

SACRED HEART CHURCH, OAKWOOD, NORTH DAKOTA  
Parish Centennial History - 1981

Part I

Page

8 - Founding of the Parish

19 - Church Trustees

Part II

20 - Age of Progression

21 - Doctors, Post Office, Town

23 - Early Settlers

Part III

39 - Second Era Generation

48 - The School Era

Part IV

57 - Vocations to Religious Life

61 - Pastors

62 - Parish Surviving

70 - Present Day Generation

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# Vocations to the Religious Life

Undoubtedly, due to the influence of religious teaching given at St. Aloysius Academy and the good example of religious life, care and interest of its pastors, Oakwood boasts of many religious vocations.

Two boys are presently attending Bishop Muench Seminary at Fargo, N. Dak. They are Alan Durand and Charles Pilon.

## THE PARISH LIST

Father Albert Lafreniere, ordained 1920.  
 Father Leo Gourde, O.S.B., ordained 1942.  
 Rev. Emilius Garant (a Theology student) died 1919.  
 Brother Joseph Domina Vary, O.M.I., 1917.  
 Brother Linus Paul, F.S.C. (Douglas French), 1951.  
 Bishop Raymond Lessard, ordained 1956 at St. Peter's, Rome. He became Bishop on April 27, 1973.  
 Father Joseph Campbell, ordained 1960.  
 Father Kenneth Gallagher, ordained 1966 at St. Peter's, Rome.  
 Father Daniel Pilon, ordained 1976.  
 Sister Marie Emile de Jesus, Eugenie Trudeau.  
 Sister St. Louis, Albine LaBerge.  
 Sister St. Jean Baptiste, Amanda LaBerge.  
 Sister Jean M. Vianney, Emma Chale.  
 Sister M. Hermas, Anna Chale.  
 Sister Victoria Marie, Marie Victoria Corriveau.

Sister Mary Edward, Virginia Lafreniere.  
 Sister St. Phillippe, Marie Garant.  
 Sister Mary Dorothy, Melvina Lefebvre.  
 Sister Emile Joseph, Marie Ann Garant.  
 Sister St. Elzear, Elzire Garant.  
 Sister Mary Adolore, Mary McAuliffe.  
 Sister Marie Hilarion, Mary Ann Vary.  
 Sister M. Odile, Euphemie Chale.  
 Sister Mary Patrick, Theresa Gallagher.  
 Sister Mary Bertha, Blanche Lessard.  
 Sister Bernice, Eva Rheame.  
 Sister Eugene Marie, Amanda Rheame.  
 Sister Delvina, Josephine Rheame.  
 Sister Theresa, Theresa Lessard.  
 Sister Angelica, Delina LaCoste, Carmelite order.  
 Sister Rose Theresa, Clarabelle Seigny.

Father Joseph Campbell, born Dec. 10, 1934, attended St. Aloysius Academy for the first eight years of school. He then went on to Nazareth Hall in St. Paul, Minn., and took his philosophy and theology studies at the St. Paul Seminary. He was ordained a priest on May 26, 1960, at Sacred Heart Church in Oakwood.



Fr. Campbell

His first assignment was in nearby Grafton as assistant to Father Joseph Hylden for the summer of 1960. The first permanent assignment was in September of 1960 as assistant at St. Catherine's Church in Valley City. In July of 1963, Father Campbell was reassigned as assistant at Little Flower Church in Rugby. In 1964 Rugby was given Fulda (Berwick, N. Dak. P.O.) as a mission. In July of 1967, Father Campbell moved to South Fargo, as assistant at St. Anthony's Church.

Father Campbell became a pastor for the first time in July of 1969, serving the entire Kidder County and its three Catholic parishes at Steele, Tappen, and Lake Williams, with residency at Tappen. In June, 1978, Father Campbell was reassigned as pastor at Velva (20 miles southeast of Minot), with Granville as a mission. The following June, 1979, Karlsruhe (17 miles east of Velva) lost its resident pastor because of the shortage of priests. Karlsruhe was then attached to Velva and Granville was attached to Towner. Father Campbell is presently pastor of both Velva and Karlsruhe with residency at Velva, N. Dak.

Sister St. Louis de France (Albina Laberge) was among the first from the Oakwood parish to join a religious order. She is presently living in the convent in St. Boniface, Manitoba. Her sister, Sister St. Jean Baptiste (Amanda Laberge) joined the same order of Oblates of the Sacred Heart several years before she did. She died in 1924. They were the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Jean Baptiste Laberge.



Sr. St. Louis de France

Brother Michael French, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo French, was born at Grafton, N. Dak., on May 8, 1949. He was three-years-old when the family moved to Red Lake Falls, Minn., in April of 1952.

Mike attended and graduated from St. Joseph's Grade School in May, 1963, then attended Lafayette High School and graduated June 2, 1967, in Red Lake Falls, Minn. He attended Moorhead State College in Moorhead, Minn., majoring in Spanish and music and got his B.A. Degree on June 10, 1971. Later he continued his education and got his M.A. Degree in 1975.

In April of 1972, Mike joined the religious order: Community of The Christian Brothers. He taught at Montini High School in Lombard, Ill., the following fall. On Sept. 7, 1978, Brother Mike said his perpetual vows at Lockport, Ill., at a Vow Mass officiated by the Bishop.



After teaching for several years at Montini High School in Lombard, Ill., he is now in Chiquimula, Guatemala, Central America. He is in charge of the Christian Brothers school there. Brother Michael made his noviate in Windsor, Ontario, in 1972.



**Bro. Michael and Bro. Paul**

Brother Paul (Douglas) French, son of Lorenzo and Agnes (Kouba) French, was born at Grafton, N. Dak., on July 25, 1932. He attended a rural school, Martin District No. 55 for his elementary education. He went to St. Aloysius Academy for his first grade and high school, graduating in 1950. He then entered Brothers of the Christian Schools in Glencoe, Missouri, where he studied as a novice in 1951-52. He received his robe and took the name of Paul on Aug. 30, 1951. He took his first vows on Aug. 31, 1952, and the final vows in June, 1957.

He received a B.A. in English in 1955 and M. Ed. in education in 1960 at St. Mary's College, Winona, Minn. He then attended Loyola University of Chicago where he earned a Ph.D. in English in 1967. He did some post graduate work at Oxford University, England, in 1980.

He taught at St. Georges High School, Evanston, Ill., in 1955-57. Then from 1957-1963, he was teaching at St. Mel High School, Chicago, Ill. He was at Lewis University at Lockport, Ill., from 1963-80. He was teaching from 1963-67 and 1971-80; was president from 1969-71 and academic vice-president from 1976-77. In 1980, he went to Bethlehem University, West Bank, Israel.

Rev. Ken Gallagher, born on Oct. 29, 1941, at Grafton N. Dak., attended school at St. Aloysius Academy from 1948-1955. From 1955-1961, he went to school at Crosier Seminary, Onamias, Minn. He transferred to Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa, from 1961-1963. In 1963, he went to Rome, Italy; where he continued his studies for the next three years (1963-1966). He was ordained a priest at St. Peter's, Rome, Italy, on Dec. 17, 1966.



**Fr. Gallagher**  
are the following.

At Harvey, N. Dak., 1967; St. James High School, Grand Forks, N. Dak., 1968; St. James Religious Center and St. Ann's Guest Home, 1969-1971; Holy Family, Grand

Forks, N. Dak., 1971-1973; Milnor, 1973-1977; Cardinal Muench Seminary and Permanent Diaconate, 1977; and Chancellor, 1978.

Rev. Emilius Garant (a theology student) was born Sept. 11, 1891. He entered the Missionaries Order of the Oblate of Mary Immaculate at St. Boniface, Canada. He then studied at Belgium Seminary until 1914. Because of ill health he came back to the St. Boniface Seminary, where he continued his studies until his death Nov. 4, 1919. He is buried in Sacred Heart Cemetery in Oakwood.



