OVERVIEW

Donor: Father Tom Graner

Accession Date: 5 July 2011

Collection Number: 142

Quantity: 0.5 linear feet


Languages: German, English, & Latin

Links:
- Little Flower Catholic Church website
- Little Flower Church, Rugby, North Dakota, 75 Years of progress and Growth, 1910-1985 [BX4603.R82 L58 1985]
- The Little Flower Church, Rugby, North Dakota: 1910-2010 Centennial Celebration Cookbook
- Little Flower Cemetery: Rugby, North Dakota: Catholic Burials
- Photographs of Rugby, ND (Dakota Memories Oral History Project)

Access Restrictions: Open to the public, available upon request. Copyrights to items in this collection remain with original copyright holders or are in the public domain.

Citation: St. Therese, Little Flower Church Collection, 142, Germans from Russia Heritage Collection, NDSU Libraries, Fargo, ND.

HISTORY

After many years dating back to 1887 and 1910 a group of catholic pioneers struggling to have a church of their own, a dream of reality came true on September 18, 1910 when Father Joseph
Kern was sent to be the first pastor to serve the Rugby, North Dakota parish, with four missions: Berwick, Towner, Granville, Johannasthal (10 miles SE of Rugby). At this start the church was St. Cyrinus. March 1913, Fr. Gerald Wilke, was sent to serve Rugby. He stayed only three months. Then Fr. Ludwig Doering came and after two years he left for reasons of poor health.

June 1915, Fr. James Theil came and remained for 9 years. During his tenure, the parish grew. That year they rented a house for the rectory and later this house was to be remodeled for the convent. In October 1924, Fr. John Schoenberger came to carry on the work. By 1925 the church was getting too small to house the congregation.

So, finally in the fall of 1927 preparations began for a new church while after 70 years is still recognized as an architectural gem. This is also the year a name change was requested and it was granted by Bishop O’Reilly. Midnight mass was truly blessed in 1928 when the parish gathered for midnight mass in the new church of “Little Flower of St. Therese.”


The Little Flower School was constructed in 1942 which held classes for grades kindergarten through 6th grade.

1960 marks the year that Father Cloos was investitured with the red robes and title of Right Reverend Monsignor.

1956 was the big year of the construction of the new rectory, also that marks the year of Fr. John J. Kalenberg coming to Rugby to serve as assistant pastor to Msgr. Cloos. Fr. Kalenberg did not hesitate to lend a helping hand, which was sorley needed. The rectory was completed in 1957. At this point the rectory was used as the area diocesan facilities. Even the Clergy night, which were held by the Knights of Columbus, were held in this rectory and brought Priests from both Fargo and Bismarck dioceses.

There had not only been physical growth in the parish of Little Flower but also spiritual as well. Many young men and women entered into vocations of priests and sisters.

In the fall of 1970, Fr. Frances Grow succeeded Msgr. Cloos as pastor and served the parish for seven years, with Fr. Joe Wiegel serving as deacon, Fr. Jack Davies as assistant, Fr. Jack Herron as a deacon, Fr. Jacob Czapiewski as a deacon, and a polish priest, Fr. Felijs Lojewski.

November of 1977, Father John J. Kalenberg returned to Rugby as Pastor, and Father Roger Snell came to serve as associate in 1980.

With the coming of Fr. Kalenberg, many programs were implemented of the diocese and parish, such as Parish Renewal, Leadership Course, Baptismal and Frist Communion Workshops, an
extended confirmation program, CCD classes and preparation of marriage, Marriage Encounter, and Curscillo.

In 1981-1982, Little Flower Church saw the complete renovation of the inside and downstairs of the church with many hours of donated parish labor.

Little Flower Church of Rugby, North Dakota celebrated 75 years in 1985, and 100 years in 2010.

(Sources: Little Flower Church, 1910-1983 [BX4603.R82 L59 1983]; Little Flower Church, Rugby, North Dakota, 75 Years of Progress and Growth, 1910-1985 [BX4603.R82 L58 1985]; and Little Flower Catholic Church, 2005 [BX4603.R82 L59 2005]).

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The St. Therese, Little Flower Church Collection consists of twenty-two theology, prayer, and folk books in the German, English, and Latin languages, 1904-1964 and prayer and funeral cards, 1961-1968. The collection has been organized into two series: Book and Loose Material.

The Book Series contains twenty-two theology, prayer, folk, and reference books, dating from 1904 to 1964. Most of these books are in German, but a couple are in English and others have Latin in them as well. Some of the books have inscriptions in them; these read: “Cindy Fedje (Andell),” “Joe Meyer,” “Anna Volk,” “Gabriel Volk,” and “Catherine Braun.”

The Loose Material Series is comprised of items that were found in the books. These items have been separated from the books and placed into folders. The series mainly has prayer and funeral cards, dating from 1961 to 1968, but there are also some miscellaneous items that were found as well.

The names on the funeral cards include: Joseph Brossart, Sr. (1886-1961), Mike Schmaltz (1897-1961), Magdalena Lacher (1901-1962), Ignatz Voeller (1871-1963), Frances Gauer (1904-1965), Casper Mattern (1910-1966), and Frank Axtmann (1891-1968).

The prayer cards are in English and German. One card, dating to 1961, has the image of Jesus printed on one side and a 25th anniversary notice for Father Boniface J. Axtman on the other.

The miscellaneous items are mostly theology related and are in German or English, but there are other items, including a small money envelope from Oscar H. Will & Co., Bismarck, ND; a German newspaper clipping; and a United States Purchasing Exchange label for Milton Martinson of Rugby, ND.
BOX AND FOLDER LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/1</td>
<td>Finding aid, detailed inventory, and initial inventory</td>
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</tbody>
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1

**BOOK SERIES**


Der Ablass von Portiuncula Erklaerung desselben nebst passenden Gebeten fuer dass katholische Volk, St. Louis, MO: B Herder, 1910, pages 32. [2011.21.14]


**LOOSE MATERIAL SERIES**

1/4
Loose material

1/5
Funeral cards, 1961-1968

1/6
Prayer cards