A Memoir from Nick Schall Jr.
Rugby, North Dakota
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1901 ST. ANSELM’S 1976

75th Jubilee

The pages put together here could be called
an Oral History of St. Anhelm’s Church.
They were gathered together in order to
pass them on to future generations.

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“When, therefore, these immigrants began to settle the central part of the great state of North Dakota the prairies were not only dotted with sod houses, but wherever they settled, a church was erected as soon as was humanly possible. These churches clearly demonstrated beyond any shadow of doubt that a Christian people had taken up its abode here, as elsewhere in the state. The standard of the cross surmounting the steeples of these churches silently spoke of the Christian faith of every community founded on the virgin prairie. The church was not only the center of their spiritual life, but also of their social activities. Here the lonely settlers found strength and encouragement in worshipping together and in talking over their common problems, as well as the strange and extraordinary ones they were facing in their new country. Here they were inspired with a new hope, that, although in their new surroundings they now and then may have missed something that was near and dear to them in their old country, they nevertheless saw here also a brighter future in store for themselves and their children.”

(Quote from page 154 of the book From the Steppes to the Prairies by Msgr. George P. Aberle, Bismarck Tribune Co. - Bismarck, N.D., 1963) This book was provided by Mr. Matt Volk.
1897 – The first Catholic Priest, Rev. Joseph Wilhelm, visited the area in the spring and offered Mass in the Egidi Koening home.

1898 – Other families besides the Koenig family who came to the area during these years were: Simon Bosch, Anton Voeller, Rochus Voeller

1899-1902 – Rev. Bernard Arnold O.S.B. came and celebrated Mass in the homes of the settlers. The Koenig, Vincent Volk, John Migler, and Alois Schall homes were among these. On a certain spring day in 1901 after Mass had been celebrated in the Vincent Volk home there was a meeting in regard to the building of a church. Later the men accompanied the priest to a knoll about a 1/2 half mile away and picked out the site for the future church. The Vincent Volks donated the 8 acres of land for the church site. They were not the only ones who donated to the new parish. The Voeller brothers, Rochus, Ignatz, and Ferdinand, were carpenters and their labor, besides that of those others who helped, was donated. The building was small, but it accommodated the membership of some two hundred people. The church was built for $1600.00. The money was contributed by some 60 families. The building committee included: Dominick Tuchsherer, Rochus Ell, Jacob Schwan, George Black, Joseph Sitter, Julianus Keller, Anton Göerger. Ignatz Voeller was the architect.

The church was blessed by Rt. Rev. John Shanley, D.D., in October of 1901 and given the name of the great Bishop of Canterbury, St. Anselm. At this time it was a mission attended from the Benedictine priory near Devils Lake.

During the period that Fulda was a mission there were stations and missions at Selz, Blumenfield, Karlsruhe, Johannesthal (south of Rugby) and others, all connected to the priory. After Fulda was a parish, Selz became its mission. Opinions of old settlers differ as to whether Blumfield and Karlsruhe were stations of Fulda or not. If so, it was only for a short time.

When the Soo built a line from Devils Lake to Drake, Balta became a village. The Selz church was sold and moved, after a brick building was erected in Balta.


1903 – A house was built beside the church, and St. Anselm’s was raised to the status of a parish. Fr. Joseph Thuille, O.S.B. came as the first resident priest (served from 1903-1906 at Fulda). More families living southeast of the church joined the parish, enlarging the membership to three hundred people, making it possible to bear the resulting expense of the house and an addition to the church. The addition cost $300 and the church could now accommodate 300 people.

1904 – There was a belfry added to the church and 3 altars were purchased at a cost of $650, also a pulpit for $115.
1906-1908 – Rev. Othmar Bleid, O.S.B. served the parish.

1908 – The congregation had need of more space so transepts and a sanctuary were built on the west end and a vestibule with steeple on the east end. Total cost of these improvements was $3000.


1916-1918 – Rev. Mathew Butala, O.S.B. served the parish.

1918-1921 – Rev. Philip Bahner, O.S.B. lived at Balta and served St. Anselm’s as well as the Balta parish.

1921 – During the summer of 1921 Fulda had built a new rectory, and in September of that year Bishop O’Reilley sent Rev. George Trunk to serve as priest. Balta was now a parish without a mission and so was Fulda.

1921-1924 – Rev. George Trunk served the parish. Fr. Trunk died in 1972 at the age of 102 and was thought to be the oldest active priest in the United States at that time.


1924 – On Sept. 2, 1924 Rev. Fr. Maurus Engel arrived at Fulda to be pastor of St. Anselm’s church.

The house with its hand-painted walls, the work of Rev. Fr. George Trunk, was furnished with a hot water heating plant and the bare necessities for house keeping but lacked conveniences such as book-cases, rugs, easy chairs, buffet and above all, plumbing.

By Thanksgiving Day a 6x12x12 cistern had been dug below the basement floor, cemented, and afterwards filled from a neighbor’s soft water well. This supply of water was to be used in the plumbing system which was ready for use on the above mentioned day. Frank K. Goetz with his cousin Ferdinand Goetz and other helpers did the work.

A mortgage of $2000 was attached to the property. The trustees were Nick Bischoff and John Volk who would continue until July of next year.

1925 – The feast of our patron St. Anselm was solemnly was celebrated on April 21, by Fr. Meinrad Selfermanw of Balta and Fr. Steinach of Orrin assisting. Fr. Edward Lippert of Devils Lake preached the sermon.

During June there was catechism instruction for some fifty children. Twenty-four received their first Holy Communion of July 5.

New furnaces were put into the church basement during October and with the whole property fenced.
Trustees elected July 1, were Ignatz Voeller and Nick Bohl.

1926 – Fr. Schoenberger, Fr. Marcellus Mueller and Fr. Meinrad helped to celebrate the feast of St. Anselm. Fr. Schoenburger of Rugby preached. Fr. Mueller was at Orrin.

  Catechism instructions were conducted by Fr. Maurus from May 3 to May 29. About forty children attended and fifteen received their First Holy Communion.

  From June 13-20 Rev. Fr. George Scheffold, O.S.B. preached a very successful mission. It was well attended.

  The mortgage of $2000 was paid off in full at the end of the year. New trustees were Rochus Voeller and Denis Schwan.

1927 – The pastor invited Fr. Meinrad, O.S.B. of Balta to preach the Mass on the feast of St. Anselm. Fr. Edward of Devils Lake assisted.

  Catechism instructions commenced May 2 and ended May 21. About 30 children attended and thirteen received their First Holy Communion.

  The parish bought a new Estey Organ for $290 during the fall. Wendelin Mattern has been organist from the start of Fr. Maurus’s pastorate.

  In June the basement was dug out from under the church. This might have proved disastrous because the south side which is pure sand caved in rapidly. Basement walls and floors were made of concrete and entries were built over the east and south stairways.

  The Church and hose were painted white.

  Trustees this year: M. L. Jaeger and Peter Hoffert.

1928 – Fr. Boniface Stuetz of Balta preached the sermon during the High Mass on the feast of St. Anselm.

  Fr. Matthew Hart of Towner assisted.

  There were no instructions this year due to the pastor’s absence from May 20 to September 13, when he visited his old home in Falkonstein boi Regonsburg, Bavaria, Germany. During this time Fr. Boniface read Mass here every Sunday. Wendelin Mattern resigned as organist to continue the study of music at Collegeville, MN. Peter Koenig was hired in his place.

  The house and church were wired for electricity and a Fuller and Johnson farm battery plant was installed at a cost of approximately $1,000.

  The trustees, M. L. Jaeger and Peter Hoffart were re-elected but the latter resigned before moving out of the parish. Denis Schwan was appointed to fill the unexpired term.

1929 - The feast of At. Anselm had to be celebrated on the 22nd which was Monday. Fr. Edward of Karlsruhe preached and Fr. Boniface of Balta assisted.

  Instructions for first Holy Communion were conducted on each Saturday of May and the first week in June. Twenty-six out of an enrollment of forty-five received the first time. Instructions for Confirmation commenced on June 10 and
continued until the 27th. His Excellency Bp. O’Reilly made his visitation and confirmed 110 persons. Fr. Ohmar of Esmond, Dr. Howard of Karlsruhe, and Fr. Schoenberger of Rugby braved the rain and very bad road to attend the services. The stucco finish on the church was not competed in time for Confirmation. There was too much rain which delayed the work.

Trustees were Ferdinarnd Goetz and Anthon Keller.

Mr. Joseph Schall donated an Orbronze crucifix for the cemetery and his son-in-law Ignatz Voeller set it up making a suitable base of concrete.

