These are parishes that have closed, but the dates of when they did so, is uncertain. Information that we have included is just an excerpt of history that we have found.

Delmont St. Theresa

St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church

A most prodigious builder, Father William O'Meara, brought about the erection of four Catholic churches in this part of Dakota in the summer of 1902.

One of these was Delmont's St. Theresa.

After Mrs. Elizabeth Lenehan built her home (the house later belonged to Mr. and Mrs. George Reinfeld), she gave two acres of her property as a church site. Her son, Thomas, one of Delmont's all-time great carpenters, became the contractor. It is interesting to

note he also built the Methodist Church.

Christmas, 1902 found the high steepled little prairie church, rich in its aroma of new pine lumber, all ready for its first celebration of the Mass.

Snowdrifts were very deep, but undaunted by the subzero cold, the people were delighted to begin with

Christ's birthday, a fine omen indeed.

The roster of names then was: Lenehan (two families), Doyle, Boyle, Breitbach, Hand, Verzani, Holton, Reilly, Beeson, Connors, Sheehan, McNiel, Schneider, Glenny, Mrs. Holden and Depot Agent Arthur Richter, who married Alberta Doyle—the first wedding in the church. Three of the members in 1961 were tiny children then: Mrs. Catherine (Holton) Ewing, Bryan Doyle and Ray Verzani.

ing was a beautiful new bride. Only in October she had come to Delmont as the wife of Joe Hand, a most enthusiastic promoter of the church. Again, in 1961, it stated in the history "Mrs. Hand is still in her accustomed place. She is the only remaining grown-up beginner." During the years she performed myriad labors, and was still far from retired.

One of the adults there that first Christmas morn-

In September 1903, the church was officially blessed and dedicated to St. Theresa of Avilla. Several priests and Bishop O'Gorman came for the gala day. The Tabor band came too, and the ladies prepared a fine dinner.

Being a mission church can be a problem. First we were attached to the Armour parish. Next we belonged to Scotland and then to Vodnany. During World War I we were abandoned entirely until the fall of 1921 when a wonderful change came our way. Since then we have had continuous services every week instead of Mass once a month. (This being written in 1961). Father Stephenson, O.S.V., a mustered out War Chaplain, reopened the churches in Tripp and Delmont. His two years became the turning point. Even the deep depression was unable to daunt us again. We

remained attached to Tripp at least a dozen years before we became part of Parkston. Before long we were given to Mt. Vernon. This last attachment has been our best, lasting nearly twenty years. But beginning June 1, 1961 we were to return to an attachment

with Armour. Father James Wolf was the new pastor.

The courageous effort it has taken throughout the years developed a verve and spirit of which the members were proud to claim. "Many times we beautified our tiny church. We liked it clean and sparkling as a jewel, and we liked to feel that we were close-knit – that we worked and prayed together."

In October 1924, a very bad storm smashed the high steeple and lifted the building off its foundation. It seemed a good time to move to a better site on the property. They left the southwest corner and faced it east as it remained located until it closed its doors in 1964. The steeple was never rebuilt, but steps and sidewalk were added. In the meantime, services were held in the "old hotel" uptown.

After World War II a much needed sacristy was added. Later an electric organ was purchased.

Beside Bishop O'Gorman's visit, there were two other of the Bishops who visited: Bishop Brady came to bless and hang new Stations of the Cross, and Bishop Hoch came in April of 1961 for the first time, to have Confirmation in St. Theresa's. Formerly they went to their parent church.

Fewer than twenty families remained on the roster in 1961. At their height, there were forty-two. (This included a few families from Tripp and Armour).

In 1964 St. Theresa's of Delmont and St. George's of Armour became one church and was renamed St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church. The congregation meets in a modern new church building in Armour. Their newest pastor was assigned in 1984, a young man from the Parkston community, Father Tom Heck.

Information for this history was taken from the 1961 75th Anniversary Book for Delmont and from current members of the parish—October 1985.



Dolton Our Lady of Lourdes

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH Dolton, South Dakota

The Catholic church in Dolton was built and dedicated in 1908. The church was named "Our Lady of Lourdes" because the year 1908 marked the 50th Anniversary of the Apparition of Our Blessed Lady at Lourdes, France. The building was located on East 3rd Street, on Block 1 of the original town of Dolton. This property has since been donated to the town of Dolton and is presently used as a ball dia-

mond.

On March 21, 1914 a house, located on the corner of 3rd and Robert's Street, was purchased from C. H. Loewen by the Right Reverend Thomas O'Gorman, Bishop of the Sioux Falls diocese to serve as Our Lady of Lourdes rectory. It was used in this capacity until March 1947 when it was purchased by former members of the parish, Mr. and Mrs. Walter McGinnis, who are presently living in it.

