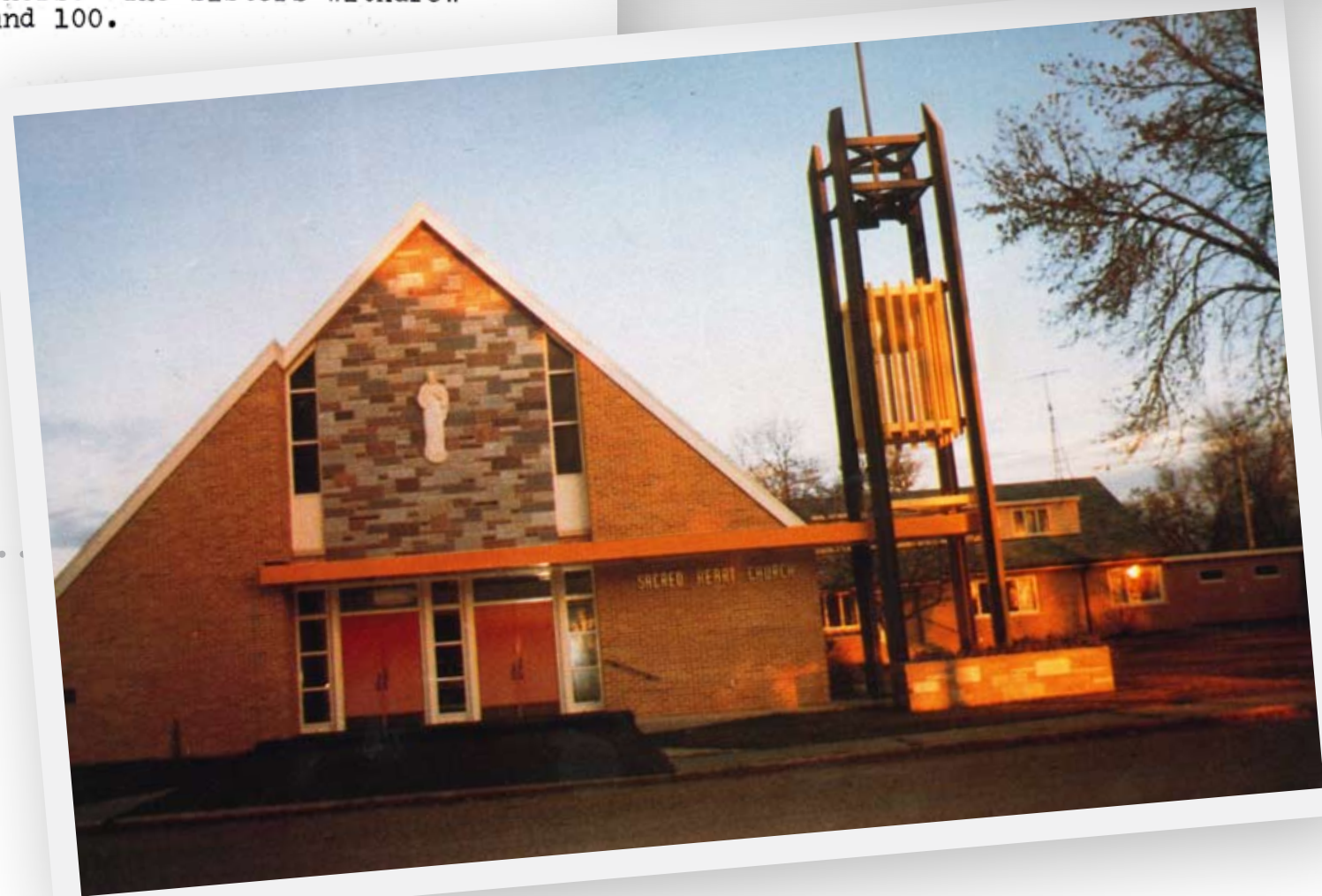
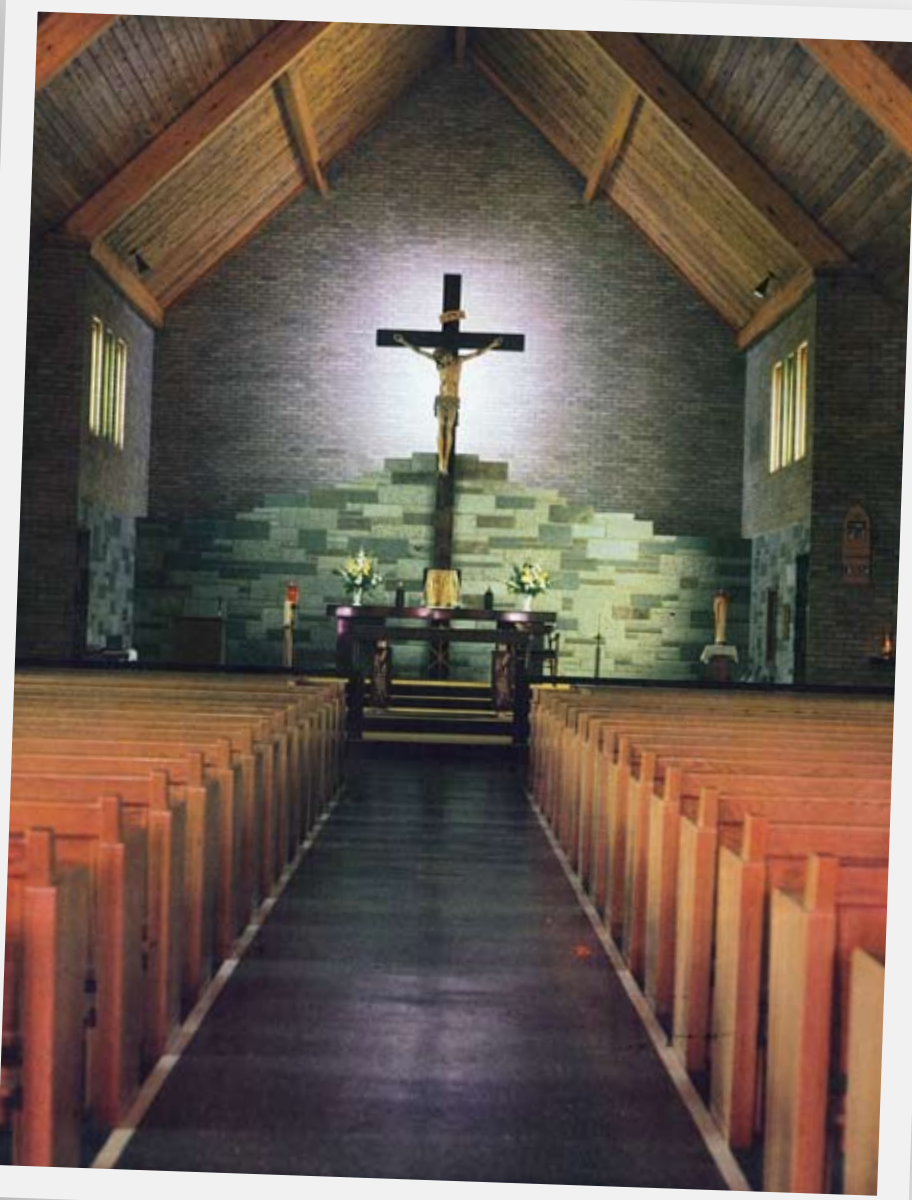
In the 1880s settlers came from Minnesota and located in northeastern Day County at a place called Frank (Named for Frank Schlekewy, the first homesteader). They built St. Michael's Church in 1891 where Father Henry Mensing of Webster ministered to them intermittently for the next ten years. Other Catholics living about five miles to the northeast of Frank found the travel to St. Michael's inconvenient so they built St. Joseph Church in what was later called Eden Park. This parish was attached to Frank as a mission.