**Rev. Garant**

Father Leo (Thomas) Gourde, O.S.B., the son of Domicile and Irene (French) Gourde was born Aug. 25, 1915, at Flaxville, Mont. Shortly after that the family moved to North Dakota. He attended school at St. Aloysius Academy and graduated in 1934. He professed at Assumption Abbey July 11, 1937, and was ordained a priest May 26, 1942. He earned an M.A. Degree at Loyola University, Chicago, in 1943, and in 1959 an M.A.L.S. at the University of Chicago.



**Fr. Gourde**

He worked in building up the home (Abbey) Monastic library. At various times, he held library positions at the college of Great Falls, Mont., Niagara University, N.Y., and at St. Ambrose College, Iowa.

In 1948, he earned a Ph.D. in classical languages at Loyola. He taught Latin, Greek and French in the Abbey schools and served as rector of the Prep School. (1944-46)

In parochial assignments he served in Devils Lake, N. Dak., Hilger, Mont., and Enderlin, N. Dak. He also spent a year as chaplain in Crosby, N. Dak. He died Nov. 2, 1979, and is buried in the Abbey Cemetery.

Mary Delina LaCoste, daughter of Louis Pierre LaCoste and Marie Eva Lafreniere, was born at Oakwood. She attended St. Aloysius Academy and graduated in 1943. The next 24 years were spent as a Sister of St. Mary of the Presentation teaching in the diocese. Having left that congregation in 1968 and taught in the public school for a few years she made her way to California and there joined the Order of Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus.



**Sr. Mary Angellita**





Sister Bertha (Lessard) to the left, and Sister Therese (Lessard) to the right, both daughters of Joseph and Bertha (Campbell) Lessard, and their nephew, Bishop Ray Lessard, son of Victor and Angeline (Collette) Lessard, who is presently of Savannah, Georgia. Sister Bertha celebrated her golden jubilee in 1980. She was a nurse in Yokadoma, Camerouns, North Africa, for 14 years. She is now at Harvey, N. Dak., and Sister Therese is at Mary Vale, in Valley City, N. Dak.

Raymond William Lessard was born at Oakwood, N. Dak., Dec. 21, 1930. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Lessard, though retired, still live on the family farm near Oakwood. He has one sister, Evelyn (Mrs. Charles Smith), living in Longview, Wash.



**Bishop Lessard**

After graduating from St. Aloysius Academy in Oakwood and attending business school for one year in Grand Forks, he began studies for the priesthood in 1949 as a college freshman at Nazareth Hall Preparatory Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. Two years later, he was enrolled at the St. Paul Seminary, also in St. Paul, where he earned a B.A. Degree. In 1953, he was sent to Rome by Aloisius Cardinal Muench, then Bishop of Fargo, to study theology at the North American College. He was ordained a priest in Rome on Dec. 16, 1956, by Bishop Martin J. O'Connor. In June of 1957, he was graduated from the Pontifical Gregorian University with a license in Sacred Theology.

He returned to the United States in July of 1957, serving for three years as an assistant to the pastor of St. Mary's Cathedral in Fargo. In 1960, he returned to Rome as secretary to Cardinal Muench, who was then assigned to the Curia (administrative offices) at the Vatican. At the same time, Father Lessard continued graduate studies in theology and canon law at the Gregorian University. After Cardinal Muench's death in 1962, he was named assistant superior of the North American College Graduate House in Rome.

During the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), Father Lessard served as a "peritus" or theological advisor to the Bishops.

In January of 1964, he was assigned to the staff of the Vatican's Sacred Congregation for Bishops, a position he held until his appointment in 1973 as Bishop of Savannah.

Also from 1969 to 1973, he was director of Villa Stritch, a residence erected in Rome for American priests and bishops

working at the Vatican.

He was named a papal chaplain, with the title of monsignor, in March of 1971, by Pope Paul VI.

His appointment by Pope Paul VI as Bishop of Savannah was made during a Consistory held on March 5, 1973, at the Vatican. He received episcopal ordination in St. John the Baptist Cathedral of Savannah on April 27, 1973.

Rev. Albert Lafreniere, son of Edward and Bridget (Sabourin) Lafreniere, was born on May 17, 1894, in Chebovan, Michigan. The family later lived in Sault St.



**Rev. Lafreniere**

Marie, Michigan, for three years. In March, 1898, they came to North Dakota, where they lived on a farm in Acton Township.

He went to school in Acton Township until 1906, then transferred to St. Aloysius Academy in Oakwood for the next four years. In 1910 to 1912, he went to school in Cartier, Manitoba, where he began his studies for priesthood.

In August, 1912, he went to France, and for the next eight years, he continued his studies for priesthood. He was ordained in June, 1921.

After a few months vacation at home, he returned to France to resume his studies and to teach at the seminary.

In 1928, he returned home and accepted a mission at Dumas, Saskatchewan. After a few years he returned to North Dakota where he served at different missions and parishes. He died on Aug. 25, 1958, at Enderlin, N. Dak., where he was then stationed.

Rev. Father Albert J. Lafreniere, first pupil of St. Aloysius Academy of Oakwood to become priest.

Rev. Daniel Pilon, son of Jerome and Mae Pilon, born March 26, 1950, in Drayton, N. Dak. The first eight years of his education was completed at St. Aloysius Academy,



**Rev. Pilon**

Oakwood. He then went to Cardinal Muench Seminary for his high school and college education, graduating in the fall of 1971. After that, he worked at St. Anthony's Parish at Fargo, N. Dak., for a few months. In the fall of 1972, he began studying theology at St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. Three years later, in 1975, he spent about five months as Deacon internship in Holy Family Parish at Grand Forks, N. Dak. He was ordained to priesthood by Bishop Justin Driscoll on May 30, 1976, in Sacred Heart Church, Oakwood. Bishop Raymond Lessard, a relative of Father Pilon, attended the ordination.

Father Daniel Pilon's assignments were the following.

He spent one year at Holy Spirit, Fargo, N. Dak.; the next year at St. James, Jamestown, N. Dak.; after a year there, he was assigned to St. Mary's of Grand Forks, N. Dak.,



where he served for two years. On July 1, 1980, he was appointed pastor of Lankin.

Father Daniel Pilon is also involved with a movement, called the "Beginning Experience," a ministry to divorced and widowed persons. On June 1, 1980, he was appointed as an advocate for the Fargo Diocesan Tribunal.



**Rev. Father Jos. Berne, ordained priest in Sacred Heart Church of Oakwood Sept. 18, 1906.**



**Father Clement Kubesh was ordained in 1933 for the Diocese of Omaha. He had his first Mass at Drayton, N. Dak. He is now retired from parish work and lives in Nebraska.**



**Sister Victoria Marie (M. Victoria Carriveau) and Sister Aloyse (Rebecca Carriveau).**



**Rev. Sister Marie Emile de Jesus (nee Eugenie Trudeau).**



**Sister St. Emile Joseph, Sister St. Philippe, Sister St. Elzear, all daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Emile Garant of Oakwood.**



**Sister Eugene Marie**



**Sister Bernice Rheau (deceased).**





Area women who joined a religious order: front row, left to right, Sister Eugene Marie Rheaume, Maryvale, Valley City, N. Dak.; Sister Elzear Garant, Maryvale, Valley City, N. Dak.; Sister Mary Edward Lafreniere (deceased); Sister Mary Aloys Corriveau, St. Andrew's Hospital, Bottineau, N. Dak.; Sister

Victoria Corriveau; Sister M. Herma Chale; back row, Sister Delvina Rheaume (deceased); Sister Mary Patrick Gallagher, Maryvale, Valley City, N. Dak.; Sister Mary Theresa Lessard, Maryvale, Valley City, N. Dak.; Sister Rose Therese Sevigny, St. Louis Convent, Princeton, Ill.; and Sister M. Odile des Anges Chale.