1930 – This year Fr. Orhmar Steinhart of Esmond preached the sermon on the feast of St. Anselm. Fathers Edward of Karlsruhe and Boniface of Balta were also here.

As in 1929 instructions for the children were conducted the five Saturdays in May and up to June 21. Out of forty-five children attending sixteen were in the First Communion class.

An old barn which had been used to house the pastor’s car was sold and moved away. A new two-car garage was erected in its place. This caused more friction than anything else up to this time.

Now trustees were Joseph Junt and Michael Haman.

1931 – On April 21st Fr. Richard Fuctscher of Orrin preached, Fr. Pius Muttor of Rugby sang the High Mass and Fr. Maurus was Sub-deacon.

During August the pastor was absent three Sunday. Fr. Boniface of Balta helped out once more.

The Christian Mothers Society presented the congregation with a new chalice, costing $145.

On May 30 full time instructions for First Holy Communion class. The Saturdays were not well attended. From among thirty-five children there were fifteen in the First Communion class.

Due to poor crops, drought, grasshoppers, there were no improvements made this year. Collections were poor. A substantial balance carried over from last year helped to tide us over.

Trustees were Lorenz Volk and Clemens Volk.

1932 – The New Year started with trouble in the choir. The organist demanded more pay so Wendelin Mattern was hired again. This split the congregation into two factions and was kept so all year.

Instructions began May 17 and ended June 11. Fourteen of thirty some children received First Holy Communion.

For St. Anselm’s feast Fr. Edward of Karlsruhe, Fr. Othmar of Esmond, Fr. Boniface of Balta and Fr. Sommerfeld of Pingree were present.

In October there was a bad sleet storm that did a great deal of damage to trees which had been planted year by year.

Trustees were: Bernard Schell and Matthias Wangler.
1933 – On account of a late spring the celebration of St. Anselm’s feast was postponed it to coincide with that of Corpus Christi on June 15.
   Every year this feast has been celebrated on the day itself when possible. Sometimes inclemency of the weather, rain or high wind or as in 1932 a 6 to 8 inch fall of snow on May 26 that year made it necessary to observe the feast on the following Sunday.
   The ladies of the parish decorated two portable altars beforehand. The altars were carried to one other position each making four stations out-of-doors. The Choir sang old German songs appropriate for the occasion, and the rosary was recited between stations. When Fr. Boniface was present he would sing in German the initial chapters of the four Gospels before the singing of the Benediction Hymns.
   This year Fr. Boniface of Balta, Fr. Othmar of Edmond, and Fr. Mutter of Rugby were here for the Mass.
   The ladies of the parish served dinner and supper in the basement of the church.
   The interior of the church was redecorated during the month of June.
   There was no summer instruction this year.
   Trustees were Bernard Schell and Mattias Wangler through re-election for another year.

1934 – First Communion instructions began May 21st. They were interrupted by the Retreat June 11-15 and afterwards continued until June 24. On that day twenty-seven children, among which were the Schall and Jundt twins, received their first Holy Communion.
   During the Retreat or from June 10-17, Rev. Fr. Theophis Riesinger, O.M. Cap., preached a very successful mission. Every sermon was well attended. Corpus Christi was solemnly celebrated as in 1933, combining with it the Patron Feast; Fr. Boniface preached and Fr. Mitter assisted.
   Trustees: Joseph Burkhard and Bruno Kuntz.

1935 - On May 20th Fr. Maurus commenced giving instructions for first communicants. Of the forty-some children, twenty-one received on June 9.
   On Pentecost Monday June 10, the feast of St. Anselm was celebrated. Fr. Hugo Loran, O.M.I. of North Battleford, Sask. Canada preached. Fr. Mutter of Rugby, Edward of Orrin, Boniface of Balta and Othmar of Esmond were also present.
   To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of his Priesthood, Fr. Maurus left on June 11 for a two month vacation. Fr. Loran was to remain in charge of the parish.
   Trustees Joseph Burkhard and Bruno Kuntz were re-elected.
   At the opening of the school year 30 copies of the Junior Catholic Messenger were ordered and distributed. All subscriptions were disposed of.
Our new Bishop Aloisius J. Muench of Milwaukee was consecrated October 15 of this year.

1936 – This year proved to be one of the coldest and one of the hottest on record. January and February were continuously cold with a low of -50 degrees. Spring was very dry and summer temperatures were often far past the 100 degree mark. The hottest was 119 degrees.

On account of the large number of children to prepare for both first Communion and Confirmation, Fr. Maurus persuaded Mother Polycarpa O.S.F. of Hankinson, to send him two Sisters for the month of June.

Sr. M. Cormelia, O.S.F. had an enrollment of around 60 for three weeks and about 100 the 4th week. The extras were confirmants between the ages of 15 and 20.

Sr. M. Reingundis, O.S.F. had all these who had received First Communion last year, those preparing for reception the year and a few who were two young for this year. There were around 50 in all. Twenty-six received First Communion on June 26. The Sisters trained two little girls (the Koenig twins, Monica and Cecilia) to act as “Angels” for the First Communicants.

Corpus Christi was celebrated solemnly on June 11, with Fr. Boniface who preached, Othmar and Mitter who assisted. Fr. Maurus usually sang the High Mass. The weather was favorable and there were the usual four stations out of doors.

The ladies of the parish served dinner and supper.

Rt. Rev. A.J. Muench administered the sacrament of Confirmation on Aug. 31. There were 96 in the class.

The members of the clergy present were Fr. Boniface of Balta, Fr. Othmar, Fr. Lugert of Selz, Fr. Wilkes of Anamoose, Fr. Cloos of Rugby, Fr. Thieltges of Orrin, Fr. O’Neill of Towner, Fr. Fuetscher of Karlsruhe, Fr. Felix of Calio, Fr. Nestor of Cando and David Boyle, a student.

On Oct. 25, the Feast of Christ the King; Fulda’s native son, Rev. Thomas (George) Jundt O.S.B. was ordained to the priesthood in the Cathedral at Bismarck. Because all his father’s relatives were in the community he received permission from his Abbot to celebrate his first Solemn Mass in our church. On Sunday Nov. 8 Fr. Boniface had his Masses earlier so he could assist. A very large crowd was present. Fr. Maurus preached the sermon on “The Priesthood”.

Fr. Thomas’s sister, Sr. Arlene O.S.F. was also permitted to be present.

On Nov. 22 a Study Club project was launched. Four leaders were appointed among single men and five leaders among the young married crowd. The subject chosen by Bp. Muench was “The Ceremonies of the Mass”. The subject was easy because it was something new and was well accepted. Clubs were enthusiastic.

Since the “Junior Catholic Messenger” proved such a success last year the “Young Catholic Messenger” was ordered too. This was even better to judge from the number of subscriptions, 35 of Y.M.C. but few of J.C.M. We also introduced the “Register”, of to which there were 25 subscribers.
Trustees elected in June were M.L. Jaeger and Peter Bohl.

1937 – The club leaders: Nick Schmaltz, Mat Albrecht, Peter Bishoff, Vincent Schwan, Christian Volk, Rochus Bosch and Vincent Bischoff brought in favorable reports for the last month of last year. Bad roads and weather made it fairly impossible to meet at the specified times. Therefore the subject matter had not been covered until after the new spring subject had been announced. This “The Acts of the Apostles” proving too difficult, was not even broached in the parish.

On May 3 one of the pioneers and oldest resident of the parish Mr. Anthon Gerger, passed away at the age of 76.

Corpus Christi celebrated on May 27 was especially well attended. Fr. Cloos of Rugby sang High Mass, Fr. Othmar of Esmond was deacon and Fr. Finian, O.S.B. of Rugby sub-deacon and Fr. Boniface, master of ceremonies, and Fr. Othmar preached. There was an excellent dinner served by the young married ladies of the parish. Fr. Thieltges of Orrin came later.

Vacation school with the same teachers: Sr. Cornilia and Sr. Reingundis both O.S.F. commenced on June 14 with an enrollment of about 100 pupils.

On July 4th the four residents of the rectory witnessed the electrocution and burning of two elderly couples, Mr. and Mrs. Orvedal and Mr. and Mrs. Fedje, on highway #2, West of Berwick. The accident was caused by an intoxicated driver who swerved off the road and hit a pole carrying hi-tension wires. The pole broke off and fell slowly toward the road. The high powered wire rested on the metal top of one of the cars in which Mr. and Mrs. Fedje were sitting and just as it fell was being entered by Mr. and Mrs. Orvedal. These people were accompanied by the young people of both families who were using the second car. They had witnessed the first accident and were administering first aid when the second tragedy took place. Fr. Maurus got out of to find out how serious the injuries might be. While walking from his car he pronounced the words of absolution. These Lutherans had been to a picnic where church services had been conducted.