Father M. J. Buscher took up residence at St. Michael's in 1901 and was followed by Fathers A. C. Helmbrecht, Emil Bubik, J. P. Unger and Vincent Unger. On June 20, 1917, Bishop O'Gorman appointed Father William Eckl to Frank but asked him to combine the country parishes of St. Michael and St. Joseph into a town parish.

Eden, two miles north of Frank, had sprung up in 1914 when the Soo Line extended its track from Fairmont, N.D., to Grenville. By 1919 the basement of Sacred Heart Church and a rectory were ready in Eden, and Father Eckl took up residence there. The two missions went out of existence. However, the people of St. Joseph's did not join Sacred Heart but gravitated to the new town of Lake City and built a St. Joseph's there, using the furnishings of their former house of worship. The Eden pastor, living only seven miles away, ordinarily ministered to the Catholics of Lake City.

Father Paul Bachman came to Eden in 1958. There was a new school building but the church dating back to 1918 needed replacing. Within three years a new building of brick and stone, plus an adjoining rectory, were erected. Bishop Hoch dedicated the complex on May 3, 1961. Since 1965 the pastor also cares for the 30 Catholic families in Lake City.

One of the casualties of the depression had been Sacred Heart School in Eden which was closed in 1933. Several priests served the parish between 1937 and 1946. When Father Myron Martin came to Eden in 1946 after service as a Navy chaplain, he re-opened the school with Notre Dame Sisters as teachers. The Sisters withdrew in 1970 as enrollment had hovered around 100.



WAUBAY, Day County

Immaculate Conception

In Sioux "Hla-heh" means "where the fowls nest." The town's location in a lake region where ducks hunting abounds and where chattering marsh fowl-pelicans and cormorants come to rear their young.

- 1881 The coming of the railroad.
- 1880's The priest from Webster, 12 miles away, or the priest from Grenville, 18 miles away and to the northwest of Waubay, offered Mass in private homes.
- 1885 About 50 Polish families settled around Waubay Lake. DER WANDERER, Sept. 8, 1887
- 1895 A Catholic church was erected. DER WANDERER, Sept. 8, 1897
- 1899-1890 Rev. E. Chapuis was resident priest.
- 1910 Rev. R.M. Fiarock became first (?) resident priest with the mission, Appleton, Minn.
- 1910, Apr. 4 A committee was appointed by the parish to seek means of securing a resident priest for the parish.
- 1913, Jan. 30 Immaculate Conception Parish was incorporated. Rev. John Dolny, pastor. Cemetery of 1 1/2 acres valued at \$75.00.
- 1919 The second rectory was built.
- 1919, Apr. 2 A committee of Anton Stankogler, W.P. Jackson, and Matt Baringer negotiated for the purchase of lots close to the church. Lots 7 and 8 in Block 11 were sold to the parish by F.C. Kluber for \$4000.00
- 1920 Summit, 15 miles east of Waubay, was visited by the pastors of Waubay and offered Mass in private homes. Ind. Rev. F.R. Stensel.
- 1926 In the "Financial Report, 1926" only 26 names are listed as paying pew rent. Rev. GREGG S.J. Birkle, pastor.
- 1930, June 3 Bishop Mahoney ordered the Catholics at Summit to be annexed to the Waubay parish where they were to pay their church dues.
- 1939 Population of Waubay: 976. A large tourist business.
- 1945 This year 31 children made their First private Communion, 29, their Solemn Holy Communion. Fr. F.R. Stensel conducts instruction in Bible and church history for 18 boys and 15 girls.
- 1946 Number of Catholic families: 70 There is an active Altar Society. In W.I. 47 boys and 3 girls served. The church is valued at \$5,100 and a rectory at \$1,500.
- 1955, Dec. 12 Bishop Hoch dedicated the new Im. Conc. Church and rectory with 16 priests assisting. The church is constructed of steel, haydite block and brick along modern lines. EB, Jan. 1956
- 1960-61 Sisters from the Webster parochial school teach Saturday religion classes in Webster.



NEW CHURCH AND RECTORY FOR WAUBAY PARISH

Pictured above is the new Immaculate Conception Church and Rectory at Waubay, South Dakota, which was dedicated by His Excellency the Bishop on December 12. Sixteen neighboring priests were present for the event. The new structure with full basement is constructed of steel, haydite block, and brick throughout and is along modern lines. McGraw Construction of Watertown was the general contractor. Rev. Arthur Weber, M.M. is the pastor.