## Pastors Who Have Served The Parish

William Milne, was born in Mayville, N. Dak., on July 9, 1914; professed as Benedictine July 11, 1934; (Father Anthony) ordained in Richardton June 23, 1940; B. A. from



**Fr. Milne**

St. Martin's College, Olympia, Wash., June, 1941; was professor at the Abbey, 1941-43; temporary pastor at Crown Butte, Aug. 20, 1943 to June 26, 1944; assigned at Odense from June 26, 1944 to Oct. 12, 1944; was administrator at Starkweather, Oct. 12, 1944 to Oct. 14, 1945; assistant at Huff, Oct. 15, 1945 to Jan. 7, 1946; pastor at Amidon, Feb. 3, 1946 to July 1, 1946; returned to Abbey as infirmarian and professor; attended Notre Dame in biology, summer of 1960; was chaplain at St. Benedict's Home, August, 1961; and returned to Abbey to teach, Nov. 23, 1965; then to Grafton in August, 1968. He was chaplain at the hospital in Grafton, August, 1968; administrator of Oakwood, June, 1969; pastor at St. Thomas Church, St. Thomas, Dec. 31, 1970; suffered massive heart attack in 1973, now retired at Assumption Abbey, Richardton, N. Dak.



**Monsignor  
Thomas Hendrickson**  
July 1967-Aug. 1968



**Father Schuster**  
July 1968-July 1969



**Father Dickinson**  
Jan. 1971-Aug. 1972



# The Parish Surviving

This final chapter in our centennial history of Sacred Heart Church of Oakwood opens with the arrival of Father J. L. Bastien on August 6, 1924, succeeding Father J. H. Forbes as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish. Father Bastien was ordained to the priesthood on Dec. 19, 1908, at St. James Cathedral, Montreal, by the Most Rev. Paul Bruchesi for the Diocese of St. Boniface. After the mission fields of Manitoba, Ontario, and parts of Minnesota, he came to the Fargo Diocese in 1919 and served at Olga, N. Dak., for five years prior to his arrival in Oakwood in 1924.

The energy of his character proved him to be a giant in the performance of his pastoral duties. His cheerful voice and radiant smile drew the love and admiration of the people he served. Shortly after arriving in Oakwood, he began the task of liquidating the \$6,000.00 debt of the parish. Through his well organized fund raising campaigns, along with the full cooperation of the people, he satisfied the mortgage in July of 1927. With the help of parishioners he wired and installed the first electrical system in the church. This system was powered by a Delco located in the rectory, which had been left to the parish as a gift by his predecessor, Father Forbes. As the parish became financially sound, he completed other improvements such as the reinforcement of the ceiling in the church and enlargement of the gallery. He laid a cement floor in the greater part of the church basement and transformed it into a parish hall that soon became the center of numerous joyful activities. In 1931 he undertook the task of having the cemetery surveyed and platted and recorded in the county records. The first of his major renovations occurred in 1938 when he had the interior of the church decorated by O. J. Kaver & Sons of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Though the decor was not the most elegant nor the most expensive, it was most beautiful and appropriate and of enduring quality and enhanced the splendid appearance of the church.



**Father J. L. Bastien**

The following year he erected a very artistic set of stations of the cross designed by the St. Paul Statuary Co. To complete the good appearance of the church, he had the sanctuary carpeted and equipped with oak furnishings. Neither did he overlook the rectory, for there he built a sun porch and the house was painted both interiorly and exteriorly. Not only did he work for the improvements of his parish, but took a genuine interest in the progress of the community as a whole.

Such an occasion occurred in 1939. No one in all of Walsh County, perhaps, worked harder than he to bring rural electrification to this area of the Red River Valley. His next major improvement was one that he had sought for a long time. But with the coming of the war years, his plans were curtailed and he could not proceed with the improvement. However, he did not remain idle, but organized and prepared plans for the day when he would be able to make his finest enhancement of the church he loved so well. His ambition was realized in 1946, when he installed exquisite stained glass windows throughout the church. The windows were supplied by the Columbia Stained Glass Co. of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at a cost of \$5,583.00. The large Sacred Heart window in the sanctuary was the gift of the pastor himself, who set an example for the families of the parish to purchase the remaining windows. In spite of all his undertakings in 1946, he also equipped both the church and rectory with modern oil heating units at a cost of \$2,811.61. In 1947, the arduous planner ended his series of renovations by covering the floor of the church with Holstein rubber tiling, shortly before the multi-colored medallion windows were blessed in a special ceremony by Bishop Dworshak. Though most of the temporal gains of his administration were made for the church itself, he did not overlook the spiritual and temporal needs of the school, as we have seen in our reading of the previous chapter on "The School Era."

As it is with every good shepherd, the spiritual deeds of Father Bastien were not outdone by his many splendid material and temporal accomplishments. He instilled in the hearts of his people a deep love for the Mass and sacraments by celebrating every major feast of the church and any special event, even though minor, with great dignity and devotion. We can imagine with what enthusiasm he gave himself to a major celebration such as the first Solemn High Mass of Father Leo Gourde on June 23, 1942, or to the observance of the golden anniversary of the first Mass at Oakwood in 1930.

With every class of people he left a mark that distinguished him as a true friend and was held in high esteem everywhere he was known. He delighted in meeting and being with people. Hence, a get together, a feast, a picnic, or any social function always pleased him. The last social event of his life was one of the most enjoyable moments of his career at Oakwood. On Sunday, August 7, 1949, Father Bastien had gone to Park River following his morning Mass, to participate in some parish celebration or other. About an hour after the dinner he was called to the telephone and informed by one of his parishioners that Bishop Dworshak was in Oakwood and wanted to see him. Somewhat puzzled by this message, since the Bishop had just left Park River, presumably on his way back to Fargo, he quickly returned home. As he arrived, he did not have to speak to the Bishop to know what the message was all about. Picnic tables were set up all over the church grounds, and the entire parish had gathered with the Bishop and neighboring priests to celebrate his twenty-fifth anniversary, as pastor of Oakwood. He was completely overjoyed and throughout the afternoon greeted every parishioner, shaking hands and expressing his most heartfelt gratitude. However, three Sundays later, the people became aware that their pastor was ill. By the evening of August 30th, he was dead. The angel of death had sounded the trumpet call for him. "The sudden death of your pastor leaves an altar without a sacrifice, a confessional without an absolving hand, and a pulpit without a voice," said Rt. Rev. Msgr. J. C. Paille, Dean, St. Agathe of the Archdioceses of St. Boniface on the occasion of the funeral of the Rev. Joseph Ludger Bastien at Oakwood, North Dakota. He is buried in Sacred Heart Cemetery, directly in front of the large cross he himself erected. He is the only pastor-priest buried here.



One of the replacements between Father Bastien's and Father Richard's reign was Father Matthias J. Justen, C.Ss.R. who was in Oakwood during the time of the flood. To occupy himself during those days he busied himself with the laborious task of transcribing all the original parish records.

In the early summer of 1950 Father Richard was appointed by (that time) Archbishop Muench as new pastor of the Sacred Heart Church. He was pastor for 18 years. Many improvements were also made — a new sound-proof confessional, automatic bell ringer, kitchen equipment and ceiling tile for the basement. The parish house was not overlooked. The living-room, kitchen, and bath room were all remodeled. During his pastorate three young men were ordained to the priesthood.



**Father A. J. Richard**

Father A. J. Richard, born at Wild Rice, N.D., was ordained June 11, 1938, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Fargo, N. Dak.