July 11 was First Holy Communion day and seventeen children received. This year there were three sets of twins: Lena and Frances Jaeger; Monica and Cecilia Koenig and Magdalen and Helen Vetter; Theresa Voeller and Florence Massine acted as “Angles” for the First Communion.

Sr. Mary Gertrude (Margaret Schmidt) and Sr. Mary Aloysia (Barbara Schwan) made simple vows in the Franciscan Motherhouse at Hankinson before His Excellency Bp. Muench on July 19. This makes four religious people who consider Fulda their home parish. The others are Sr. Minella Bachmeier and Sr. Clerence Bosch, O.S.B.

Trustees: Peter Bohl and M. L. Jaeger re-elected.

More (couples) families moved out of the parish which were not replaced by others. Poor crops, easy “relief” besides elderly couples who retired were the main reason for the decrease.
Study Club leaders appointed this fall include: Nick and Joseph Schmaltz, Denis Schwan, Cristian Volk, John Black, Simon Voeller, Peter Schell, Pius Wangler. Text: Fr. Smith Instructs Jackson.

1938 – The study clubs did not prove successful as in the proceeding year. There were only three active clubs, those under the leadership of Joseph schmaltz, Denis Schwan and Simon Voeller. The others failed to get sufficient numbers to make it interesting.

On June 4 one of the four very first residents of the parish, Simon Bosch, died after a lingering illness. The congregation, the community and the county lost a valued friend. Mr. Bosch was in a semi-coma just when his excellent memory of the history of the Fulda parish would have served so well. The Rt. Rev. Bp. had sent questionnaires to every pastor to gather material relative to pioneer times. Mr. Bosch was one of the four men who came in 1898. That year was when the first Mass was read in the confines of the Fulda parish. Indeed he was the one who made all arrangements for the priests’ visits. In all probability he drove to Rugby to meet the Rev. Father. Mass was usually said in his father-in-law’s house. He was one of those who built the first little church, and who was always at the head of everything proposed to better the parish in new building or improvements.

Sr. M. Reingundis, O.S.F. and Sr. M. Irentraud, O.S.F. were here for the Summer Vacation School. Classes commenced June 6, and continued for four full weeks. There were 116 children enrolled. All children up to 15 years of age were admonished to attend. There were seventeen in the First Communion class.

Trustees elected in June were Joseph Bachmeier and John Black.

Rev. Fr. Michael Messer, O.S.B. Assumption Abbey substituted for the pastor during the latter’s absence from July 6 to August 4. However, Fr. Michael was unable to stay the entire four weeks. Fr. Cloos generously allowed his assistant Fr. Vincent Wiederholt to conduct the Sunday services on July 31.

The leaders of Study Clubs were re-appointed. This year the text chosen by the pastor is “Faith of Our Fathers”.

Twenty-three copies of “Young Catholic Messenger” and 32 copies of “Jr.” were distributed every week. There are also 33 subscribers to Denver “Register”.

Bp. Muench realizing that if valuable and interesting information would be forever lost if not sought immediately before old timers past away sent out questionnaires. The following is what was gleaned from the few survivors who remembered these incidents. Simon Bosch could have answered and embellished them all with his amusing anecdotes.

1. The first Catholic settlers in the confines of the Fulda parish were Egidi Koenig, Anthon and Rochus Voeller and their families who came in 1898. The next year August Bachmeier, Vincent Volk, Ludwig Jaeger, Sigmund Schneibel and many others settled to the south and west of the first mentioned.
2. Fr. Bernard Arnold O.S.B. came and read Mass at widely separated intervals mostly at the Egidi Koenig home. Fr. Bernard notified Simon Bosch so there was someone to meet him at Rugby.

3. The first settlers were mostly farmers, Anthon Voeller, and his three sons, Rochus, Ignatz, and Ferdinand were carpenters and Anthon Gerger was Blacksmith. The later was a Hungarian, but all the rest were descendants of Germans who had emigrated to Russian about 100 years before. The village from which they came in Germany was perpetuated in Russia and also in America. We find Mannheim, Selz, Karlsruhe in our vicinity. Candel was also the home of some, but somehow we do not find that name in North Dakota. Koenig and Bosch were from Crimea.

4. In the true sense of the word Fulda was never a station. By 1899 the settlers had divided themselves into three groups. The priest went from one neighborhood to another “Wo immer a bisl Homs war” to quote Ignatz Voeller, for those were large and three or four families would fill the largest houses. Among these where Mass was said were the homes of Vincent Volk, Edigi Koenig, John Migler, Peter Welk and others in the neighborhood now belonging to Balta.

5. In the spring of 1901 Fr. Bernard came and read Mass in the V. Volk home and baptized Romigius Schall. After his breakfast and accompanied by all the men which included besides the host, L. Jaeger, Koenig, Bosh, Jacob Schwan, Adam Haman, John Tuchscherer, Joseph, Wendelin and Alois Schall, Augusta Bachmeier, Anthon Rochus and Ignatz Voeller, he walked SE from the house and picked out the site where the new church should be built. The land was donated by V. Volk.

After spring’s work was done all the people in the neighborhood helped to together under the leadership of the Voellers to build a little frame church. Bp. Shanley blessed the building in Oct. 1901. Not only that, he was appointed to name both the patron and the site. There was much good-natured discussion concerning the names of both. There were people from every village in Russia besides the one Hungarian. When Ferdinand was proposed as the name of the patron and in order to put an end to the matter, Ignatz Voeller suggested they leave the whole matter up to the Rt. Rev. Bishop.

When Bp. Shanley was given the right to name both site and patron he called the place Fulda because Fulda in Germany is a shrine where St. Boniface is buried and is in charge of the Benedictines who were also in charge here. St. Anselm was named patron to honor an English saint. Whether the Bp. or only his ancestors came from England I don’t know.

People from Germany always honor the patron of the church as solemnly as possible. It was sometimes during the best weather for springs work when April 21st rolled around. Then some wanted to change the name to some patron in a less busy season. Then the trouble would have started all over again. The priest thought it was a good idea but the matter never came to a head. Ignatz Voeller once more made peace by explaining that it might hurt the Bishop’s feelings when the congregation was not satisfied with the name he had chosen.
and besides he said “If my wife weren’t satisfied my name could she have me baptized over again and called Hans?” Fr. Bernard Arnold, O.S.B. and Fr. John Burger, O.S.B. came from St. Gall’s Priory near Devils Lake.

6. The building cost $1600 and was built by the Voellers with the unskilled help of the Whole community. This Church was enlarged in 1908 by Ignatz and Ferdinand Voeller at the cost of $4700. The transepts and a larger sanctuary were added. In 1909 with the advice of Fr. Leo Kaufyrapu, O.S.B. they built on a steeple. Ignatz Voeller said he lost much money because his estimate had been too low.

During the summer of 1927 a full basement was dug and cemented at the cost of $750. All labor was donated. A coat of stucco further improved the building in 1929 which cost $1500. An electric farm plant was installed in 1928 at a cost of $1200.

7. When Fulda was established as a Mission there were approximately 200 members. Fulda became a parish in Sept. 1903 with a membership of 300. Rev. Joseph Thuille O.S.B. was the first pastor. There was a station west of here near the Mouse River which was named Mannheim. When people moved away and this station was abandoned Towner was made a parish. In Blumenfeld a church was built and also one about 3 miles from where Karlsruhe now stands. Also about this time a little frame building was erected about 3 or 4 miles NW from the present site of Balta. This was called Selz and the church was named in honor of our Lady of Mt. Carmel. It became a Mission of Fulda and remained so until a new brick church was built in the village of Balta. A parish house was also built and because the priest preferred to live in town he brought the status of Balta from 1918-1921 then once more got a priest of their own. This made both Balta and Fulda parishes without missions.

In April 1899 a party of Mannheimers settled southeast of the present site of Fulda and by popular subscription got enough money and pledges to erect a small church. The people went ahead on their own without any sanction, advice, or cooperation with the clergy. Neither Fr. Bernard nor Fr. John read Mass there. The people responsible used to pray the rosary on Sundays during nice weather and the dead were buried in a little plot beside the building.

When the Fulda group was promised a resident pastor as soon as they had a house and were able to support a priest they got the good will of the Mannheimers who decided to cast their lot with them.

The little church was torn down and the lumber was used in parish house of Fulda. Fr. Joseph read Mass in Aug. or Sept. 1903. The first funeral was on Sept. 5 and there were two baptisms on Sept. 6.