# Grenville St. Joseph

Grenville (Day County) St. Joseph

Grenville, called Waubay from 1879 to 1885, was also known as Puck and Thorson. It was a predominantly Polish settlement about 12 miles north of Webster. In 1877 a few men had come to look over the land by Waubay Lake. They liked what they saw. In 1879 they brought their families and others, most of whom were Catholic. The priest of Webster visited them but was unable to communicate with them because he didn't speak their language.

On their own in 1885 the people erected a church, and two years later a Polish-speaking priest, Father Philip Kosert, ministered to them for several months. Bishop Marty tried his best to get a priest who could speak their language. From May to December in 1888, Father Stanislaus Tokarski cared for them as well as Fort Sisseton. He was followed by Father Edward J. Chapuis, Swiss-born, who served in Grenville from 1889 to 1891 with missions at Fort Sisseton and Eden. In 1892 there were five German and 66 Polish families, with Father Nicolous Tolpa as pastor. He remained about two years.

The Polish settlers clung tenaciously to their language which they associated with their religion. They mingled little with their English speaking neighbors. On May 7, 1923, Father James J. Wojowicz was honored for 30 years of service to St. Joseph's parish, having been assigned there in 1893. He was raised to the rank of domestic prelate but he was a monsignor for just one year, dying in Grenville on May 19, 1924.

From the time Father Wojowicz came to Grenville, he wanted to have a parish school. He began by having laymen conduct classes. By 1901 he had a school building, but financing was difficult. To ease the burden, he arranged with the school district to have the public school conducted in the same building. By the following year he had secured the services of the Notre Dame Sisters of Mankato, Minn., and St. Joseph's School was truly in operation.

In 1925 St. Joseph's parish numbered 165 Catholic families, mostly rural. The population of the town was less than 300. When Monsignor Wojowicz died, he left the parish in good financial condition. His successor, Father V. S. Majer (1924-32), not only maintained the school but added the first year of high school in 1932. Father John H. Dolney (1932-7) continued adding a grade until all four years were offered in 1937-38. In 1947 the high school, with 90 students, was accredited by the state.

The parish was hard hit in 1957 when the school burned down. It was rebuilt at once without providing for the high school. By 1970 Monsignor Dolney had to admit that continuation of the school was unfeasible. At his retirement that year the school was closed. Father John Adamiec, O.M.I., concentrated on providing a strong CCD program in the school building. (CD)



St. Joseph's school, Grenville, was built in 1911 by Rev. James Wojowicz, and opened that year as a public school. After seven months of operating as a public school it became a parochial school. In September, 1922, the first year high school was opened. Today St. Joseph's high school is an accredited four-year school with an enrollment of 30 students. In the grade school 49 students were enrolled this past year. The school Sisters of Notre Dame staff this school. Rev. John H. Dolney is the pastor of St. Joseph's parish.

P.B. Aug 1947

# Lake City St. Joseph

LAKE CITY, Marshall County St. Joseph

- 1917 The town was established and the St. Joseph Church of Eden Park then became the parish of Lake City.
- 1919 Church was built.
- 1921-1944 See card for resident priests
- 1944-1965 Mission of Britton
- 1965-1975 Mission of Eden
- 1973, Apr. 17 Reported by Msgr. Clarence W. Trautner: 30 Catholic white families Church with church basement. CCD: for grades 1-12 in church & basement Active: Altar Society
- The town of Lake City is getting smaller right along and the closing of the church is a possibility.
- 1977, Aug. 17 A fire started by lightning destroying the 60-year-old church and all its contents.
- 1977, Sept. The 23 families decided to rebuild. The new \$70,000 edifice will be blessed in November. EB, Oct. 1979.



## Lake City Catholic Church Razed By Fire

A blaze, kindled by lightning, completely destroyed the Lake City Catholic church Monday morning.

Terry Nordquist first noticed the church on fire about 6:30 and the Eden Fire Department was called. About 7:15 the North Marshall Fire Department in Britton was called by Jim Nordquist to aid the Eden Fire Department in keeping the fire from spreading.

Fr. Clarence Trautner, who has served the Lake City church for the past five years, estimated it would cost \$100,000 to rebuild the destroyed church. No determination has been made yet whether the church will be rebuilt.