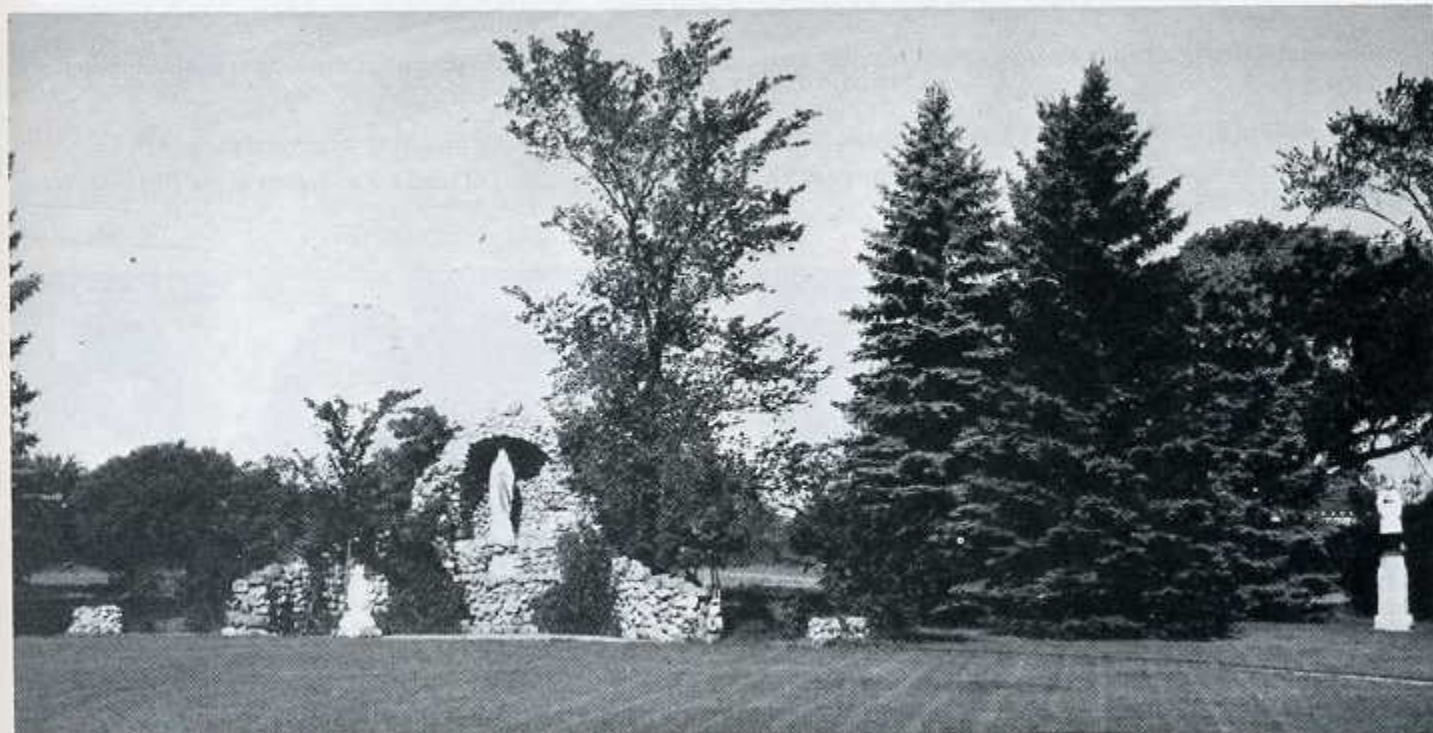
It was my privilege to serve as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish of Oakwood from July 1, 1950, to March 31, 1967. Through the grace of God, the help of the sisters, St. Aloysius Academy, and the good holy faith of the parishioners, much more than my achievements, I look back upon those years as the happiest of my priestly life.

It seems evident that the Lord blessed those years abundantly, for they were marked with many memorable events and happenings never to be forgotten. How could I ever forget the building of the Shrine of our Lady of Lourdes, at a time when I was seriously ill in St. Mary's Hospital at Rochester; the beautiful celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of the parish together with the Golden anniversary of St. Aloysius Academy; the coming home of Bishop Raymond Lessard following his ordination to the priesthood in Rome; the ordination of Father Joseph Campbell in the parish church; the pilgrimage to Rome with many relatives and friends for the ordination of Father Kenneth Gallagher; a Danny Pilon asking to go to the seminary; a Douglas French seeking a religious order where he could devote his life to teaching as a lay brother; a Clarabelle Sevigny telling me of her decision to enter the convent; and many others worthy of note that must remain unmentioned for the sake of a brief resume.

On the lighter side, there were all the happy times in social visits and meals with the sisters. There were the fun times with the students at recreation in the school yard. But especially in the winter, on the hockey rink. Even in the later years, when the young fast skaters kidded me about being too fat and too old to keep up with them.

It is now 14 years later, and perhaps there has been no further increase in heft, but along with that it is also good to say that, I am not yet ready to call myself old. God willing then, I await the occasion to meet ever so many who were part of the Oakwood scene in the 50's and 60's — and others too, of all ages — at the June Centennial Celebration.

In the summer of 1952 a prolonged drought threatened to reduce the growing crops to complete failure. It was then that an



**The Shrine, summer of 1980.**



appeal was made to the people to make a contribution towards the erection of a shrine in honor of Our Blessed Lady. The people cheerfully responded and a shrine was constructed, just across the road from the academy. In late October the people again got together to do some more work on the shrine. But this time it was in Thanksgiving, their prayers had been answered. After some much needed rain, a good crop was harvested.

But their pastor, Father Richard, could not be with them this time, as he was at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., undergoing major surgery. No doubt God was well pleased with the work the people of Oakwood were performing in Mary's honor and He granted them a second request, which was the quick recovery of their pastor and his return to his parish.

In subsequent years, during the month of May, each evening the weather permitting, Father Richard, the Sisters and the children from the academy and many of the parishioners gathered at the shrine to say the rosary in tribute to Our Holy Mother.

The shrine adds much to the beauty of the Oakwood village, especially at night when it is lit up. The shrine can also be a reminder to the people that they too can appeal to Our Blessed Mother that she interceded with Her Divine Son for any assistance they may need.

It should also be remembered that during the time that Father Richard was here, the liturgical changes were implemented during the Ecumenical Council. Father Richard left in 1967 and he was replaced by Monsignor Thomas Hendrikson in July, 1967, who remained only a year and left the following August. During the time he was here, general improvements to the rectory were made.

Father Schuster was pastor next arriving in August of 1968. Much redecorating was done in the main body of the church. New electrical fixtures were added and a new altar. A stairway from the vestibule to the basement was built. The basement too got a face lift with the old floor being replaced with a new concrete floor. Father Schuster left Oakwood in July 7, 1969. He was followed by Father Anthony Milne who was appointed in July, 1969. Father Milne ministered to the spiritual needs of the State School children as well as taking care of the Oakwood parish. He was instrumental in starting our present CCD Program. He also finished the decorating of the church which was begun by Father Schuster. Father Milne was assigned to the St. Thomas parish in January, 1971.

Father Stephen Dickenson came at that time and was with us a very short while. While he was here a new electric organ was purchased. He was a very busy priest as he was active in social work in surrounding communities. He left Oakwood August, 1972.

Father Patrick O'Connell came to us Aug. 15, 1972, and is still with us today. During his tenure much has been done to improve the looks of our church. The interior was repainted, a new large cross added in the sanctuary replacing the statue of the Sacred Heart which was moved to the vestibule, electric fans were installed in the ceiling for circulation, and the attic was insulated. The exterior of the buildings was painted and the roof shingled. The outside steps were remodeled and carpeted and a wrought iron railing added. The north entrance also received paneling and carpet. We have recently been the proud recipients of a baptismal fountain and a paschal candle stand. A sign with the Mass schedule has been built on the grounds and a new cross with image placed in the cemetery in time for the centennial celebration.

The basement had two electric furnaces installed, carpeting, paneling and new drapes have also been added. In the kitchen another sink was donated with a cupboard built to accommodate it, and water was plumbed into the sacristy.

A new look was given to the parish house as a new washroom was added, and drapery and carpeting in the living room and dining room.

The Ladies of St. Anne of yesteryears has become the Oakwood Altar Society. It is for all the women of the parish.

There are no organized societies for men on the parish level; however, a number of men are members of the Bishop O'Reilly Council of Knights of Columbus at Grafton.



**1980 Altar Society Officers: left to right, Florence French, Elaine Collette, and Louise Sevigny.**



**1981 Altar Society Officers: left to right, Margaret Gourde, Renae Zok, and Joyce Lessard.**



Athletics play an important and wholesome part in the modern community. Ed Gourde, past secretary-treasurer of the hockey team, has stated that when the hockey team was disbanded, the money was put into savings where it remained for a number of years, until the Oakwood Softball Team was re-organized, at which time it was agreed upon to transfer it to the softball team.