Fr. Joseph further united the groups by proposing to move all the bodies from the other cemetery to that of Fulda. On July 5, 1904 the congregation helped together to dig new graves. The next day the bodies were exhumed and on the 7th there was a Requiem Mass for all the souls. In this way eleven bodies were moved into nine new graves, two families having tow each among the dead. Fr. Joseph was pastor from Sept.1903 until April or May 1905. He was
succeeded by Fr. Othmar Bleil, O.S.B. whose last Baptismal record is dated July 18, 1908.

Fr. Anthony Mussbaume, O.S.B. was the next pastor. His first record is dated Sept. 27, 1908 and his last one Feb. 2, 1916. Fr. Mathew Butalas’s first record is Feb. 13, 1916 and last was July 16, 1918.

At this time the change was made between Fulda and Balta. An interdict was placed on the Fulda parish caused by the refusal (to give the deed) by the original owner to deed the property over to the diocese in the name of the Rt. Rev. Bp. of Fargo.

It is common knowledge that this man was not wholly to blame. There were those of the parish who influenced him to do this. It was ignorance of the ways of church law in this country mixed with some pride and malice on the part of others.

The influenza of 1918-1919 took its toll and the only time Mass was read in Fulda was when there was a funeral. Fr. Thiele of Rugby performed the sad rites. There are no baptismals or deaths recorded until April 1919 when in all probability the legal matters had been settled.

Fr. Philip Bahner O.S.B. of St. John’s Collegeville, MN was pastor of Balta. He read Mass in Fulda every two weeks until the new parish house was built at Fulda. After this Rev. George M. Trunk resided at Fulda.

The Rt. Rev. Bp. O’Reilley confirmed a class in the summer of 1921. When he saw such a large group of children besides the class he promised them a resident pastor as soon as they could build a new rectory. They struck while the iron was hot and after their noon meal all the men came back with whatever carpenter tools they possessed and under the supervision of Ignatz Voeller the old house was torn down. All useable lumber was trimmed and piled up. The house was not finished until after threshing and the heating plant was put in quite late in the fall.

To the chagrin of the parishioners the Bishop always took full credit for the new house but they always say because of their poor English each man tried to persuade another to approach the Bp. and ask for a resident pastor by promising to build a new house.

During Fr. Trunk’s pastorate he painted scenery in oils in three rooms and hall downstairs, one room and hall upstairs besides one wall in his bedroom. This last named was repainted in 1926. Fr. Trunk’s last record is dated July 14, 1924.

Fr. Maurus Engel arrived Sept. 2, 1924. For the history of his sojourn begin at the beginning of this account.

1939 – This was an unusually cold winter with much snow. Attendance at Holy Mass on Sundays was small due to impassable roads. Plows would go thru on Fridays but by Saturday night all roads would be blocked again. Several babies died. It was a year of more than the usual number of weddings, six in all.

On the recommendation of our Bp. we got a large fire-proof safe in which to keep records.
In the latter of May there was a well dug on the sough side of the house. It had a moderate flow of perfectly soft water.

Fr. Theophilus Riesinger Ont. Canada conducted a very successful mission from June 4-11 inclusive. The third order or Teritary was established. Ten members were enrolled, ten of which were received during July.

Sisters Irmentraud and Reingundis, O.S.F. taught the usual four weeks course of religious instruction. On July 2nd fourteen boys and girls received their First Holy Communion and were clothed in the Brown Scapular.

Directors Joseph Bachmeier and John Black were re-elected. Messenger and Register subscription numbers the same as last year.

Study clubs were active. About ten leaders were appointed among the young married group and for teen-agers.

1940 – Corpus Christi was not celebrated solemnly. We had procession but no altars outside.

On May 12, the Confraternity of the Holy Ghost was chronologically erected in the parish. Seventy-six members were enrolled.

The Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament was established on May 26, with 42 members.

Vacation School commenced June 3rd and closed June 28th. Sisters Irmentraud O.S.F. and Reigundus, O.S.F. were the instructors. Sixteen boys and girls received First Holy Communion and were enrolled into Scapular Arch-Confraternity.

At 7:30 P.M. of the same day the Rt. Rev. Bp. Muench confirmed forty-two boys and girls.

A rubber matt was laid down the middle aisle and across the church before the altar railing.

Joseph Bachmeier and John Black were elected trustees for the third year.

Mrs. Nick Bischoli moved to Rugby leaving vacant the office of Pres. of the Christian Mothers Society. Mrs. Magdalen Wangler was elected.

Both Messengers and Registers were distributed.

Much snow covered the ground this winter. A big blizzard hit this area on Mar. 15. Although many of the parishioners were out in the storm (it was on a Sat.) there were no casualties. Some reached home while others sought and found shelter in other homes along the road.

With money raised by selling a crocheted bed-spread the Christian Mother’s Society bought a kerosene refrigerator. Dorothy Mattern made the bed-spread, her mother, Mrs. Ludwig Mattern, and Mrs. Matt Wangler furnished the material.

There were some repairs made in the basement of the church. Also two new doors replaced the old ones for the front entrance of the church.

This was the year of the lion scare.

Three of our young men were inducted into the army for a years service, Joe Keller, Joe Wolf and Fred I. Voeller.

August Paul, seaman on an aircraft-carrier died in Hawaiian waters June 20, and was buried with full military honors about 4 weeks later.
Summer Vacation School was in session form June 2-27. Sisters Irmentraud and Reingundis, O.S.F. were instructors for the 4th and 5th year resp. Twelve boys and girls were in the First Communion class. This fall was very wet. Threshing was delayed all of two months. Much grain spoiled. Joseph Bachmeier and John Black were trustees again making their fourth year.

1942 – Roads during Holy Week were so extremely bad that the attendance was small. There was no Adoration of Holy Thursday. During June the men of the parish donated their labor in re-shingling the roof of the church. The old one was leaking badly after 40 years. The piles of shingles on the south side of the church made a good hiding place for a family of skunks. They took up residence and filled the air with a stench. After a week or ten days the mother skunk and eight young had been trapped or shot.

It was most unpleasant for teachers and pupils and sometimes almost unbearable. Sisters Irmentraud and Reingundis, O.S.F. came back and taught form June 1-26. Fifteen boys and girls were in the 1st Communion Class. A new pump jack and stock tank were put by the well with a new 500 ft. hose. The shrubs and trees and garden can easily be irrigated. Joseph Bachmeier and John Black were trustees for the 5th consecutive term.

Mrs. Wangler having in turn retired to Ruby, Mrs. Agatha Jaeger was elected to succeed her. Mrs. Regina Volk has been treasurer since 1920. Mrs. Volk succeeded Mrs. Jacob Schwan who died that year.

1943 – On Holy Saturday afternoon about an hour after all services were over Fr. Maurus went into the church and discovered that the triple candlestick was still burning. The cloth and rug under it was ash and the floor boards were burning. The building was so full of smoke that it was difficult at first to locate the fire. Had the fire not been discovered in time it would have been impossible to save the church because there was an exceedingly high wind that day. As a result we got a new green figured rug in the sanctuary and before the side altars. A beautiful new Communion railing was put in place on Palm Sunday.

There were more funerals than any year so far. Three widows from other parishes were laid to rest beside their respective husbands, two others not parishioners and two of our own – one infant and the other the oldest person in the parish, Mrs. John (Aloysia) Volk, 96 years old.

Corpus Christi on June 24 was an ideal day. Fulda celebrated with a Solemn High Mass. Fr. Schmurrler was celebrant, Fr. Cloos deacon and Johnnie Axrtman was sub-deacon.

Sisters Irmentraud and Reingundis, O.S.F. were here again for four weeks of Summer Vacation School. Twenty were in the class.
The last Sunday in July the boys belonging to the Holy Name Society club cut the woods and the grass in the cemetery.

Hail storms in June and September did considerable damage to gardens and orchards.

Directors once more: Joe Bachmeier and John Black.

1944 – Corpus Christi was celebrated solemnly as in former years. Fr. Cloos preached, Fr. Schmirler was celebrant, and Fr. Boniface assisted.

Sr. Reingundis and Sr. Lucy both O.S.F. taught 125 children during four weeks Vacation School.

Rt. Rev. Bp. Muench administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 24 boys and 21 girls on June 29. 17 boy and girls received their First Holy Communion on July 17.

On Sept. 2, the twentieth anniversary of Fr. Maurus pastorate, there were still 144 of the original number in the parish still members. There had been 497 baptisms, 93 weddings, 92 funerals. Other priests had baptized 22 of those and had officiated at two weddings and two funerals.