The parish also operated a parochial school in the early 1900's (1910-1915). It was located just east of the church. Lizzie Gossman, Mary Presuhn, Tina Tredon, and John Andrews taught the academic subjects; Fr. Bunning taught catechism. In 1924 the school building was purchased by John Engbrecht who moved it to Section 14, Dolton Township (property now owned by Jesse Ortman) and converted it into a house. Walter Epp bought it in 1967, dismantled it, and used the lumber to build a garage.

Between 1922 and 1927 this parish was served by the following priests: L. L. Branes (1922), W. F. Parke (1923), J. P. Herbert (1923), Joseph Hensback (1924), B. H. Bunning (1924), John McCarthy (1924-

1926), F. P. Gierl (1926), Manning (1926).

Priests from Salem served the parish from 1927 to 1932. Two were Reverends V. J. Rodenbur and Stammeyer. In 1932 it became a mission parish of St. Stephen's Church of Bridgewater and was served by the following priests: Walter Roche (1932-1936), John Gaire (1937-1939), Leonard Sullivan (1939-1947), C. Trautner (1947), Charles Nemmers (1948-1954), Fabian Chartier (1955-1966).

Among the charter members of the parish were John, Frank, William, Edward, Charles, and Mrs. Amelia Kappenman, John Holden, Bert Cleveland, John Andrews, John Lambertz, Joe Elpert, Fred Tillman and all their families. Our Lady of Lourdes' Cemetery is located

southeast of Dolton on land donated by John Kappenman.

On March 18, 1910 a new altar for the church was received. John D. Lambertz installed and finished it.

The first baby to be baptized in the church was Bernadette Kappenman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Kappenman. According to the records, the

last baby to be baptized was Barbara Lou Heiberger, daughter of Louis and Clarabell Heiberger. The records also show that a total of ninety babies were baptized over the years.

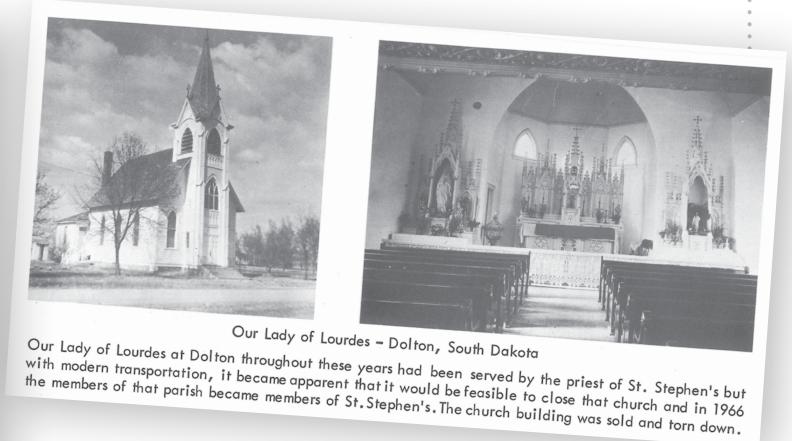
With the coming of modern transportation and the decrease in membership, it became apparent that it would be feasible to close the church; so in 1966 the members of the Dolton parish became members of St. Stephens in Bridgewater. The last

last funeral to be held in the church was that of Mrs. Fred Tillman.

In December 1966 the building was sold to Clifford Waltner who dismantled it in 1968 and used the lumber to erect buildings on his farm.

members were Roman Elpert, Paul J. Elpert, Walter McGinnis, Lawrence Axemaker, Walter

Tillman, Mayme Bechtel, and Frances Wolfe. The



Diana St. Charles

DIANA (see ARTESIAN) Sanborn County

St. Charles Church

Rev. John C. Ahern, who lived on his homestead

1884-1885
1885-1886
1886-1887
Rev. James Collins
Rev. John C. Ahern lived at Woonsocket. Missions: Howard City, Carthage, Woonsocket

1887-1888 Rev. John C. Ahern and Rev. James Collins Stations as above

Name changed to ARTESIAN

ARTESIAN (Sanborn Co., pop.
502) was originally called Dianna,
but this was changed to its present
name because the town is located in

the center of a great natural artis-

1889-1890 Attended from Woonsocket

1888-1889 Attended from Roswell

ian basin. It was settled in 1883.

Mitchell Guzette, Left 23,1943

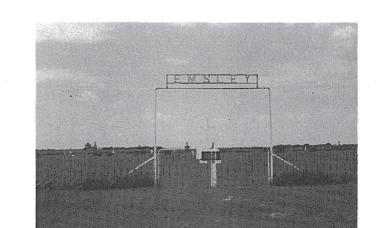
Mss. Claude Ebner, OSB (1891)
The parish "Diana", later called Artesian was organized as St. Charles Booromeo Parish.
Fr. John C. Ahern, homesteading northeast of Diana supplied the services. Services were held in a schoolhouse of the homes of Frank M. Theisen and John Nagel.