**Oakwood Softball Team, 1980, sponsored by J.R.'s Bar, Lois and Junior Penas, owners. Players, left to right, top row: Daryl Campbell, Noel Pilon, Greg Sevigny, Lars McMillan, Kevin Fredrickson, Todd Mattson, Scott Gourde, Al Durand, Don Demers (coach), Ray Zok (manager), and Paul Dolan; bottom, left to right: Brian Pilon, Bob Dolan, Rodney Demers, Frank Dolan, Lois and Junior, Greg Elde, Gene French (coach), and Dean Collette.**



It is interesting to note that on this very day that we are celebrating our 100th anniversary as a parish, Father Pat is celebrating his 75th birthday anniversary. It is through his diligence and hard work that we, although small, are still a parish.

Happy Birthday Father!

**Our sincerest thanks to all who have contributed in any way to the Oakwood Sacred Heart Centennial Celebration. Some pictures of the present generation were not available at the time of printing. A special thanks should also go to those who have donated their time and money for different projects undertaken and improvements made in and out of Sacred Heart Church and church premises of the Oakwood parish.**

## GLEANINGS FROM THE PARISH FILES

### Statistics

Baptisms: 2,091	First Communions: 1,170
Marriages: 417	Confirmations: 1,133
Funerals: 606	Number of Parishioners: 310

### Priests since Father Richard

Thomas Hendrikson	Anthony Milne O.S.B.
Robert H. Schuster	Stephen A. Dickinson
Patrick O'Connell	

## The War Years

From the VFW and Legion records come these names of those who served their country. During the Civil War Henry Allard and Leon Richards are listed as deceased.

During World War I those who served and are deceased are: Roch Campbell, John B. Currie, Ed Dolan, Joe Garant, Raoul Lessard, Napoleon Lessard, and Simeon Sevigny.

During the Second World War, fifty-two members were in the armed forces. Two paid the supreme sacrifice. They are Pfc. Adelard LaCoste, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Louis LaCoste, on March 6, 1945, and Pfc. Lawrence Lessard, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Philias Lessard, on April 11, 1945. Deceased World War II veterans are: Lyonel Collette, Wilfred Demers, Alphonse Gourde, Adelard LaCoste, Lawrence Lessard, Charles LeFebvre, Allen Rheume, Dave Samson, Alfred Sevigny.

Some members of the parish also saw action in the Korean War. There were no fatal casualties, but two decorations, a Purple Heart, and an Oak Leaf Cluster, were awarded to Sfc. Dominic Collette.

A number of our parishioners saw action in the Vietnam conflict also. However, it is impossible to acquire the names as they were sent to Bismarck.





Present Trustees or Lay Directors as now known: left, John B. Sevigny, and right, Donald Dolan and Pastor Rev. Patrick O'Connell, center. (1981)



Present Lay Ministers: Raymond Rocksvold and Edmond Campbell. They are also past Trustees.



Edmond E. Demars and Edmund J. Dolan, Lay Directors during the 75th Anniversary.



Past Trustees or Lay Directors as now known, since 1930 and the present Pastor Rev. Patrick O'Connell: top row, left to right, Raymond Dolan, Edward LeClerc, Fargial Gallagher, Edward Demers, Edmond Campbell, Donald Demers, Alan Collette, Hiladore Osowski; bottom row, Victor Lessard, William Campbell, Rev. Patrick O'Connell, John

Schumann, and Edmond E. Demars. Not pictured are Oscar Pilon, Yakima, Wash.; Alcide Collette, Valley Memorial Home, Grand Forks, N. Dak.; and Ray Rocksvold. John Schumann and Oscar Pilon were lay directors in 1930 for the 50th anniversary of the celebration of the First Mass in the Sacred Heart Parish, Oakwood, N. Dak.





**The Baptismal Font and Paschal candle holder.**



**David Collette, the organist.**



**Choir members: back row, left to right, David Collette (organist), Dean Collette, Edward Demers, Edmund Campbell, John Sevigny, Louis Collette; second row, Alma Collette, Daniel Collette, Laurie**

**Johnson, Kathy Lessard, Irene Demers; front row, Mrs. Edward (Irene) Demers Bernadette Gallagher, Joyce Lessard, Verna Gourde, Elaine Collette and Florence French.**





**Council members: standing, left to right, Philip Sevigny, Gary Fisher, Edward Gourde, Wilmer Collette, Paul Dolan; seated, Geraldine French, John Sevigny, Father Pat O'Connell, Alan Collette, and Mae Pilon.**



**Members of the 1981 Council are Dennis Leclerc, Frances Seeba and Melvin Durand.**





Father Pat and altar boys: left to right, Father Patrick O'Connell, Jay Collette, Chad Fisher, Steven

Demers, Troy Mattson, Dean French, Michael Demers and Robert Osowski. Absent was Scott Hershey.



Past Pastor of Sacred Heart Church of Oakwood and a group of Trustees: upper row, J. C. Deschenes, Eugene Rheaume, Alcide French, Hermas Chales, William Collette; lower row, Patrick Gallagher, Oscar Pilon, Rev. J. L. Bastien, Arthur Collette, and Pierre Lacoste. (1930)



Rev. Patrick O'Connell, pastor of Sacred Heart Church.



Sacred Heart Church of Oakwood Centennial Co-Chairmen: left, John B. Sevigny and right, Alan Collette. (1981)



# Present Day Generation



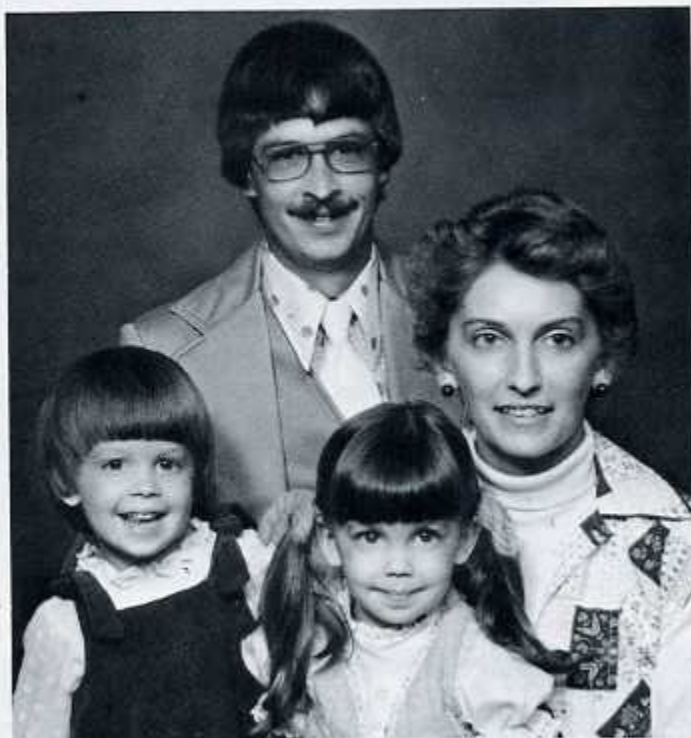
A. Dean Berry, son of Walter Berry and Juliette (Pelletier) Berry of Bowesmont, N. Dak., (both parents are deceased) and Susan Berry, daughter of Leonard Sass (deceased) and Cecilia (French) Sass, and their son, Alan Scot.



Cecil Bessette (deceased), son of Charles and Cecilia (Garant) Bessette, married Helen Duquette, daughter of Ernest and Delina (Chounard) Duquette. They have a daughter, Jeanette (Mrs. Clem Petrick), and a son, George.



Stanley Bessette (deceased), son of Charles or Charley Bessette and Cicilia (Garant) Bessette, married Adeline Patnaude, daughter of Louie and Elizabeth (Chounard) Patnaude, and their three sons, sitting forward, Francis (oldest), Rene, and Gene, kneeling.



Alan Bolek, son of Henry and Agnes (Gourde) Bolek of Grafton, N. Dak., married Eileen Schanilec, daughter of Lewis and Julia (Kubesh) Schanilec of rural route, Pisek, N. Dak. Alan and Eileen's daughters are Jalene Nancy (left) and Karie Jo (right).