On Thanksgiving Day Fr. witnessed the first mixed marriage.

The Holy Name Society did their yearly stint in cleaning up the cemetery.

Directors for this year were John Jundt and N.A. Schall.

1945 – Trouble in the shape of a leaky boiler, struck the parish a few days after the New Year. The furnace was so badly corroded that it was necessary to buy a new one.

Government permission was obtained through the Ace Hardware Store at Rugby. For a week during very cold weather (about 20 degrees below zero) we had three stoves going.

A parlor furnace lent by the store was set up in the hall on the second floor, the range was kept going in the kitchen and a sheet iron stove lent by Louis Hoffert was in the basement. The two big rooms downstairs were closed off and got below freezing in them. We had to be careful that the water system did not freeze.

On account of the emergency obtained the new furnace went fast and in a week we were again enjoyed a thoroughly warm building.

During Feb. the men and boys sanded the kneelers, rubbed them with wood fiber, and with the help of the women stained and varnished them. Simon Voeller brought his different motors, etc. over and the work was done in the church basement. Afterwards all the pews were varnished. The weather was extremely cold and the furnace had to be kept going to insure drying the varnish.

Through the Farmer’s Union N.A. Schall bought a wind charger and with the help of a few other men got it set up and in operation by the beginning of June.

The Feast of Corpus Christi was so windy and disagreeable that there was no procession out of doors. Fr. Boniface preached Fr. Schmirler sang High Mass, Fr. Cloos and Fr. Miller were also present. On Sunday when the weather was favorable we had the procession out-of-doors.
Due to circumstances beyond our control we could have the Sisters for only two weeks instead of our regular four. Later we realized how providential those arrangements proved to be.

A diphtheria epidemic broke out and was discovered only two days before the scheduled time was up. The school was not closed as it would have been under the old method. The Sisters chose to teach only the essentials for the First Communicants otherwise the most important lessons would still be left. Three of the classes were in quarantine. There were sixteen boys and girls who received Our Lord for the first time. Sr. Reingundis, O.S.F. and Sr. Lucy, O.S.F. were teachers.

All summer long Fr. tried to get the church windows repaired. This work might have been done if Father and the parish could have agreed on having the church painted white. The yellow tan that Father wanted was not available until the nights were too cold to risk a good job.

Carpenters cut a door through the south vestibule wall and made an entrance from the basement directly into the church, formerly one had to stop outside and come in at the big door.

Winter came early in Nov. with much snow and cold temperatures. Roads were blocked. From Dec. 8 in there were very few people at Mass. Usually there were only about fifty people present. On Christmas Day we had High Mass.

N.A. Schall and John Jundt were re-elected. Mrs. Regina Volk moved away. Her office of treasurer in the Christian Mother’s Society was filled by Mrs. Catherine Bachmeier, Mrs. Agatha Jaeger is Pres.

1946 – During Jan. and Feb. the weather continued intensely cold with much snow and storm. Snowplows did not open the roads after the middle January, There was no mail service. Neighbors marketed their cream in relays and brought mail and needed supplies for all in the vicinity. Airplanes became the usual conveyance for emergencies. When they were grounded Tony Schmaltz with his snowmobile was called on from anywhere in this part of the County. He took Father on sick call.

On Ash Wednesday, March 6th there were far more than the usual number to church. Father conducted the regular Lenten Services, Stations of the Cross, distribution of the Ashes, Low Mass and Benediction. We had had no High Mass so far in 1946.

Everyone seemed in the best of spirits to realize that the long winter would soon be at an end. All were anticipating our Friday morning Lenten Devotions with joy. But alas! By 2:00 P.M. the old church, one of the best loved and revered landmarks of the country-side for the past 45 years, lay in ruins caused by a fire of unknown origin. We discovered it was too late to save anything. Even the Blessed Sacrament could not be removed! Long before the walls fell in all the neighbors had gathered – mostly by hay-rack – and stood silently and watchfully by, ready to save the house if it should catch fire. The stucco on the walls kept the fire inside and away from the house. Thank God, the wind was from the NW.
It was from the best direction, otherwise other buildings would have been in line of the fire.

The only available place for Mass was the school house. Father read two Masses every Sunday and Holy Day.

Letters of condolence and offers of help arrived soon afterwards, but it took the Franciscan Sisters of Hankinson to send material aid-vestments in all five colors besides a purple cape and all the small articles used at Mass.

We had all the oldest vestments in the house besides everything needed for the Holy Sacrifice.

The sick pryx did duty as a ciborium until Fr. had on sent from Lohman’s in St. Paul. A cardboard box lined with silk was used for a tabernacle until a wooden one could be made. It so happened that we were using the dining room as a chapel that winter. How God ordains even the smallest things to His greater honor and our convenience! We had a Chapel ready for the repose of the Blessed Sacrament.

The little school house was often so crowded that there was only standing room. On Holy Thursday there were 150 communions distributed. On Good Friday nearly 250 took part in the Adoration of the Cross. There was no Mass of the Pre-Sanctified.

The first High Mass was sung on Holy Sat. preceded by all the usual ceremonies, blessing of the new fire, the Easter Candle, the font and services ended with vespers. N.A. Schall had brought his organ over on Good Friday evening. Beginning with Easter Sunday Father gave Benediction with ciborium after the First Mass.

On Easter Tuesday there was a funeral with High Mass and during June there were two weddings.

Corpus Christi was celebrated as solemnly as possible with Benediction after both Masses. God was good to us for every Sunday morning was cool.

We had very hot dry windy days as soon as the snow was gone early on April. In May farmers were reluctant to continue seeding because crops were blowing out as soon as they were put in. By the last week in June everyone thought that the crop was doomed and would scarcely make seed back. But the 27th the heavens opened and gave us a wonderful rain that saved the crops. It was long and steady and soaked in where it fell. God had heard our prayers for without a crop the parish would have been burdened with an enormous debt.

People in and outside the parish was very generous. The insurance of $15,000 was only a start. By August $14,000 had donated toward the new church.

April first Fr. Cloos took Fr. Maurus to St. Paul to interview the officers of the Butler Construction Co. On the 8th about 30 men and boys cleaned out all the rubble from the basement and piled it NW of the house beyond the fence, and on the 10th, Grider blasted the walls with dynamite. He donated his work. The section of the Butler Construction Co. Mr. Earl Manley and 2 other men came to look the situation over. The next day, on Palm Sunday, the 30th of the month, Butler decided against building – 1st lumber arrived. No word to the contrary
until May 9th after much telegraphing, writing and waiting for mail. The Bishop O.K. a $45,000 loan. Blueprints came on May 26th, and contracts came June 2nd. The timekeeper, Ralph Sherod, also Fr. had driven to Fargo on route to St. Paul. On the 4th work began in earnest. Tractors and scrapers and a walking plow besides shovels, stone hammers were raising dirt and moving old cement floor and leveling and enlarging side walls. From then on supplies – gravel, stone, sand, and lumber arrived. Supt. Meighan arrived to measure things up and stake out the walls on the 8th. Cook car served as the Office. Footing was started in the 17th and no masons came until July 9. The 2 Butler men Sherod and Schneider had gone on a long week-end over the 4th. First carpenters came on July 13.

Trotier and an Lonas Indian, both from the Reservation, Brick-layers started on Aug. 8. Plans for floor had been delayed so began making wooden ones. After Mass on Aug. 15, men and boys began pouring cement for the floor. It took until almost noon the 3rd day after to finish. Father drove hundreds of miles looking for help to unload brick, tile, cement, and to get the men on the sub-contracts to do their part. These latter were furnace men and electrician.

On Sept. 1, on the eve of Fr.’s 22 year pastorate, the corner-stone was laid. Fr. blessed it and the foundation and the place where the high altar was to stand. Fr. Cloos was deacon, Fr. Binder sub-deacon and Fr. Boniface preached, also there were Frs. Othmar Miller, Joe Axtman and the Seminarians, Webber and Vincent Tuchscherer, O.F.S., James and Richard and 3 R.S.M.’s M’s. Stanislaus, Anastasia and Eleanor also attended. Besides those the 5 bricklayers and N.A. Schall, Anne, Eva, and Lena were here for supper.

About this time the carpenters struck for higher wages and were refused. Later they returned. All braces were removed from the basement and the floor prepared for pouring cement. The furnace had been ordered and by Sept. 12 the basement floor was finished. Rains held up the bricklayer’s work, consequently the carpenter’s work also. Nick made a platform for the altar in the basement and also a communion railing. Manley, Meiglian and the architect were here and the men were angry at their attitude.