Emsley St. Patrick

EMSLEY, Davison County Semode

1893-1901 Attended from Starr (Dimoc 1901-1902 Attended from Mitchell 1902-1903 Attended from Ethan 1903-1904 Closed 1904-1931 Attended from Ethan 1931-1944 Attended from Mt. Vernon

no surther were



Emsley Cemetery G

Many of the old timers from the Emsley Church included the Schoenfelder, Wermers, Miller, Baumgard, Crampton, Grady, Oster and

Hauge families.

The priests that served at Emsley included:
Father Mathias J. Burkel, Father Duffy, Father
Donovan, Father John McGrath, Father Sleghman,
Father Cashel (who had his own pistol and would
practice on the gophers running around on the
church grounds), Father Aloycises Krzyzopolski,
Father Rock Schirber, Father Pospichal (he loved
to tell horse stories to explain the sermons) and
Father Wiescneski, the last priest when the church

was closed.

The parish held an anniversary party for Father Wiescneski for his years in the priesthood along with the last confirmation class. The Assumption (Emsley) Church was closed on June 23, 1963, and the congregation divided themselves between

Mt. Vernon, Mitchell and Ethan. The Emsley records are now being kept at the Plankinton Catholic Church.

The earliest church at Emsley, in 1893, was a wood one that burned down in 1928, and the new brick structure was completed in 1929, while

Father Duffy was pastor. Father John McGrath served this parish many years. The brick structure was used as Tobin No. 18 School, public, housing two classrooms until 1970, when the school was closed. Tobin No. 18 students joined the Ethan Public School system. Originally, the land for the church grounds and cemetery was donated by the Joseph Schoenfelder family. After the closing of the Assumption (Emsley) Church, the building and church grounds were given to the Tobin No. 18 School District for a one dollar fee. Recently, the building and church grounds were purchased at a public auction by the Pete Schoenfelder

family. Lumena Schoenfelder had been the Emsley Church organist for 27 years and she assisted Dorothy Feiner whenever Dorothy was unable to play for Ethan's Masses.

Ft. Randall



FORT RANDALL, Charles Mix County

1855, Oct. 2 Rev. Jeremiah F. Trecy, of Nebraska, on his first visit found over 600 Catholics, mostly Irish. He baptized, married and heard over 500 confessions.

MID-AMERICA, XIV (1931), pp. 269-275

Rev. James Mary Ryan, Frs. Felix McLaughlin, E.P. Walters and Edward Dillon ministered to those at the Fort. They came from Nebraska. Casper, HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN NEBRASKA, p. 233 Records show that Fr. McLaughlin ministered there Aug. 15 and Oct. 15, 1866.

1869 Rev. Ph. J. Erlach, of Franklin, Neb., attended the soldiers at the Fort.

1873, Jan. 15 YANKTON PRESS

A Catholic congregation was organized and a building procured at the Fort for Catholic services.

1875 Corps of Engineers, "U.S. Army," (brochure)
In 1875 the troops at the Fort built of chalk rock a post chapel, which was

also used for Catholic services. DAKOTA CATHOLIC, May 18, 1889

The priest of Springfield, 45 miles away and on the opposite side of the river, visited the Forst once a month. Description of the route and of

the service. THE DAKOTA CATHOLIC, May 18, 1889
1892, July 22 The post was closed. The need for it had disappeared.

1992, July 22 The post was closed. The need for it had disappeared.

1909 The church with the tower were still standing but falling into decay.

1946, July 31 Ground was broken for the dam. Preservatives are being taken by the National Park Service to prevent further deterioration of the post chapel. The tower has disappeared.

P & D, June 13, 1961

Ethan Holy Trinity



Ethan (Davision County) Holy Trinity

In 1885 the railroad was extended northward on the Yankton-Mitchell line, and the town of Ethan developed. By 1889 the priest of Parkston or Dimock found the Catholic families eager to have a house of worship. A small frame church was erected and Fathers John Lamesch and Victor Schirr held services in it. After being attended from Starr (Dimock) 1899-01, Ethan was assigned to Mitchell. On August 22, 1904 Bishop O'Gorman appointed Father Leo Brones pastor, with a mission at Elmsley.

Meanwhile, the Ethan parish had grown numerically and the new pastor found it necessary to provide a large house of worship. On Oct. 10, 1904, he purchased a two-acre site at the east end of town for \$250. The following year ground was broken for the building, and on Sept. 21, 1905, Bishop O'Gorman dedicated the new Trinity Church.

There were only a few monetary contributions in excess of \$100, but all parishioners had done what they could. Non-Catholics and Catholics from neighboring towns had shown good will by contributing. The total cost was \$11,000. The pastor lived in a rented house costing \$334 annually, but in 1910 a brick rectory was construced by Father F. X. Feldmaier who had succeeded as pastor in March of 1909, serving the parish until 1913. Other priests werving for shorter periods were Fathers Vincent Ciner (1913-14) and Mathias J. Burkel (1914-16). (CD)