

Onida St. Pius

ONIDA, Sully County

St. Pius X

First settlers were a colony of 13 from Wyoming, N.Y. History of Sully County, p.126

1883 The northeast corner of the county received a colony of about 200 colored.

1885 First mention of Onida in the DIRECTORY. It was attended from Pierre.

1920 A Catholic church was built.

1924-1942 Onida was attended from Gettysburg, twice a month.

1939 The population of the town was about 600.

1947 WWII 7 boys of the parish served. 4 fallen away Catholics. People attended in Agar, 9 miles away.

7 A rectory was purchased. No church

1957 Rev. Lawrence Harbach took up residence in Onida. Catholics had attended either at Elunt or Agar.

1959 The church, moved here from Herreid, 25 miles away, after remodeling was dedicated and put under the patronage of St. Pius X, the first in the Diocese. BB, July 1959

The church is 75 x 32 ft. with a seating capacity of 200. Under the church a fully equipped parish hall and kitchen facilities are available.

With the Herreid church came also the altars, communion rail, pulpit, and confessional.

1968 About 90 households with about 320 souls.

1970, Aug. BB Onida is one of the first parishes in the diocese to establish a Parish Council. Rev. Leonard Kayser is the pastor; Robert Isckley, pres. of the council.

1972, June 18 The new catechetical center-rectory was blessed. The combined structure cost \$45,000 and is funded by Onida, Agar, and Elunt parishes. The ground level of the building has been designed for living quarters and offices for the pastor. The basement area can be divided into 8 classrooms and library and is completely carpeted. Wall divisions allow for adaptation to accommodate various sizes of crowds. Cost \$45,000.

Onida, Elunt, and Agar together include about 130 Catholic families.

35 CCD teachers received recognition on the occasion of the blessing on June 18, 1972.

BB, June 1972

1973 The parish was clear of debt.



Gettysburg Sacred Heart

HISTORY OF SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Steffens drove from Ipswich by team to say the first mass in Gettysburg in 1888 at the Buffalo House.

In 1896 a church was erected on the West side of Gettysburg. A rectory was constructed a few years later. Father Hugh Fox was the first recorded pastor in 1905.

Father Francis Dillon, who served the parish from 1950-1961, helped to build our present church. It is buff colored rough-face brick with a roof of gray slate shingles and a large bell tower. The interior features a laminated beamed ceiling which gives a feeling of space, peace, and a general uplift to the spirit. The church was completed in 1959.

In 1961, Father Joseph Mardian came and guided the construction of a new rectory with the same buff-colored brick as the church. It is attached to the church and was completed in 1963.

It was the mission of Father Paul Quinn, the resident pastor from 1964-1968 to build the CCD building for the teaching of Christian Doctrine classes. It was built on the old Sacred Heart Parish Hall site just west of the present church.

Father Thomas Connelly was pastor from 1968-1976. He is remembered for the annual Christmas CCD program and his extensive Christmas displays.

The Knights of Columbus was established in our parish with the help of Father Donald Molmudy during his assignment here from 1976-1979. It was at this time and with his help that we saw the church sanctuary updated.

Father Marvin McPhee came to minister in 1979. Church renovation and upgrading continued during his ministry, as well as the first masses celebrated at the river. He served our parish until 1991.

Father Michael Schneider, who served our Gettysburg parish from 1991-1997, beautifully nourished the parishioners, as well as the lawn and flower gardens. He sent out the challenge for anyone to have more Christmas spirit or lights than Sacred Heart Parish.

Father Charles Mangin's tenure at Sacred Heart Parish 1997-1998 was short but very industrious. The shrine to the Unborn was erected and the Legion of Mary was formed. Father Mangin inspired everyone to make prayer a part of our everyday life.

In 1998 Father Chester Munta was welcomed as our new priest. He quickly began tending to the spiritual needs of the parishioners as well as the church's physical necessities such as the sidewalk and parking lot updating to make our church readily accessible for the handicapped or elderly. In that year we were doubly blessed as Father Marvin McPhee came once again to be in our midst, this time in retirement, and as Monsignor McPhee, Episcopal Vicar. He continues his ministry, assisting the priests in our surrounding parishes and filling in wherever he can help.