On Sept. 22 Fr. said the first Mass in the new basement. It was cold with no doors to keep out the north wind.

By Oct. 2 the bricklayers had finished and left. They were a good crew and everyone said goodbye and speeded them on their way.

There was 5 ft. added to the tower.

By Oct. 4 all the rafters were up and one side of the roof boarded. Rain scoped through the cement floor and it was impossible to have Sunday Mass so Fr. had to carry everything down to the school house again because the rain had turned to snow and everything had stopped.

This was the next time of crises with the Butler Co. They were taking part-time Supt. Meigan away and loading a full-time Supt. on us, taking head-carpenter Schneider off the job and substituting a new one. Fr. telephoned to St. Paul protesting their move and when the new Supt. Stein and his carpenter foreman came Fr. told them he was still the boss and sent them away and kept Schneider on.
On Oct. 13 Fr. blessed the two bells, the old one was the only thing saved from the fire, which was named Joseph Nicholas, with Nick A. Schall and Mrs. Rochus Voller Sr. sponsors. The little bell which was presented by Miss Elsie M. Kramer was named Arthur William after the man from whom she obtained it. The sponsors were Sigmund Scheibel and Mrs. Joseph Bachmeier. St. Joseph had helped so much Fr. wanted to honor the good saint.

Whenever there was urgent need for help as in hauling supplies form Berwick, the gravel pits or sand pits, Fr. always had recourse to St. Joseph. It usually was just when the harvest was in full swing. The there would be a rain and trucks, and men would haul.

It so happened that some emergency arose and Nick Schall said it would be impossible to get help just then. Fr. asked “Shall I start praying again?” “Oh, no, no! The rains would stop work in the fields longer that it would take to do the work needed,” said Nick Schall.

The bells were hoisted into the tower by sheer manpower which displeased the carpenters who thought they would have at least a week’s work building means to get them there. Work on the interior continued, balcony, partitions in the sanctuary, cementing steps in the sanctuary. The roof was finished during this week. Filling in around the basement walls was not very satisfactory because the ground was frozen.

Nick A. Schall and Joe Bachmeier set up a stove in the basement so Mass could be said there. This continued until just before Christmas. October 27 to December 22.

The furnace came on Oct. 30 but the men had a hard time getting the blower down on account of size. Snow hampered again. Carpenters were not satisfied with time cut so on Nov. 2 the three from the East packed their belongings and left. Joe Trottier stayed and Peter Bischoff had been helping for some time.

On Nov. 1st, All Saints Day, Fr. left the Blessed Sacrament in the church overnight for the first time. There was no Mass on All Souls Day.

Fr. wrote to Manley of Butler Co. on the 7th and he shut down on the 9th. It seems the Co. expected to keep a timekeeper and carpenter foreman on the job all winter besides a part time Supt.

Mr. Neighan and Mr. Schaller of the Butler Co. came over Nov. 14 and held a business meeting with Fr. and Nick Schall. All subcontracts were cancelled. Most of them had not started work, but those which had had to be kept on. On Sat. the 16th Scherof and Schneider left.

From then on N.A. Schall was boss. John Jundt had resigned as director and Peter Bischoff was appointed in his place.

Nick Schall had been trying to persuade Dosch to take over the job of plastering. Finally on Nov. 17 he came out here, looked it over and promised to do the work.

On Nov. 24 the furnace furnished the heat which was not too satisfactory because the blower sent the heat upstairs. We had been having below zero
weather for some time. We all stood during Mass except for a few minutes at consecration.

Plastering was started on Dec. 9. Mercury was above zero but by the middle of the week was 6 degrees and hard to get heat enough into the church to dry the plaster. The steam from one part settled as frost on cooler spots, notably the sacristy. Fr. spent many an hour firing over there. Joe and Nick had put the shoot iron heater that was used in the basement up into the back wall to help dry the NW corner. Frost was very bad. As long as the first coat was not dry there was no use to continue.

By Dec. 20 Dosch et al could continue with the finishing coat and on the next day finished up.

During this time Nick, Joe, Peter Bischoff and Peter Bohl made a high altar out of plywood.

Then there was great activity scraping all the plaster off the floor, hauling out unneeded san and bags of plaster, water troughs and other junk. This was on a Saturday. After Mass the next day men and boys were back to work again with hoes and brooms. It was hard, dusty, disagreeable work, but everyone was cheerful and happy because it was now possible to get upstairs for Mass. The women helped the next day to decorate the tree, put up the crib and dust. Electricians worked to get enough lighting.

When the school house was first used for Mass several men gathered at George Bachmeier’s and made substantial benches. Later there were again as many made and these served later in the basement and in the church until the pews came.

Midnight Mass was well attended there were about two hundred Communions. Marian Burkhard played the organ and several other girls sang. It was a real thrill to be in a church again.

Pews and communion rails were ordered in Sept.

All in all it was a year of stress and frustration when supplies did not arrive and pay-roll was up to $1000 a week and not very much was accomplished. It was a time to try the soul of any pastor who had the burden placed upon him. St Joseph was the pastor’s chief advocate and St. Joseph always helped, sometimes in a noticeable way.

Not only the pastor but some of the parishioners made great sacrifices and suffered losses besides. On June 22 a terrific wind storm caused much damage. No one was harder hit than N.A. Schall. Every building on his place bore marks of a storm. One or two buildings were entirely destroyed. The house and new garage were most severely damaged. The wind charger was blown over and head buried in the ground.

Many of the men who got cement blocks from near Devils Lake on a hot day blew out tires and needed repairs on the trucks. Even though the work was donated they paid their own losses. N.A. Schall had to pay $100 in repair on his truck and another $100 on the car. Some would not even drive to Berwick with their car. These were a small minority.
1947 – The New Year was very cold. Down to -25 degrees and men shoveled coal for the church. After the crib and Christmas decorations had been removed work on the ceiling began. All the labor was donated. Among those who came quite regularly besides the directors, N.A. Schall and Peter Bischoff were Barney Bischoff, Nat Voeller, Clem Volk, George Kuntz, Louis Bachmeier, Louis Hoffert, Peter Bohl, and Simon Voeller.

There were frequent storms when nobody came to work but by the middle of the month the ceiling was almost completed. Anderson’s man, Joe Hornstein, who was the foremen, began laying linoleum in the sacristy while the sanctuary ceiling was being finished. The floor was done Jan. 29.

There was still work for the carpenters, Nick Schall and Peter Bischoff. They made the confessionals with some help from Simon B. Voeller.

By the middle of March a large Limpias Crucifix which was donated by someone who chose to remain anonymous was hung over the high altar.

On the day the old church burned Fr. Cloos erected a new set of stations in Rugby. He immediately promised their old ones to the new church. Those were hung long before the faculties came for erecting them. By March 28 Fr. did erect them canonically. The next day the new pews and communion railing came. Men and boys brought them in trucks and packed them as close together as possible but left little room for Sunday Mass the next day which was Palm Sunday.

The next three days were hectic. The men were determined to get all the pews in place by Wed. noon. Holes had to be drilled into the concrete, plugged and then screws turned into the plugs. Nick was chief liner-upper and measurer. All center braces had to be sawed off to fit. There was a lot of help which was all donated. On Wed. afternoon the women had swept and dusted the church and cleaned the new pews and polished them. The men had set up the Communion railing and all helped to arrange an altar of Repose. Simon Voeller had made a different tabernacle which was put in place in the right side altar. The men also made a stand for the crucifix for Good Friday. Mrs. Clemens Volk donated a round table to be used for a credence table. Louis Bachmeier made an iron candlestick painted with aluminum to be used for the Easter Candle. Later he made another for the Sanctuary lamp. Joe Bachmeier made an iron open cabinet for the sacristy. There were books for censor and candle-lighter, a frame for lighting the charcoal and a drawer for matches. These articles if bought would come far over $100.

In preparation for summer vacation school Nick A. Schall and Peter Bischoff made a partition in the basement. Later with the help of other men they made a new sidewalk in front of the church.

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family. Their oldest son Alois, almost 21 years old was instantly killed in an auto accident that also took the life of Heldegarde Schaan Keller.

Besides that funeral was also the funeral of Mrs. Melchior Jaeger. At the former Gerald Weber took the part of sub-deacon and Fr. Binder deacon, at the
latter Fr. Maurus being sick in bed asked Fr. Cloos, Fr. Binder and Gerald to conduct the funeral. Gladys and the Sisters were the choir.

Fr. Paul Grzesiak, O.M.I. of White Bear Lake, MN preached a very successful mission from June 15-22 inclusive. Fr. Paul solemnly blessed the big crucifix on the 19th. He said one could gain a plenary indulgence regular if conditions on that anniversary every year.