Fr. Trautner said construction of the church began in 1919 and was completed in 1920.

The bell, located in the steeple, was specially cast for the church and shown in 1919 and Fr. J. P. Unger lettered on it. The bell, which fell straight down through the tower, is still in one piece. The tower itself was nearly destroyed by flames before it crumpled and fell inside the basement.

No contents of the building were saved, Fr. Trautner said. He added that the basement area was still smoking Tuesday. Between \$1000 and \$10,000 had been spent by the congregation in improvements during the past three to four years. These included construction of wash rooms, kitchen improvements, a new furnace and duct work, repainting the interior and repair of the stained glass windows. There was insurance coverage on the structure.

Jim Nordquist reported that the main blaze was out by about 8:30. Nordquist also reported that nearby Lake City residents also had some damage as a result of the lightning. The refrigerator was burned out at the Bob Schroeder home; a hole was blown up through a burner on the electric stove at the Tim Johnson home and the transformer on the furnace was burned out at the Lena Ikensee residence.

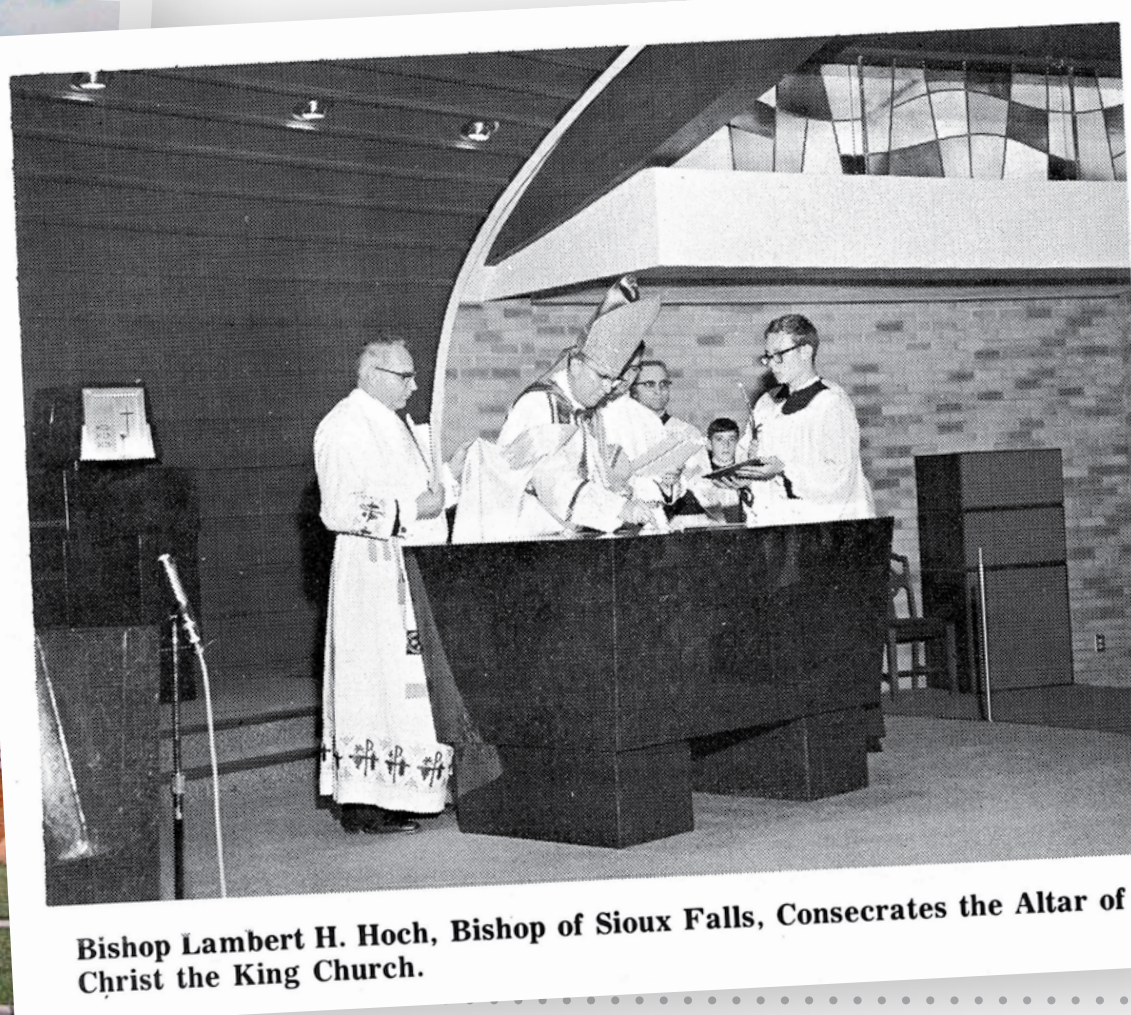
When the controls popped on the propane tank located just outside the church, propane flames were as high as the chimney, firemen reported.



