

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.

Vodnany Sts. Cyril & Methodius

ST. CYRIL AND METHODIUS PARISH IN VODNANY, BON HOMME COUNTY, S. DAK.

This parish is only a little younger than St. Wenceslaus Parish in Tabor. The first settlers moved into this area of Bon Homme County over 45 years ago and forthwith founded a Catholic church. Spiritual needs were furnished by Tabor pastors until the year 1899, when Rev. T. A. Bily, then pastor of St. Leo's Parish in Tyndall, S. Dak., began coming there. Rev. Bily improved the Vodnany Parish in many ways and laid the foundation for the present parish. After him the first resident priest came to Vodnany, Pastor Rev. Mikolasek with whose endeavor a new rectory was built west of the church. Under his management the parish took on a new life. Unfortunately he did not remain long in this function. Following him, just as before, the pastor from Tyndall, Rev. Edward Fierek, who is now deceased, traveled there and later Count Boos-Waldeck from Dante. Then a resident priest came again in the person of Rev. Vaclav Grunda who stayed only one year. Now for the past five years the spiritual needs are administered by Rev. Charles Gross, who has improved the Vodnany Parish and brought it to a level of satisfaction. He remodeled the interior and exterior of the rectory and also acquired equipment and a basement furnace for it. He purchased new pews for the church, as well as a confessional, vestments and a new heating system. He improved the cemetery, cared for and is still giving fatherly care regarding the improvement and progress of his parish. The parish numbers 67 families at present. The social life is well represented. There is a Z.K.J. society, a branch of the Catholic Workman and an Altar Society. Both societies own their own hall. The parish is not great in membership but is very orderly and has a promising future. It has no debts and the parish property is in good condition. The parish is ten miles straight north of Tyndall, and nine miles west of Scotland.



Church To Be Moved To Broom Tree Retreat - Yankton Press & Dakotan: Community

Church To Be Moved To Broom Tree Retreat

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SCOTLAND — The former Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in Vodnany (country church west of Scotland) will be moved to its new location at the Broom Tree Retreat and Conference Center near Irene today (Tuesday).

The moving of the church has been talked about since the parish closed several years ago. The desire to preserve the building combined with the goal of having a country church located at Broom Tree worked well together. Even so, the moving project has taken several years to complete due in part to the construction process at Broom Tree.

Burkhorst Movers from Hull, Iowa, will be moving the church building to its new location.

The church will be located south of the Broom Tree Conference Center and plans include a remodel of the inside of the building with the goal of reopening next May. It will serve as a chapel for special Masses, as well as provide additional meeting space.

The church also represents the many country churches upon which the diocese was founded. More than 100 parishes which were open five years or more have closed throughout the nearly 120 year history of the eastern South Dakota diocese.

The Vodnany Church (S.S Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church) was a small, but vibrant parish that began in 1886. It closed in June 2004 as part of a restructuring plan by the diocese. The original church building was destroyed in a fire in December 1939. The current church was built by the parishioners and was dedicated by Bishop Brady in September 1940.

The move will be mostly on Highway 46.



Vodnany church is being moved down highway 46 to its new location at Broom Tree Retreat Center.

Ravinia St. Paul

RAVINIA, Charles Mix County

St. Paul's

- 1910 Settlement began.
- 1915-1916 Father Henry Westropp, S.J. of St. Francis Mission came.
- 1919 A large consolidated public school was built. Unclear when the church was built. The Catholic Extension Society contributed \$1,896.
- 1916-1940 Attended from Lake Andes, 10 miles away.
- 1940 The church was destroyed by a tornado. Catholics were advised to join the Lake Andes parish.
- 1947 In WW II, 5 boys served.
- 1947 Six Catholic families attend Lake Andes; 4 fallen away Catholics.

White Swan St. Francis Solano

White Swan, 20 miles from Marty, had St. Francis Solano Chapel also built in 1915. It nestles in a nook formed by White Swan Creek and the Missouri River. The site was a gift from White Owl, and the chapel itself from the estate of another Indian, White Mane. John O'Connor, a Sioux catechist despite his Hibernian name, had kept the little congregation together during the many years when priests rarely visited these parts. Weekly, his bell reminded the Indians of their Sunday obligation to give honor to God. He read the Gospel of the day in Sioux, intoned the sacred hymns and led the prayers. From the time that Father Westropp had poured the saving water of baptism over John and his wife, O'Connor gave himself wholeheartedly to the service of God. He took no pay for his work, so like his Master he died calling nothing his own.³¹

Greenwood St. John the Evangelist

As in Stephan, the priests of Marty attended outlying mission stations: Greenwood, White Swan, Wheeler, Rising Hail Colony and others. Greenwood was an Episcopalian stronghold, but some of the Indians had not forgotten that they had been baptized by Father De Smet. Father Westropp tried to list all those who had been made children of God by the Jesuit. St. John's Chapel dates back to 1915, as already stated. One of the priests of the Mission attended to these Catholics regularly and instructed the children attending the government school at Greenwood. In 1945, St. John's Day School was opened with two Oblate Sisters of Marty teaching there.³⁰