Fr. announced a clothing drive in early June for war sufferers in Germany. There was a very generous response. The Sisters took all but a few things. Fr. will send a box to his sister.

The pastor took a vacation from July 3-24 and had to go to the hospital a few days after his return. He had double pneumonia. He came home on the 31st. Fr. Cloos let Fr. Joe Axtman help out one Sunday and Fr. Schmimirler said Mass on the foregoing Sunday while Fr. was in the hospital and still unable while at home. Fr. Roman Schmidt, O.S.B. helped out on the Sundays Fr. was away from ND. He came on Saturday and left immediately after Mass. Joe Bachmeier did a deal of driving to make all the arrangements for the Sunday Masses and to get Fr. to the Hospital.

During the winter the boys collected money for a statue of St. Joseph and Child and the girls for a statue of the Immaculate Conception. They were solemnly blessed the first part of Aug. Nick Bischoff of Rugby donated a stature of St. Anthony. It was blessed toward the end of August.

Mr. Mike Offermann promise to put the Cathedral blocks into the windows but when he arrived to do the work he found the wrong size. It took a month before he did the work because the blocks were hard to get. He donated the work. That day the electric light fixtures were put up. Seven globes down the center of the ceiling.

The mill-work was not available last year. Peter Englehard of Devils Lake supplied us with what was needed and early in Oct. N.A. Schall and Frank Burkhard put in the big front doors. Peter Bischoff was also helping with this work. During this work the electricians did a little more too, putting in fixtures. Larson and a helper were employed a few days also.

In late Oct. the mound of dirt that was excavated and built up SW of the church was leveled off and put on the road and the old ditch filled up. The fence was torn away south of the approach.

An old organ was bought from a Lutheran congregation and N.A. Schall’s was taken home after being used 1 ½ yrs.

Louis Hoffert donated a gold chasuble and dalmatics at the price of $155. It was used first at Midnight Mass.

At the election of officers at a meeting of the Christian Mother’s Society, Mrs. F.X. Bohl and Mrs. Clemens Volk were elected to fill the vacancy by Mrs. M.L. Jaeger’s resignation, and Mrs. Bachmeier’s refusal to accept the office again.

Nick A. Schall and Peter Bischoff were directors.
1948 – It took almost six months until the stained glass windows came. The latter part of Jan. Nick Schall, Joe and Louis Bachmeier, Peter Bohl, Geo. Kuntz, Larson and a helper got them in place. The symbols are the seven Sacraments. They were made in Milwaukee, Wis.

The Holy Name Society paid for a beautiful new canopy. They have the privilege of carrying the canopy in every procession.

The winter from about Jan. 10 was very severe. Storms and extreme cold were the rule. As a result there were very few to Mass until after Easter. In spring bad roads kept many families away.

Two gold crosses were put on the church early in May.

We had three Franciscan Sisters again this year for Vacation School. Sr. Siegtrudis, Sr. Bonaventure, and Sr. Georginna. There were 18 in the First Communion Class.

Sisters Siegtrudis and Georgiana practiced with the choir every night so they could sing for the Dedication and Confirmation ceremonies and also for High Mass.


That day the first meals were served in the new basement. Besides, the Bp. and Fr., there were 13 priests and one deacon present. Also four visiting Franciscan Sisters and our three took part.

On Aug. 15 there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The hours of Adoration were well attended. Fr. Boniface delivered an excellent sermon at the 8 P.M. closing.

During Fr.’s retreat men and women painted the walls in the church. Men built pedestals on the jambs for two statues. That of St. Anthony immediately occupied one of them.

Nick S. and Peter Bischoff made cupboards in the basement kitchen and put in partitions from main room. All this work was donated.

The house was given a new coat of paint but the work was paid for. About this time Larson sprayed the basement walls and ceiling and pillars with a cream colored paint.

Men and boys dug a hole around the well pipe, tiled it up, cemented the floor and the C&G store installed a new pressure tank, engine and automatic pump. This was a great improvement over the old method.

During the summer the house was insulated with steel-wool by the Gamble Co. Art Lysne and John O’Conell did the work.

The first bazaar on Oct. 24 was a great success.

Early in Nov. a beautiful statue of the Sacred Heart arrived. It was donated by three persons.

In Midsummer we got the first indication that we might soon have R.E.A. Power. The poles which had lain in the ditch and yard all winter were finally hanging loose in holes. It was not until Dec. 20 that our hopes became reality.
1949 – This winter, especially Feb. 4th was the hardest according to the memory of all old timers. There was very much snow accompanied by high winds which made roads impassable. Temperatures seldom got to zero even in the daytime. In Feb. there were only 2 nice days.

As a result farmers could not get feed into the barns. They had it but to find and haul it was the problem. Airplanes scouted for distress signals and later flew bailed hay or straw to those who needed it.

Mail was usually delivered by the farmers who went to town by team or snowmobile to sell their cream. Occasionally it was brought by plane or snowmobile.

In March the Army opened the roads. Melchior Jaeger’s funeral was postponed but those in charge were not notified. As a result people whom we had not seen since New Year could arrive in cars.

Seeding was delayed until almost the first of May. But later in the year all this moisture proved a boon for not a drop of rain fell. The was a good crop.

When the crop was put in, the house was re-shingled and a new chimney put up. The bathroom got a new linoleum tile floor covering, and a new electric refrigerator was bought for the Kitchen.

The wind charger and batteries were sold. The dishes which were ordered months before arrived in time for the Silver Jubilee of Fr. Maurus’s pastorate in Fulda. At that time 98 persons of the original group were still here. This was celebrated not on the right day; Sep. 2, but postponed until after the fall bazaar Oct. 5.

At the 25th Jubilee Mass Fr. Maurus was celebrant and Fr. Boniface, and Fr. Vincent Ammann - deacons. Fr. Adam Hunkler of Devils Lake preached the sermon. Sr. Soiagtrudis, O.S.F. and her 8th grade girls of Rugby sang for the Mass while Sr. Rita played the organ. Fr. Cloos was the prime mover to make the celebration a success.

In June there was the usual vacation school. Sr. Siegtrudis, Sr. Georigana and dr. Antonette taught until June 26 when 27 children received their First Holy Communion. The shortage of Sisters made a change in our schedule. Sr. Antonette after being here two weeks had to go to Esmond.

The pastor took off two July Sundays 10 and 17 and Fr. Roman Schmidt again came from Richardton to help out.

Mrs. Clemens Volk resigned as president of the Christian Mother’s Society and Mrs. John Jaeger was elected to fill the position.

Sept. 4 there was a day of adoration. Fr. Boniface preached at the closing. Louis Bachmeier and Jacob Bischoff were trustees this year.

Mrs. Peter Schell and her choir consisting of Peter Schell, John Burkhard, Vincent Bischoff, Mrs. John Jaeger, Virgil and Lydia sang for the Christmas season.

Two new side altars come too late to put in place for Christmas. The decorations were in the way.
1950 – We can sympathize with the Towner congregation in the loss of their church which on Jan. 3rd burned with all its contents.

This was an extremely cold stormy winter which lasted well into May. Attendance at Sunday Masses was very poor and due to poor roads there were no Friday Lenten Devotions.

On June 5th Vacation School opened with Sisters Siegtrudis, Jane Frances and Josephine all O.S.F. teaching around 120 children. Sr. Jane Frances had to leave after the first week and Sr. Therese took her place.

Fifteen Children received their First Holy Communion on June 25. Sister Siegtrudis taught the Mass of St. Angela to about 30 girls.

Mrs. Clem Volk learned to play the Mass and beginning with June 25 we had High Mass almost every Sunday. Msgr. Stuetz preached at the 8 P.M. closing of the Day of Adoration, Aug. 20. In Oct. we had another day of prayer or Eucharistic Day. On Dec. 8th the congregation and each individual was consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The only improvements were a new Ostensory, new pedestals for the side altars, storm windows for the church basement, and a complete new bed for the pastor’s room.

Louis Bachmeier and Jacob Bischoff were trustees.

Mrs. John Jaeger and Mrs. F.X. Bohl, officers of Ch. Moth. Soc’y.

1951 – New Year’s Mass was well attended but right afterwards snow and storms blocked the roads. Only 40-50 people could come to Mass on Sunday. Even in Holy Week the attendance was poor. Storms continued until far into April. There was very little precipitation but by June it was cool and rainy.

Vacation School was taught from May 28 to June 17. Sisters Hildburga and Josephine were here all three weeks. Sister Antoinette was her for the first two. 20 children received their First Holy Communion.

