

Leola Our Lady of Perpetual Help

The Leola Catholic Parish 1891-1921

When the first Catholic families came to the Leola community in 1888, some from Germany, Russia, and Poland, there was no Catholic church here. Those living south of town went to Ipswich, and those in Leola and northeast of Leola went to Frederick. Sometimes visiting priests would have Mass in the John Mack home and other homes. Then John Mack, father of Carl Mack and Pauline Hopp, bought a store building; John Fritz donated a plot of land. This building was then moved and remodeled by time, labor and what ever money needed by the faithful parishioners. This then (1891) became St. Hyacinth's Church located about 8 miles northeast of Leola.

Behind this church was a plot that was used as the cemetery, and the rest of land was rented out and the proceeds were donated to the church. This method is still carried on at the present time.

In this church was the main tall altar and on each side were two smaller ones. An old style pump organ was played by Martha Grabowska, and the younger people sang the Mass and Benediction in Latin. Some of the choir still singing today are Philipina Gline, Carl Laoka, and Mamie Geffre. The building was heated by a pot belly coal stove that kept those sitting close too hot, while those in the back were kept warm by the sermon and their great faith. In those days the ladies sat on the left, the men on the right, and the children up front.

Priests came from surrounding towns to have Mass once a month or so. The parishioners took turns in furnishing horse and buggy transportation. People drove for miles with horse and buggy or even walked for a great distance, fasted from midnight on just to have a chance to receive the sacraments and visit a little with old friends who too had moved here from other states or a foreign country. After Mass the priest and friends who had come a long distance were invited to the homes for dinner. The Peter Geffre, Sr., home only a few miles from church was usually the gathering place.

Ignes Lapka and Mary Kraft were the first couple married in St. Hyacinth's Church and Carl Mack was the first to be baptized.

Another memorable ceremony was on Corpus Christi, sometime in May, when a procession around the church was held. The priest and altar boys walked under a make-shift canopy, sometimes of four fishing poles and a white tablecloth. They carried the Blessed Sacrament, praying the rosary and little girls dressed in white scattered flowers in the path. There were usually only two portable altars set at a distance where the procession stopped and the fields were blessed in all four directions.

Some of the first priests were Fr. John Lamesch, Fr. Nicholas Dahlman, and Fr. Feldmaier.

August Grabowska and Rochus Geffre, Sr., were the first trustees of St. Hyacinth's.

Fr. Feldmaier married Jake and Barbara Geffre, (Agnes Kallas' parents); Elizabeth and Mike Buechler (Valter's parents); Gregory and Kate Gisi (Albert Gisi's parents).



Ipswich Holy Cross



The first Mass offered in Ipswich was by Rev. Robert W. Haire in the fall of 1883 in McNamara's Hall, and then off on during 1884 and 1885 in various private homes. 1886 marked a new era in the history of Holy Cross, receiving it's first resident pastor, Rev. Bernard J. Hens. He was succeeded by Rev. Joseph A. Stephan; Rev. J.L. Wulf; Rev. Wojtowicz; Rev. J.A. Lamesch; Rev. N.J. Dahlmann; Rev. Joseph G. Dunn; Rev. Joseph A. Smith; Rev. J.H. Hansen; Rev. Stephen Duren and Rev. J.O. O'Hara.

A frame building for worship was built in 1887 with volunteer help, located in the area where the new addition of the Ipswich Public School stands. Total value was \$50.00. In 1908 a new rectory was built, a new and larger church was started where Father Bormann Memorial Hall now stands. Droughts and poor farm economy prevented any further completion, so a roof was finished over the stone basement during the pastorate of Fr. O'Hara and was the only church known to the Catholics of Ipswich from 1909 until 1952.

The German Russians built a frame church about twelve miles northeast of Ipswich, the "New Strasburg," which served as a Mission Church to Holy Cross, until into the early thirties when a unification of the people was finalized and the church abandoned. In the early fifties, it was dismantled, with volunteer labor, rebuilt on Holy Cross grounds and is used for storage. A memento of this pioneer church graces the walls of the present church—the "Stations of the Cross."

Roscoe St. Thomas



St. Thomas Catholic Church

The Catholic Parish of Roscoe was founded in February 1906 by Fr. John Krebs who was the pastor of St. Augustine Church in Bowdle. The parishioners were small and nearly all the members were German born in Russia having immigrated to the U.S. The Roscoe Parish was named St. Thomas the Apostle.