Oswald Campbell, son of Arsen Campbell and Flora (Campbell) Campbell, and Martha, daughter of Frank and Martha (Kroll) Pinta. They have four children - Mrs. Joe (Geraldine) Welharticky, Lowell Campbell, Mrs. Jay (Colleen) Jones, Mrs. Kevin (Devra) Olmstead.





Raymond Campbell, son of Roch Campbell and Lydia (Pagote) Campbell, married Bertha Collette, daughter of Elzear and Aurore (Demers) Collette. In the back row, Daryl (left), and Lynn (right); with her parents is Kelly, their daughter.



Vernon Cyr, son of Louis and Agnes (Bourgeois) Cyr, and Mary Lou, daughter of Robert Gagner and Rose (Mercil) Gagner. They moved to Grafton with their family of four daughters and two sons in 1969 from Oklee, Minn. In July of 1980, they moved to Oakwood. Pictured from left to right, top row, Lou, attending N.D.S.U. in Fargo, Mrs. Danny (Carol) LaHaise, Joanie Cyr of Eugene, Ore., and Bob; front row, Helen with the U.S. Army at Fort Lewis, Wash., Vern, Mary and David, a senior at Grafton Central.



Roch Campbell, son of Joseph and Alphonsine (Harel) Campbell, and Lydia, daughter of Joseph and Lucy (Fortier) Pageotte. Both of them are deceased — Roch, August of 1980 and Lydia Jan. 31, 1981. They had three sons and one daughter — pictured are Raymond, Edward, and George, all of Grafton, and Mrs. Al (Lucille) Piche of Washougal, Wash.



Alan Collette, son of Almond and Diana (Primeau) Collette, married Susan, daughter of Steve and Aurelia (Kosmatka) Hudacko, in 1960. Seated, left to right, Alan, Suellen, Susan; standing, Nancy, Darryl, and Cynthia.

Elzear Collette (deceased), son of William and Naomi (Patnaude) Collette, married Leona, daughter of Charles and Annie (Perrault) Grouette in 1939. Pictured from left to right, standing, Mrs. Harry (Gladys) Misialek, Mrs. Marvin (Jane) Pilon, Mrs. Raymond (Bertha) Campbell, Wilmer, Mrs. Edgar (Lucille) Lafreniere, Mrs. Jerome (Alice Mae) LaHaise and Mrs. Raphael (Adelaine) Schuster; front, Elzear, Edgar and Leona.





**Mrs. Elzear Collette (Leona), second wife.**



**Roland Collette Family.** Roland, son of Arthur and Louise (Campbell) Collette, and Elaine, daughter of Joseph and Lillian (Pearson) Kliniske, formerly of St. Thomas, N. Dak. Their children are Patti, Vonda, Jay and Carrie Jo. They reside at the former home of his parents, about two miles from Oakwood.



**Louis Collette Family.** Louis, son of Silvio and Maria (French) Collette, and his wife, Alma, daughter of Edward and Emma (Demers) Sevigny. They have one son, Dean. All three have been life long members of the Oakwood choir.



**Romeo Collette,** son of Arthur and Louisa (Campbell) Collette, a single man has lived in the parish all of his life.



**Maurice D. Collette Family.** Maurice D., son of Alcide and Beatrice (DeSautel) Collette, married Isabel Corriveau, daughter of Alcidas and Margaret (Krier) Corriveau, in 1948. They have two children – Mrs. Tom (Bonnie) Kavanaugh of West Fargo, and Donald of White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.



**Wilmer Collette Family.** Wilmer, son of Elzear and Aurore (Demers) Collette, married Lorraine (Dolly) Riske, daughter of Joe H. and Stella (Stanislowski) Riske. They have six children: left to right, standing, Dolly, Mrs. Mike (Sandra) McGraw, Sharon Collette, Mrs. Sam (Marcia) Morey, Mrs. Jim (Paulette) Carpenter, Wilmer; seated, Mrs. Ben (Michele) Rusness and Scott.





**Albert Demers Family.** Albert, son of Daniel and Albina (Primeau) Demers, Sr., married Amanda Durand, daughter of William and Eugenie (Gourde) Durand. They have two daughters – left, Mrs. Anthony (June) French and right, Mrs. Paul (Grace) Brodeur.



**Donald Demers Family.** Donald, son of Frederick and Clarabell (Campbell) Demers of Oakwood, married Alice Suda, daughter of Joseph A. and Mary (Karnik) Suda of Veseleyville. From left to right, standing, Janet, Gene, Leanne, Guy and Cheri; seated are Alice and Donald.



**Edward Demers,** son of Daniel Demers, Sr., and Albina (Primeau) Demers, and Irene French, daughter of Alcide and Delima (Sampson) French, and their family. Two sons, Myron (elder) married Shirley Leclerc, daughter of Edward and Anna (Lussier) Leclerc. They have five children – Guy Edward, Mike Anthony, Scott Richard, Pamela Ann, and John Thomas. Rodney married Romona Shereck, daughter of Bennie and Sylvia (Kosobud) Shereck, Grafton. They have three children – Kevin James, Kathleen Ann, Lisa Marie. Pictured left to right, standing, Mike, Rodney, Guy, Shirley, Myron and Scott; seated, Kevin, Irene, Romona, Lisa, Katie in center, Pam Edward, and John.



**Duane Demers Family.** Duane, son of Ovila and Irene (French) Demers, married Mary Ann Suda, daughter of Frank A. and Antoinette (Karnik) Suda of Veseleyville. They live in the village and are the parents of six children – left to right, standing, Steve, Cathy, Brian, Mike; seated, Mary Ann, Connie, Laurie and Duane.



**Edmond Demers Family.** Edmond, son of Arthur and Obeline (Collette) Demers, married Amanda Samson, daughter of Joseph and Mary Ann (LaBerge) Samson. They have three children – David, William and Rosemary.





**Frederick Demers Family.** Frederick, son of Daniel Demers, Sr., and Albina (Primeau) Demers, married Clarabell Campbell, daughter of Victor and Philomena (Collette) Campbell. Standing, left to right, Donald, Ronald; seated, Clarabell, Frederick and Mrs. Philip (Mary Jane) Seigny. They operated the Oakwood Tavern. Frederick passed away in 1979.



**Greg DeGeldere Family.** Greg, son of Edward and Frances (Carlson) DeGeldere of Drayton, N. Dak., married Jill Kliniski, daughter of Steve (deceased) and Ruth (Robinson) Kliniski of Grafton. They have a son, Jason, seven years, and a daughter, Heather, three years.



**Dan Demers Family.** Dan, son of the late Daniel Demers, Sr., and the late Albina (Primeau) Demers, married Theresa Gourde, daughter of Domicile and Irene (French) Gourde (both deceased). They had two sons and two daughters – Dan and Gary live on the farm north of Oakwood, formerly owned by Daniel D. Demers, Sr. Pictured, left to right, Gary, Mrs. Thomas (Carol) Almond, Mrs. Adus (Marjorie Ann) Dorsey, and Orell.



**Ovila Demers, son of Daniel Demers and Albina (Primeau) Demers, married Irene French. Ovila died in 1962.**

Irene French, born Nov. 14, 1912, daughter of Andrew and Aurore (LaBerge) French, married Ovila Demers, son of Daniel and (Albina Primeau) Demers, on Nov. 13, 1933. They have always lived in the Oakwood village where Ovila owned his own auto repair shop. Ovila died on June 3, 1962. Irene is a member of the church choir. The couple had four children – one son, Duane, Mrs. Robert (Diane) Peterson, Mrs. Gene (Mary Ann) French, and Mrs. Dale (Yvonne) Welter.



**Simeon Demers Family.** Simeon, son of Daniel and Albina (Primeau) Demers, and Margaret Collette, daughter of Arthur and Louisa (Campbell) Collette, were married in 1943. They have lived in this area all their lives and have been members of the Sacred Heart Church. From left to right, back row, Debbie (youngest), Mrs. Gerry (Judie) Walz, Mrs. Christian (Darlene) Hansen, III, Mrs. David (Linda) Schmitz, Anne; bottom row, (insert) Joanne the oldest, Dale, Margaret, Helen Jane, Simeon and son, Wayne.