A new Corpus Christi altar was made at Joe Bachmeier’s in time for the feast. Fr. Othmar preached and Msgr. Stuetz assisted at the High Mass.

On June 10 in our neighboring parish of Orrin, Fr. Gerald M. Webber sang his First Solemn Mass. Fr. Maurus preached the sermon in German.

After the field work was done in spring the walls in the church were redecorated. At intermittent intervals every room in the house received at least one coat of paint even two rooms which Fr. Trunk had so painstakingly decorated with scenery in 1921-2. Only the big room was left as he painted it.

The floors in two East bedrooms and the hall upstairs were sanded, pores closed with filler, varnished and waxed. The kitchen and dining room floors were covered with new linoleum. The same people did the work.

Austin, after five year’s delay, finally put in the last registers over the church.

All this activity was in preparation for the Golden Jubilee which was celebrated on Sunday July 1. There were many old-timers there. Many who were members of the congregation in 1901 were present.
Fr. Thomas Jundt O.S.B. and a native of the parish preached in English and the pastor preached in German. Seminarians Joseph Senger and George Schneider of Orrin and Vincent Tuchscherer of Rugby assisted at the High Mass. The first named was sub-deacon.

Bazaar and two meals, dinner and supper were a great success. There was a net income of $1100. A month later there was another little party to get rid of surplus articles. Fr. gave Benediction at 8 P.M.

Fr. Joseph Mentel Blumenfeld preached at the 8:00 closing of Adoration Day, Aug. 5.

The Christian Mother’s Society bought a new black vestment and matching dalmatics.

New directors were John Jaeger and Louis Hoffert. Mrs. John Jaeger and Mrs. F.X. Bohl were officers of the Christian Mothers.

1952 – We had a very unusual winter. Very little snow fell consequently there were no blizzards. Temperatures dropped to zero or below only a few times during the whole winter. April continued dry so that seeding was discontinued over west. May was hotter and drier and the same until the last part of June when rains came which saved the crop. During harvest there was little rain to interfere. Late Flax had a chance because heavy frost kept off until Oct.

The new High Altar, costing about $1400 arrived in spring. After the field work was done men and boys built two cement steps in the sanctuary and put the altar in place. In due time asphalt tile was laid on the steps.

Men and women painted walls in the church and sacristy and varnished the woodwork.

The road was graded very high which necessitated removing the fence and up-rooting trees. A new Axminster rug was brought for the house.

Vacation School was taught by Sisters Hildurga, Angeline and Antonette, O.S.F. from June 2 until after the 24th. On June 22 thirteen children received their First Holy Communion. This year there were almost 160 children to instructions.

Rt. Rev. Bp. Dworschok confirmed fifty-six boys and girls on June 24. Besides the Bp. and Msgr., there were five other priests present.

On First Holy Communion Day the men and women sponsored the annual bazaar with dinner and supper. It was the usual successful project. On Confirmation day the men served lunch after their evening ceremonies to use up the supplies left from Sunday.

Adoration Day on Aug. 15 was not so well attended as formerly. Msgr. Stuetz preached at the closing. In time for Christmas the ladies bought a new gold lace for the High Altar. Mrs. F.X. Bohl moved out of the parish, Mrs. Louis Bachmeier was then appointed to fill the vacancy of Pres. in the Christian Mothers. Mrs. John Jaeger is Treasurer.

John Jaeger and Louis Hoffert were re-elected lay directors.
1953 – This winter was exactly like one for us in this vicinity. Snow storm, winds were reported all around us. Temperatures were about the same as in 1952 in the months of Jan., Feb., and Mar. but continued far into the month of May. Seeding was delayed. Snow fell often which further hampered the work. During June it rained almost every day. Pastures alone benefited. Crops were delayed for lack of sunshine. As wet as June was so July and August were dry. Harvest went fast for the was nothing to delay it.

Vacation school taught by Sisters Hildburga, Angeline, and Reingundis, O.S.F. began June 1st and ended on June 21. Sixteen children received the First Holy Communion on June 21.

On the 4th of July John Jundt donated the use of his new barn for a parish project which netted $535. Thanks to Mr. Jundt not only for the use of the building but also not charging for electricity.

The pastor took a vacation and was gone July 19-26. Fr. Louis Pflaler, O.S.B. of Richardton came and read Mass and administered the Sacraments.

On Aug. 16 Adoration was attended about like last year. Fr. Julius Binder preached at the closing. The Seminarians of Orrin, Joe Senger, George Schneider, Edward and Tony Axtman helped with the Benedictions.

All of the above history was combined from records that were saved by Mr. Nick Schall and Mr. Peter Mattern. The history was written by Theresa B. Lange for the 59th Anniversary of St. Anselm’s which was held July 1, 1951. Miss Lange says she got much of the information from Mrs. August Bachmeier, Ludwig Jaeger and others. We could really say it is an oral history.

1954 – The years of more recent history are not as complete at the time of this printing, so we will give you statistical information through the 50’s and 60’s. Rev. Joseph Axtman lived in the parish house and served the parish from 1954-1960. One of the tasks which he took upon himself was to completely update and modernize the electrical wiring of the house.

1955 – There were thirteen First Communicants in the third grade and seventeen in the second grade on June 12 of this year.

1956 – There were twelve baptisms in this year and one parishioner died on December 5, Mr. John Black.

1957 – Auxilary Bishop Leo F. Dworschak confirmed 29 boys and 36 girls on June 25 of this year.

1958 – There were three marriages recorded:
  Donald Schwindon & Carole Bosch – May 8
  Hygenees Kunnaz & Lorraine Kuntz – June 16
  Benjamin Axtman & Elizabeth Klause – June 30
1959 – There were six baptisms. Mr. John Voeller died March 25. Twelve people received First Communion and there were 13 marriages.

1960 – There were 5 marriages and 8 baptisms. Eleven people received First Holy Communion. Fr. John Wansek came in June of this year and served the parish until 1964.

1961 – Bishop Leo F. Dwarschak confirmed forty boys and forty girls on June 21.

1962 – There were nine First Communicants this year.

1963- There were six marriages recorded this year and six baptisms.

1964 – This was the year that St. Anselm’s became a mission of Rugby. Fr. N.T. Cloos was pastor of Little Flower Church at this time. Fr. Joseph Campbell came from Rugby, serving the needs of St. Anselm’s parishioners from 1944-1967.

1965 – There were 29 in the Confirmation class this year.

1966 – There were 13 First Communicants.


1968 – Rev. John Graven began serving St. Anselm’s as a mission form Orrin. The oil furnace was purchased from the Blumenfeld church in Sept. of this year and installed in St. Anselm’s at a total cost of $343.

1969 – Rev. Duaine Cote was assigned as Pastor of Sacred Heart Church of Orrin and St. Anselm’s of Fulda. He served in that capacity until 1971. In the minutes of an August meeting it was reported that the parish was in a very serious financial situation. The Parish Board unanimously “agreed that from now on our parish board will be called the Fulda Parish Council”.

1970 – The parish house was put up for sale for $600. It had been used for CCD classes previous to this time, but the furnace exploded making it impossible to use the house in the winter any longer.

1971 – The Parish Council established a form for election of members and established the membership at 12 plus the Priest. An appreciation social and supper was given honoring the CCD teachers and their spouses. Rev. Richard Sinner came to serve the parishes form 1971-1972.

1972- The children were bused to Orrin for summer school this year. The parish here and at Orrin were served by two temporary administrators form December to July, 1973. They were Rev. A.J.E. Levoque and Rev. Clophas Jailet.
1973 – Rev. Donald Leiphon came to serve the parishes of Sacred Heart, Orrin, and St. Anselm’s. He is still with us at the time of this writing.

1974 – There were three baptisms and four marriages this year.

1975 – Beginning on January 9, Fr. Donald Leiphon now serves the parishes of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel of Balta, as well as Sacred Heart of Orrin, and St. Anselm’s. Fr. Felix Hummer, now retired, continues to live in the rectory at Balta. St. Anselm’s Parish Council was reorganized and a Constitution was drawn up. The Council is now made up of five members, elected from the parish at-large, two trustees, and the pastor.

1976 – It was through the leadership of the reorganized council and the suggestion and partial finances of the Christian Mothers that a new carpet was put in the sanctuary in Feb. The North entrances to the basement and church were paneled in April. And, in looking towards our 100th Jubilee, the parish took upon themselves the debt of re-shingling the church roof. This was done in May at a cost of $5,425.93. July 18, 1976 is the date of the celebration of 75 years as a parish.