The Lake City Catholic church burned to the ground Monday morning after being hit by lightning. Above is a picture taken by John Vr. chota about 7:30 a.m. about an hour after the fire was first noticed. Below is a picture taken Tuesday.



# Webster Christ the King



Bishop Lambert H. Hoch, Bishop of Sioux Falls, Consecrates the Altar of Christ the King Church.

## History of Christ the King Church

Webster, South Dakota

Webster, S. Dak. is located in the northeastern part of the Louisiana Territory, purchased from France in 1803. Exploration soon followed. Fur trading posts were established along the Missouri River. A territorial government was set up in 1861 with William Jayne as governor of Dakota Territory. Jesuit missionaries made summer excursions up the river beginning in 1859. Among the first was Father Pierre Jean DeSmet, S. J. who exercised great influence among the Indians. Mother Catherine Drexel, daughter of a Philadelphia millionaire, donated large sums of her inheritance to Indian missions in the Dakota Territory.

Not until the latter part of the 1870's did any settlers come to Day County, which was then a part of a much larger county, named Greeley. It was so named in honor of Horace Greeley, the noted journalist and educator, whose advice to young men was "Go West, young man, and grow up with the country." The first white man to settle in this area, late in the 1860's was Francis Rondele, a French emigrant and fur trader in the employ of the American Fur Company of Saint Louis, Missouri. He was sent to the north and traded in the Sisseton and Waubay areas. The Sioux Indians, with whom he traded became his people and he entered into their life wholeheartedly, marrying into the tribe. Due to the ever growing scarcity of game, in or about the years 1867-68 he built a log cabin, established a permanent home as a squatter, and opened a trading post on a peninsula in Rush Lake (on the site of the present Glenn Long home) about two miles west of Waubay.

BEGAN MISSIONARY CAREER IN DAKOTA TERRITORY

About Martin Marty, O.S.B. began his missionary career in Dakota Territory in July, 1876. He and priests and brothers from St. Meinrad Abbey, Indiana, established missions among the Sioux on Standing Rock Reservation. In 1879 the Territorial Legislature made a re-division of the territorial counties, and this section was named DAY, in honor of Councilman Merri H. Day of the Territorial Legislature, who had exhibited qualities of statesman, diplomat and soldier, and who had done much to mollify the hostile Sioux.

With the extension of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad as far as Bristol in 1879 some hardy and adventurous men began to arrive in the Webster area. Some settled on homesteads, some found work on the railroad, and a few started small businesses to satisfy the needs of pioneers. There was some talk of organizing a town. By 1880 the newspapers throughout the country put on a strenuous campaign for the purpose of booming Dakota Territory settlement. Anyone over twenty years of age could become the possessor of 40 acres of land; a homestead, a pre-emption and a free claim, each of 160 acres. This started the rapid settlement of Dakota Territory. At the same time, the Holy See had established the Vicariate Apostolic of Dakota, with Abbot Martin Marty, first Bishop.

The settlers' talk of organizing a town developed into plans, and the city of Webster was incorporated in 1881. The pioneers were of German, Irish, Polish and Scandinavian nationalities. They had, for the most part, religious backgrounds. The Catholics petitioned Bishop Martin Marty, O.S.B. of Dakota Territory to supply a priest. Priests were few up to that time and there was only one priest, Father Robert Haire, in the whole area from the Minnesota line on