Pastors came from the parishes of Aberdeen, Zell, Hoven, Bowdle and Orient from 1895-1910 to serve the parish, holding services in the public school building. Construction of the church building, a white wooden structure, was begun in 1908 and completed in 1911. Fr. Joseph Zimmerman of Ipswich Parish was the first pastor to hold services in the new church. During 1920-26 an addition was built onto the church. The parish house was completed in 1927.

R. John C. Smoley was the first resident priest and the parish had a resident pastor and regular services from that time on until 1969 when it became a mission of Onaka. Building funds were started for the present structure when Fr. Alphonse Hojsnaki served from April 27, 1960-65.

The present structure was built in 1967 (Fr. John Adamiec, pastor) at a cost of \$110,000.00. The church was dedicated in Oct. 1967. The old wooden structure was torn down.

In February 1980, the parish became a mission of Hosmer.

Hosmer Holy Trinity



HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH
HOSMER, SOUTH DAKOTA
1912 - 1987

Early records show that a Catholic Church was first established in the middle 1880's with the first church being built about 8 miles west, 3 1/2 miles north of Hosmer. After this church burned, another was built 7 1/2 miles west of Hosmer. This also burned. The cemeteries in each location are the only landmarks for the exact location of these two churches.

Horse and buggy was the most convenient means of transportation, but many poorer families would walk for hours, just to get to Sunday Mass.

After the fires destroyed these churches, the members affiliated with either the Bowdle or the Hillsview church until it was decided to build in Hosmer. Bishop O'Gorman had plans to build a new church, rectory, and school in Hillsview, since the town was predominately Catholic. At the same time 30 families in Hosmer were making plans of their own to build a new church here. Father Borman, a priest from Ipswich would occasionally come to serve the people here. He encouraged them to build. Other local instigators were Kasper Benfitt, Joseph Heier, Sr., Carl Hoffart, Sr., and Joseph Schoch. These same four made up the building committee and also served as the first trustees.

John Heckenlaible donated the land on the corner lot (the size of 4 lots to be adequate for a church and rectory). The building was started in 1910 using plans similar to the old Lutheran Church in Hosmer. Ben Ochs and Gottlieb Gross were hired as carpenters and along with the help of some parishioners, built the church for less than \$5,000. The church was finished in the fall of 1911, however this had been done without having consulted the Bishop, and when some of the members went to Sioux Falls to deliver the title of the church, the Bishop refused to accept it. At that time, Dr. John F. Quinn was located in Hosmer, he and other members tried a second time to have the Bishop sanction the church here, but he refused even more emphatically.

Eventually with the influencing aid of Father Borman, the Bishop did consent to recognize the church in Hosmer. Thus it was officially accepted and dedicated in July, 1912.

Martin Masch, son of Peter and Margaretha Masch, Russian immigrants, was the first child baptized on September 8, 1912 by Rev. J.A. Sullivan M.S.C. The first wedding mass was celebrated February 3, 1913 for Stephen Strudel and Margaret Stapler. Altar boys were Andrew Gisi, Joseph J. Heier, Jr., and Martin Schoch.

In 1913, Lawrence Hartman passed away and it was then that Joseph Schoch donated one acre of land about 1 1/2 miles west of Hosmer for a cemetery, later an adjoining acre was added. Joseph Schoch also served as the first organist in the new church.

Hosmer was a mission station of Hillsview until 1959. In the early years, during the winter months, the priest would come to Hosmer on Saturday by train, stay overnight with the Joseph Heier, Sr. or Joseph Schoch's, say the Sunday Mass and leave by train for Hillsview on Monday morning. During the early years, until roads and transportation improved, Mass was only said in Hosmer every other Sunday.

Eureka St. Joseph



History Of Our Church

Eureka Catholic life has a colorful history dating back to the 1800's, long before the official recognition of St. Joseph's parish. A Catholic church did exist in Eureka in the 19th century. However, the pastor of the nearby Hillsview parish and the Catholic community of Eureka fell into a disagreement, and the Eureka church was ordered dismantled by the neighboring priest — without the Bishop's approval. The bell from that church was sold at auction and still rings at the Reformed Church in Eureka.

Church officials of that time had planned for the Hillsview parish to be the central point of Catholic activity in the northwest reaches of the diocese, so when a Catholic church was later built without Episcopal approval at Hosmer, people of the area were informed that they were not to enter the structure and should instead attend liturgies at Hillsview. The Hillsview parish, nonetheless dwindled while the Hosmer parish, eventually recognized, thrived.