Bowdle St. Augustine



ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC PARISH

Early Catholic settlers in the Bowdle area were Jacob Strobel, Patrick Hughes, Charles LeMare, James Guhin, Conrad Bickert and Thomas O'Malley. These men and their families, as well as the many Catholics who followed them, sought to celebrate their Catholic faith in this area.

In the fall 1886 Rev. Bernard Heus, pastor in Ipswich, said the first Mass in Bowdle in a hall over Cox's Store on Main Street. During his visit he baptized the first Catholic child born in Bowdle, performed the first Catholic marriage ceremony of Stephen Gross and Mary Schumacher and officiated the first Catholic funeral for Joseph Kessler.

Besides Father Heus (1886-1888) other priests served the growing Catholic community: Fr. Joseph Stephen (1888-1890 from Ipswich), Father Wolf (1890-1891 from Hoven) and Father Victor (1892-1893 from Hoven).

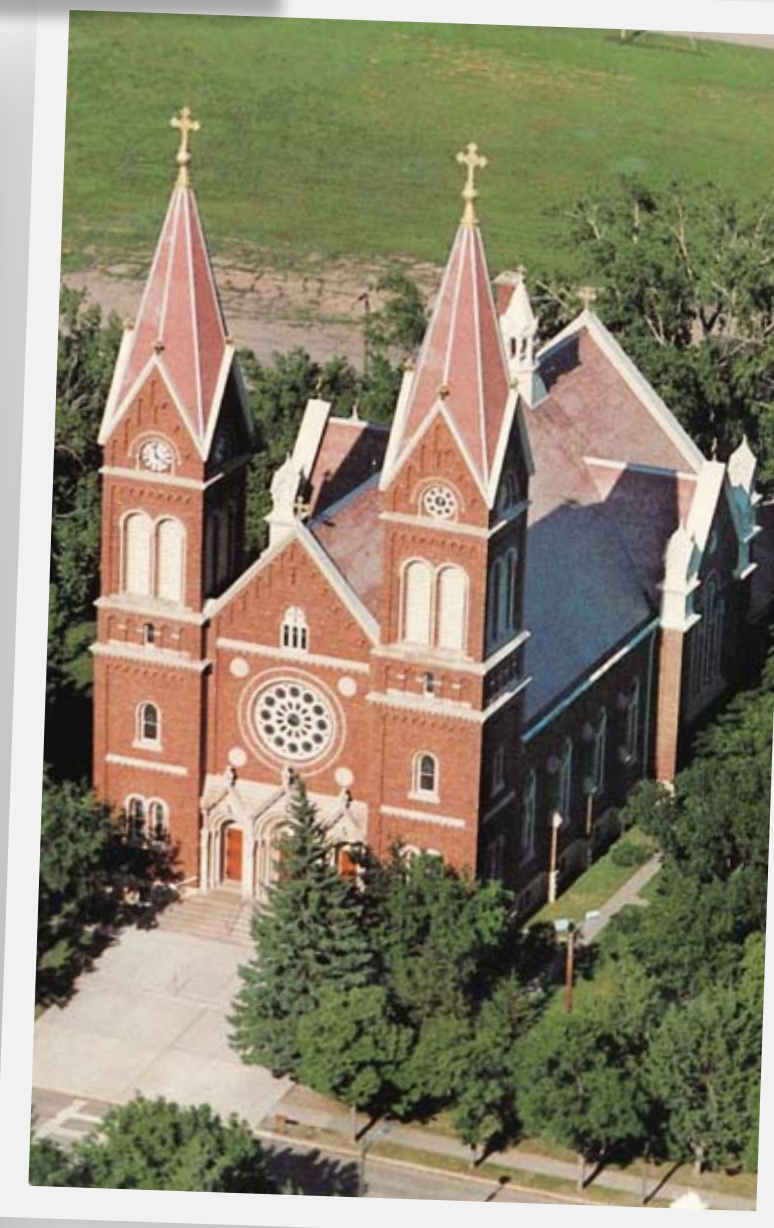
Construction began in April 1894 on a 24 by 40 foot frame structure on a stone foundation at the cost of \$888.80 on the site of the present church. The Ladies Aid Society raised \$356.48 for the new church through bake sales, needlework projects and dinners. Father Sack held the first services in the new church in the fall 1894. The Church Board of Trustees consisted of Jacob Strobel, chairman; James McKeane, secretary and Conrad Bickert, treasurer.