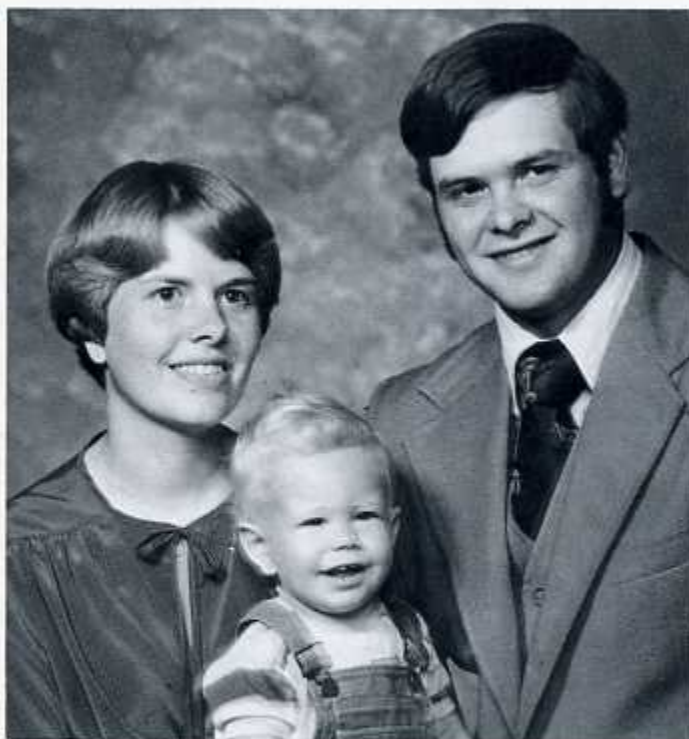
**Halward Dipple Family.** Halward, born at Acton Township to Henry and Adeline (Carpenter) Dipple, married Beatrice Plutowski, daughter of Leo and Helen (Rogalla) Plutowski, in 1948. They are parents of three children: pictured are Dennis who farms with Halward; Don Schilling, son-in-law; Mrs. Don (Helen Kay) Schilling; and Carol, far right.



**Donald Dolan Family.** Donald, son of Edmond (deceased) and Mary (McBride) Dolan of Grafton, formerly of Illinois and Iowa, married Judy Coffey, daughter of George and Clara (Mach) Coffey of Minto. They live on a farm north and west of Oakwood. They are the parents of one son and four daughters. Pictured from left to right, standing, Patrick, Theresa, Maureen; sitting, Judy, Gail, Kathleen and Donald.



**Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Dolan**



**Paul Dolan Family.** Paul, son of Raymond and Henrietta (Barta) Dolan, married Barb Hills, daughter of Jonathan (Jon) and Veronica (Campbell) Hills. They are pictured with their son, Jeffrey.



**Eugene Dolan Family.** Eugene, son of Edmond (deceased) and Mary (McBride) Dolan, married Lucille Lacerte, daughter of Origene and Charlotte (Baillergeon) Lacerte in St. Boniface, Manitoba, in April of 1949. They have five children — Thomas, who farms with his father; Mrs. G. L. (Patricia) Carmichael; Mrs. Mark (Mary Lou) Walker; Connie Lynn and Ronald. An infant son, James Patrick, died at the age of three weeks.





**Ray Dolan Family.** Ray, son of Edmond (deceased) and Mary (McBride) Dolan of Grafton, and Henrietta Barta, daughter of Henry and Johanna (Kubesh) Barta, were married at Veseleyville in 1946. They have five sons and one daughter, Mrs. Robert (Eileen) LaBerge. They also have six grandchildren, the youngest being Michael LaBerge who isn't pictured, son of Eileen and Robert LaBerge. Richard and Beverly (Hamilton) Dolan have four children – David, Chris, Steven and Katie; and Paul and Barb (Hills) Dolan have one son, Jeffrey. Pictured left to right, standing, Frank, Robert, Richard, Eileen, Robert LaBerge, Dennis (the youngest), Paul; seated, David, Ray, Beverly holding Katie, Steven, Barb with Jeffrey, Henrietta and Chris.



**Melvin Durand Family.** Melvin, son of Wilfred and Arbella (Demers) Durand, married Cecilia Kliniske, daughter of Joseph and Lillian (Pearson) Kliniske, at St. Thomas in 1960. They are the parents of Alan, Barbara, Carla and Dale, and reside in the village.



**Anthony French Family.** Anthony (or Tony), son of Homer and Clarinda (Campbell) French, married June Demers, daughter of Albert and Amanda (Durand) Demers. They live on the farm, formerly lived in by his father, Homer, east of Oakwood. They have nine children – left to right, back row, Lon (oldest son), Robyn, Renae, Jay; front row, Mrs. James (Cindy) Fugleberg, Luanne, June, Tony, Tracy, Mary Beth and Mrs. Howard (Nancy) Erickson.



**Gary Fisher Family.** Gary, son of Herman William and Mary (Kennelly) Fisher, married Rosemary Bolek, daughter of Henry and Agnes (Gourde) Bolek, Aug. 3, 1966. They have three children – Chad, Kim, seated by Gary, and Jaime, seated by Rosemary.



**Jeffrey Gourde Family.** Jeffrey, son of Joseph and Alphonsina (Campbell) Gourde, Jr., married Margaret Sevigny, daughter of Philorum and Laura (Proulx) Sevigny. They have four children – standing, left to right, Scott, Regan, Sandra and Peggy.





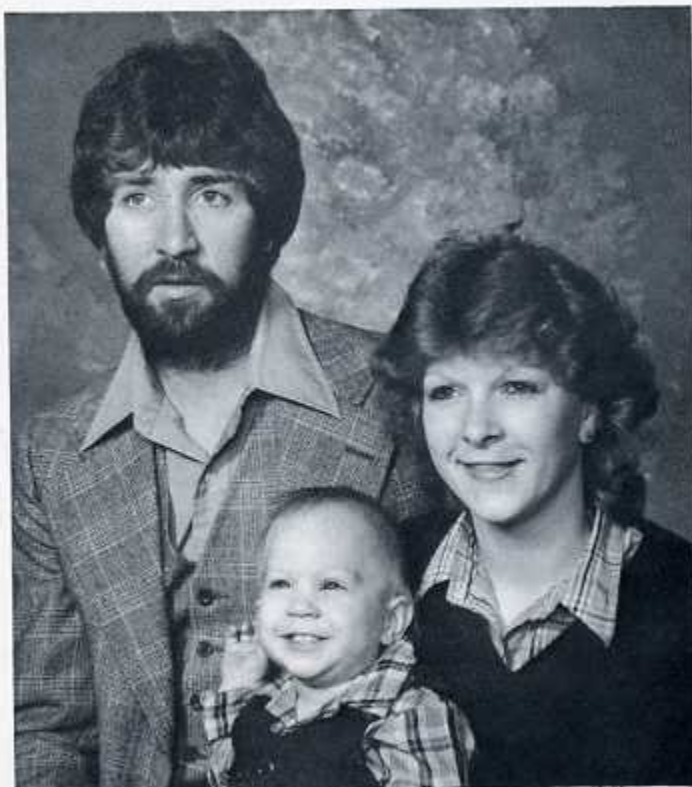
**Charles French Family.** Charles, oldest son of Homer and Clarinda (Campbell) French, married Florence Osowski, daughter of Frank and Helen Osowski. Their five children are, top row, left to right: Peter (youngest son), Charlette (Foley), Mike and Greg. Oldest daughter, Mary (Eng), is seated with the parents.



**Eugene French,** son of Joe and Alma (Lafreniere) French, Sr., and Mary Ann Demers, daughter of Ovila and Irene (French) Demers, and their children, Sandra Rae, Dean Michael and Russell James (insert) deceased Jan. 9, 1978, age 6.