St. Joseph Parish in Eureka was organized in 1958 with six families, replacing the Hillsview parish, which was disbanded. The church building was moved from Hosmer, where a new church was built. At that time, the Catholic Church Extension Society provided a grant of \$5,000 to assist with the moving.

The original St. Joseph's Church building is 80 years old and though well maintained and attractive, has no plumbing, cannot be heated in the extremes of a South Dakota winter and has no meeting facilities other than for liturgy. The late Francis Wiesniewski, an early pastor of St. Joseph's was often heard saying that "not another dime" would be spent to repair the old structure, in anticipation of building a new one.

A feasibility study committee for the improvement of the church was appointed by the Parish Council in 1984. Discussions were held on the possibility of building only a meeting hall and Catechetical Center and improving the old church structure. The building committee met with each family in the parish to get the feelings of the people as well as probable financial support of a new building. Pledges totaled \$32,000. Thus encouraged, the building committee spoke with Bishop Paul Dudley and asked for direction. He agreed to pursue a grant from the Catholic Extension Society for \$25,000 if we could raise a like

amount by the first of the year. \$40,000 was raised and a building project was on its way.

One sees a blending of the old and the new in the new St. Joseph's as stained glass windows from the old structure decorate the new sanctuary. The building also includes a parish center, meeting room, restrooms and a small kitchen.

St. Joseph Church is officially a mission of St. Michael in Herried, where Father Don Marohn is Pastor. In practice though Eureka is part of a team ministry which also includes the parishes of Bowdle, Selby, Roscoe, and Hosmer. The six parishes are served by a team of Father Marohn, Father Owen Klapperich, Sister Karen LaFollette, and Sister Darlene Gutenkauf.

In May, 1985 the new parish was dedicated. About 300 persons gathered to celebrate the blessing and dedication of the new home of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Sunrise Addition. Priests from throughout the diocese gathered in faith and love with Bishop Paul Anderson and pastors of our local Christian churches and the people of God to offer the new church to God. A powerful All-Churches Choir sang the dedication Mass. A reception was held at the church and a dinner followed at the school auditorium to begin a new era of the church in Eureka.

Sister Darlene was called to serve her order of Presentation Sisters in Aberdeen. Father Owen Klapperich was stricken with cancer and left our ministry. He died shortly, leaving Father Marohn and Sister Karen to administrate the Parishes.

On August 14, 1991, Bishop Paul Dudley assigned Father Terry Anderson and Father Richard Fox to the parishes of Eureka, Bowdle, Hosmer, Onaka, and Roscoe.

St. Joseph's Parish, while bidding its former Team a fond farewell, enthusiastically welcomed the young priests with a rousing Fiesta on August 25th at the North Picnic Shelter on Lake Eureka.

Marie Fix of Onaka serves as secretary to the busy priests. Over the past 35 years our parish has grown from a handful of parishioners to its present 50 family units.

"Mi Casa Es Su Casa"
"My House Is Your House"

Herried St. Michael



Herried (Campbell County) St. Michael

Bavarians, Westphalians, Austria-Hungarians and Irish settled in the area around what was to become Herried. For 16 years they had home Masses whenever a priest or Abbot Martin Marty visited the area -- or they rowed across the Missouri to St. Benedict's Indian mission (see CD P.175 for interesting wedding episode). Finally a crude church of mud bricks was built (each family supplying a portion of the bricks). The soddy church was cool in summer and warm in winter.

Unfortunately, when the railroad eventually reached the area in 1901, the town of Herried developed over a mile east of the church. Mike Weinzirl decided the church and cemetery sites to St. Michael's Parish on Aug. 13, 1896. Herried grew and Bishop O'Gorman planned a resident priest for the parish. On July 26, 1903 newly ordained Father Joseph Schell arrived in Herried. Until 1905 he boarded out; then an old rectory was moved from Mound City to serve as his home when he wasn't away ministering to Everts, Selby and Pollock. By 1906 a frame church was built at a cost of about \$4,000 and the mud-brick church was abandoned to the elements. In October Bishop O'Gorman dedicated St. Michael's Church and confirmed a class.... 1917 Herried built a brick parsonage costing \$15,000.

In 1956, under the direction of Father Louis Brunner, the parish planned a replacement for the church which had served for half a century. The new edifice was erected west of the rectory built in 1926, harmonizing with it in brick and design. (CD).

