

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

June 19, 2016

While working on another project, Marlys Jacobson gave me a copy of a wonderful book: "Sacred Heart, Celebrating 100 Years of Caring" for reference. The book was developed in 1992 for our 100th anniversary and is a wealth of information. As I looked through this book, I thought that maybe some of you would also be interested in the tradition of stewardship that is so deeply rooted in our parish community.

Our history began on May 28, 1868, when Patrick Quinlan, a Roman Catholic Irishman from Canada, became the first non-Native American to settle in the Frazee area, building a cabin about 2 mile southeast of present day Frazee near the intersection of Highway 10 and Black Diamond Road. His cabin became a place for traveling missionaries to offer Masses and administer the sacraments during their two to three visits a year.

From that humble beginning, we have grown to an active Catholic Community of approximately 300 registered families incorporated as Sacred Heart Church, Frazee, MN, on May 2, 1892. We have been served by 24 priests, including our current pastor, Msgr. David Baumgartner. Seven of these priests were from St John's Abbey and served us from 1900 – 1917 and again from 1977 to 1996. We are in our fourth structure. This was completed in December 1908 with many subsequent improvements and renovations. The following is a brief history of our parish.

In 1875 The Vicariate of Northern Minnesota (comprising the current dioceses of Crookston, Duluth and St. Cloud) was established. Father Ignatius Tomassin was the only priest ministering within the present day Diocese of Crookston at that time, but was joined shortly thereafter by 6 additional priests.

On November 25, 1879, Father Charles Gunkel, a traveling priest from Sauk Centre, bought the land originally settled by Patrick Quinlan except for 2 ½ acres that was deeded to the Vicar Apostolic of St. Cloud. Subsequently, he and surrounding settlers built a small hand-hewn log cabin church on that parcel and named it St Mary's

Father Tomassin, while residing in Wadena, became pastor of the mission of Frazee and constructed the first of three churches built by the Sacred Heart Community. It was a 26' x 36' Frame church built in the "Bunker Hill" area of Frazee (approximately at the intersection of 5th street NW and Birch Ave W) at a cost of \$400.

The Vicariate of Northern Minnesota was divided into the Dioceses of Duluth and St Cloud in 1889. The Diocese of Duluth encompassed the entire northern half of Minnesota.

On May 2, 1892, the parish at Frazee was incorporated as Sacred Heart Church of Frazee, Becker County.

William Baer donated land for the present day Sacred Heart Cemetery on June 7, 1897.

Construction of our second church began on November 15, 1897, on East Maple Avenue on the land currently occupied by the Bethlehem Lutheran Church parking lot. Construction of the 26' x 44' Gothic style church was completed March, 1898, at a cost of \$1300. Hardwood pews at a cost of \$250 and the first bell were added later that year.

Father Mackey became pastor and the first priest to make monthly visits to Frazee in May 1898.

In November 1900, Benedictine Fathers from St John's abbey began 17 years of providing priests for the parish.

Father Otto Weisser, OSB, became the first resident pastor of Sacred Heart on October 16, 1906. Sacred Heart was no longer a mission parish. There was no rectory for the new pastor, (previous pastors resided in Detroit Lakes), and the congregation had outgrown the current church. Father Otto nurtured the spiritual life of the parish, providing many more opportunities for the spiritual growth of the parish. Thirty-six individuals received first Holy Communion and 84 individuals received the sacrament of Confirmation in the spring of 1907.

Our current property was purchased for \$440 and on June 14, 1907, construction began on our current

church. It was to be a 12th century gothic design 121' x 56' building with a roof height of 57' 8" and bell tower height of 130' 6" having a full basement and brick veneer exterior. No heating, plumbing or furnishings were included, and the basement was unfinished. A 36' x 28' rectory was also to be constructed.

The contractor returned to St Paul on December 25, 1908, upon completion of the project. Cost was approximately \$2000 for the rectory and approximately \$22,060 for the church. The old church was sold to Bethlehem Lutheran Church for \$1350.

Some of the significant modifications to the church since then follow:

1918	Stained Glass Windows	\$1,322
1919	Main, side altars and communion rail	\$1,161
1920	Church frescoing and painting	\$ 896
	Stations of the Cross	\$ 612
1926	Kilgen Pipe Organ	\$4,702
1933-35	Finishing Church Basement	\$1,137
1935	Four tower bells	\$1,400
1940	Renovation includes: Marble, cellotex tile, forced air heating, flooring, light fixtures and refinishing pews and kneelers	\$9,650
1952	Redecorating Altars/ statuary and flooring	\$1,257
1953	Electric bell controls and rewiring church	\$2,955
1955	Renovation includes: two church restrooms, new furnaces for rectory and rear of the church and painting	\$8,517
1978	Refinish church pews	\$3,000
1980	Renovation includes: New church roof, new sound system and rectory furnace	\$37,369
1982	Repaired Stained glass and storm windows	
1984	Tuck pointing church bricks	\$33,160

1985	Tuck pointing and painting rectory	\$13,000
1988	Phase I renovation project includes: new street level vestibule, 16 x 62 assembly area (Stephen hall), reconciliation room, elevator and exterior landscaping	\$80,000
1989	Phase II renovation project includes: paint church interior (cellotex that had never been painted), new light fixtures, new free standing altar, sanctuary extension, conversion of confessionals into shrines, crying room, new carpeting and flooring and refinishing pews,	\$120,000
2008	Demolish old and construct new rectory	\$207,000
2011-2012	Addition project includes: new front entrance, full-size elevator, gathering space, office space, handicapped-accessible restrooms, family room and a second entrance to the church. Additional work included installing new carpet in sanctuary and renovation of the main church entrance.	\$690,000
2013	Removal and replacement of old garage	\$12,000
2014	Steeple Repair Includes: Repair brick, install metal cladding on trim, replace louvers and remove unused bell	\$42,104
2014 -2016	Storm Window replacement	In progress
2016	Start Art Glass Restoration	In progress

Thank you to all who came before us for their generosity and to all of you who continue that tradition of generously providing for the maintenance and improvement of this beautiful facility.