Hoven St. Anthony

Hoven (Potter Co.) St. Anthony (St. Bernard)

In the early 1890's German homeseekers came from Minn., Wis., and Iowa to settle the fertile land around Swan Lake. In 1883 Peter Hoven located on land which became the site of the town named for him. The government opened a postoffice in 1884 and that same year Bishop Harry directed Father Claude Ebner, OSB of Standing Rock reservation to minister to the Catholics in Hoven. In 1885 the Bishop sent Father Stephen H. Sogge to Hoven and he directed the 100 Catholic families in the organization of the parish and the erection of a small frame church, in 1886. Father Bernard Starsmmer, OSB of Fort Yates also ministered to them periodically. Three years later in October, Father Bernard held a mission of several days. He reported to Abbot Frowin Conrad, OSB that he had found 60 Catholic families who had built a priesthouse and a church complete with a bell. Sooner, however, on the feast of Corpus Christi, the church building was destroyed by fire. Then Father Joseph A. Stephan took up residence in Hoven to encourage the people to erect another church. The people of Hoven opened a parish school as early as 1889, continuing for 5 years. Early priests serving Hoven: Fr. J. L. Wulf, Hugo Victor, Michael A. Sack, Joseph Roedel, E. D. Stark, Charles Sasse and Emil M. Dubik. On March 23, 1905 Father Anthony G. Helmbrecht came and he would hold the parish for nearly a half century. Father Helmbrecht found both church and rectory sadly neglected. An even greater challenge to the pastor was the problem of unifying a parish broken into factions...he secured the cooperation of all for \$1,700 worth of improvements...built a parochial school-- a 2-story brick structure 63x71 ft. with a full basement costing \$27,000...completed in 1909... Benedictines from Yankton agreed to staff it and like the church was named St. Bernard; later the name was changed to both church and school to St. Anthony's in honor of the pastor...Monsignor Henry Mensing leased the new building and Father Bernard Weber preached in German and Father D. Despond in English...this was a bilingual parish where announcements and exhortations were made in both languages. The first fruits after only one year were four vocations to the sisterhood.

Father Helmbrecht encouraged the Catholic Order of Foresters to erect a social center...it was built in 1911. Six years later the parish showed its gratitude to its hard-working pastor by building a comfortable brick rectory costing \$17,000. By 1912 pastor Helmbrecht and his people were looking forward to the time when they would have something more worthy of God in which to worship...to avoid going deeply into debt the parish agreed the church was to be erected in 2 stages a basement to serve until a church fund had accumulated; then a magnificent upper structure. The basement was completed in 1912. There followed prosperous year for farmers during which Father Helmbrecht made house to house calls collecting by 1919 a sum of \$100,000 was drawing interest for the parish...new church worth waiting for and was called the "cathedral of the prairies." It became a landmark; its twin towers could be seen for miles around. The edifice costing \$350,000 seats 1,000. Bishop Mahoney dedicated the edifice May 29, 1923. In the afternoon he confirmed a class of 170. On Jan. 17, 1955 after a pastorate of 47 years in Hoven, Monsignor A. G. Helmbrecht resigned because of age and loss of sight. He died the following year, Sept. 28, 1956. Father William Schmitt began his ministry in the parish in 1955. His first project was a new rectory -- the old one was turned into a convent for the teaching Sisters. Father John Reuland followed (1960-68), who considered a replacement of the school which had been erected in 1908 a necessity. The new edifice had no boarding student facilities; instead an auditorium-gymnasium completed the parish plant. Father Leonard Nemmers began his pastorate in 1968, ministering also to Lebanon Catholics.



Selby St. Anthony

Historical Sketch of St. Anthony Church in Selby S.D.

The old frame church of St. Anthony was located south of the County of Walworth Court House. The rectory still stands south of the courthouse, but in place of the old frame there is the new St. Anthony Church north of town, and about five blocks away from the rectory. St. Anthony Parish however is as old as the town itself. With moving the town of Bangor from the rural area into the present location of the town of Selby in 1900, a small Catholic church was moved into this area at the same time.

Father Nicholas Dahlman then stationed in Hillside S.D. (whose resident pastor and church are now gone) visited the Catholic mission in Selby every month from 1900 to 1902. The congregation at the time consisting of Hungarians was very small. The Hungarian population settled in this area mostly from immigrants coming into this country from Hungary in 1884. Their farms still are maintained as they were in 1890 the late 1880's. Later the Hungarians were joined by the Germans coming out of Germany and the German settlement in Russia, from Ireland, Holland, and Poland.

From 1902 to 1910 Father Joseph Shell took over the young Selby church and it became his mission attached to Herreid S.D.

The Church from Bangor was replaced by another frame church in 1905, and enlarged in 1910. Father Willibald Kraus became the first resident pastor and lived in a very small parsonage. He served the parish from September 1910 to July 1916. Father James Kettler succeeded him and became pastor for a very short while till October 1917. Father Michael J. Lennon then pastor in Moberidge was also appointed to St. Anthony Church and he made his visits to the Catholic people twice a month from 1917 to 1923. When Father P.J. Cafferky became pastor of Moberidge he attended to the needs of the Catholics in Selby from 1923 to May 1924.

The first Benedictine priest was assigned to St. Anthony Church. His name was Father Vincent Frech, O.S.B. At the time he was pastor of a church in Wakapala S.D. He visited St. Anthony Parish twice a month. A fire destroyed the two room rectory in Selby. Father Vincent Frech then began a new rectory taking most of the lumber from the rectory in Wakapala, S.D. So Father Vincent Frech remained pastor of St. Anthony Church from 1924 to December 1932. Since fire destroyed some of the church records it is difficult to determine the pastor from 1932 to 1935. Most probably however Father Frech was still pastor till 1935. No other names are volunteered in the baptismal records other than Father Stolberg came on the scene in 1935. Father Martin Stolberg was pastor of St. Anthony Church from 1935 to 1939. He was the first to conduct regular Sunday Mass.



Moberidge St. Joseph

Moberidge (Walworth County) St. Joseph



Walworth County, bordering on the Missouri River, was organized in 1883. Moberidge came into existence when, in 1906, the Milwaukee Road began building a bridge across the Missoumi. The town quickly became the largest in the county. Among the first settlers was the George J. Hand family, devout Catholics, who had come in April of 1907 from Orient. They missed the ministrations of a priest. To their joy, in November, Father Joseph Schell of Herreid drove the 40 miles along a trail to seek out Catholics among the settlers. In Moberidge he was directed to the Hand home where he was welcomed. After dinner Father Schell and Mr. Hand went out to look for a place where holy Mass could be offered. The best place available was a dance hall over the Pierce Hotel. An altar was arranged and the next morning the first Mass was offered in Moberidge. David Edward Hand served the Mass which was attended by many bridge-builders along with the nine Catholic families of the town.

Father Schell reported conditions in Moberidge to Bishop O'Gorman, who arranged with Father J. A. Krebs of Bowdle to go there every two weeks. On these trips the priest took the train as far as Genham and then caught a work train into Moberidge. He returned by the same route the following day. By 1908 Father Krebs had the parish organized and a church under construction. Mrs. Jane Kane donated the church site. At length, in 1917, the bishop sent a priest to St. Joseph Parish. Father M. J. Lennon arranged for the erection of a rectory. Under his direction a 16-foot extension was made onto the church and a bell tower added. The interior of the church was redecorated. Father Lennon remained with the parish until 1923, caring also for Selby. In 1945 while Bishop Brady was in Moberidge to confirm a class, Father Martin P. O'Connor (who had been vice president and instructor in biology at Columbus before beginning a 27-year tenure at Moberidge in 1924) seized the opportunity to discuss plans for a new church. The bishop gave his permission, and Father O'Connor began with a fund drive. He envisioned a limestone structure of English Rural Gothic design. By March 20, 1947, he received government permission for the construction of the basement which cost \$18,000. The cornerstone for the structure (108 x 60 feet) was laid on Sept. 11, 1947. Two years later, on May 11, Bishop Brady returned to dedicate the beautiful St. Joseph Church which cost \$75,000. To the regret of Catholics and non-Catholics alike, the bishop asked Father O'Connor to take a large parish -- St. Martins of Huron -- so he was only able to enjoy the new Moberidge Church for two years. (CD)