**Mrs. Homer (Clarinda Campbell) French** is the oldest living member of the Sacred Heart Church to date. She will be 91 years old Aug. 31, 1981.



**Greg French,** son of Charles and Florence (Osowski) French, and Pattie, daughter of Thomas (Tom) Watkins (deceased) and Gladys (Dub) Kubesh, are pictured with their son, Justin Ryan.



**Henry French,** son of Alcide and Delima (Sampson) French, and Ernestine, daughter of Joseph and Bertha (Campbell) Lessard, and family: left to right, standing, Georgette Raymond, Mrs. James (Lorraine) McCoy, Marcel, Mrs. Laverne (Marcella) Holweg, Mrs. Daniel (Estelle) Vanyo, Wilmer; seated: Mrs. Julian (Rose) Kostecki, Mrs. Stanley (Doris) Langowski, Henry, wife Ernestine, Mrs. Donald (Blanche) Snyder, Annabelle French; lower front, Mrs. Donald (Jane) Osowski, Mrs. William (Geraldine) DeRocco, and Mrs. Amie (Germaine) Pokrzywinski. Not pictured are Larry, Henry, Jr., and Clarabell.





Renee French, son of Andrew and Aurore (LaBerge) French, and Geraldine, daughter of Michael and Ethel (O'Keefe) Byrne of Minto, and their daughters, seated left, Mrs. Dayton (Michelle) Kornkven; standing, Mrs. Jim (Roberta) Wesolowski; and seated right, Mrs. Ronald (Sharon) Gourde.



Yvonne (Chale) French, daughter of Odile (Lessard) and Hermas Chale, married Ernest, son of Cyprien and Ida (Parent) French. Ernest is deceased. They had five children - Adorine Fisher, Madonna who is pictured, Lucille McDermaid, James French and Judith Ann Ziemiaki.



James Gallagher Family. James, son of pioneers Patrick and Mary (Sullivan) Gallagher, married Bernadette Collette, daughter of Silvio and Maria (French) Collette. They have one son, Lowell, pictured in the center, and a daughter, Alice, with her husband, Terry Osborne.



Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Gallagher were married in 1937 and have since then been members of the Sacred Heart Parish of Oakwood. Barney, son of Patrick and Mary (Sullivan) Gallagher, and Alma, daughter of Joseph and Mary Ann (LaBerge) Samson. They have one son, Terrance, who is married to the former Diane Seeba, and four grandchildren - Shane, Kristi, Darcy and Ron.



Mark Gallagher Family. Mark, son of Patrick and Mary (Sullivan) Gallagher (both deceased) of Cashel, married Vernetta Lessard, daughter of Joseph E. and Alphonsine (LeFebvre) Lessard, life long members of the parish. Standing, left to right, back row, Allan, Donald, Father Ken; second row, standing, Mrs. Elwood (Dorothy) Schumacher, Francis, Patrick, Mary Dahlen, Eugene; seated, Mrs. Ken (Carol) Gardner, Mark, Vernetta, and Mrs. Steve (Dianne) Schultz. (June 1, 1973).





**Albert Gourde Family.** Albert, son of Joseph and Alphonsina (Campbell) Gourde, married Verna Lessard, daughter of Joseph E. and Alphonsine (LeFebvre) Lessard. They have been life long members of the Sacred Heart Church. They have seven children – standing, back row, left to right, Daniel, Gerard, Thomas, Paul; middle row, Mrs. Kevin (Phylis) Fredricksen, Kevin, Mrs. Albert (Donna May) Zils, Verna and Albert.



**Edward Gourde Family.** Edward, son of Victor and Jeanette (Lafreniere) Gourde, married Mary Lou Houska, daughter of James H. and Mary (Schiller) Houska, in 1963. Their children – standing, left, Mark, and Darrin, right, and Kimberly is seated with her parents.



**Margaret Hershey** is the daughter of Nick and Elizabeth (Meyers) Arends. She is pictured with her two sons, Scott, left, and James.



**Roy Kringstad Family.** Roy, son of Jesse and Gladys (Melland) Kringstad of Hoople, N. D., married Renee Schall, daughter of Peter and Katherine (Dosch) Schall of Harvey, N. D. They have six children – pictured left to right, back row, Scott and Jennie (the oldest); second row, Roy, Michael and Lynette; front row, Robert, Christopher and Renee.



**Edgar Lafreniere Family.** Edgar, son of Eugene and Angeline (French) Lafreniere, married Lucille Collette, daughter of Elzear and Aurore (Demers) Collette. Front row are daughters, Charlene and Tammy; back row, left to right, Terry, Bruce and Wesley.

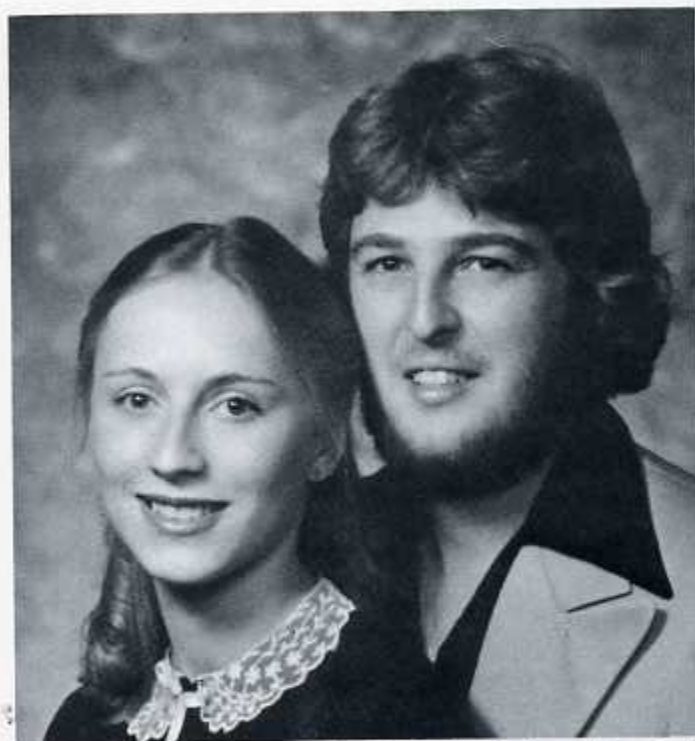


**Miss Marie Kozel,** daughter of Joseph and Barbara (Kotaska) Kozel, born near Pisek and grew up on a farm near Park River. After her mother died Marie lived with her father until he retired. He died 11 years ago, then Marie lived in Pisek for two years. She then became the housekeeper for Father Patrick O'Connell of Oakwood and has been since, 8½ years ago.





**Edward LeClerc Family.** Edward, son of Alfred and his second wife Amanda (Paquette) LeClerc, married Anna Lussier, daughter of Stanislas and Tharsile (Morin) Lussier of Mariapolis, Manitoba, Canada, in 1938. They have seven children — standing, back row, Dennis, Brian, and Richard; second row, left to right, Mrs. Wally (Marian) Hapip, Mrs. John (Dianne) Monroe, Mrs. Myron (Shirley) Demers, Mrs. Richard (Lucille) Bonlie; and front row, Anna, Mrs. John (Doris) Brown and Edward.



**Brian LeClerc, son of Edward and Anna (Lussier) LeClerc, and Betty Schnellbach, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert (Lorraine Degenstein) Schnellbach of Grafton.**



**Roman Lessard Family.** Roman, son of George and Rachel (Pilon) Lessard, married Joyce Collette, daughter of Arthur and Louisa (Campbell) Collette. Standing, left to right, Cathy, Steve and Lee; seated, Joyce, Mrs. Steve (Laurie) Johnson, and Roman.



**Frederick Lessard Family.** Frederick, son of Alfred E. and Alvina (Demers) Lessard, married Juliette Collette, daughter of Arthur and Louisa (Campbell) Collette. They are pictured with their children — Dennis, Earl, Karen and Merry.



**Roger Mattson Family.** Roger, son of Gilbert and Agnes (Nelson) Mattson of Grafton, both deceased, married JoAnn Votava, daughter of Jerome and Helena (Deschenes) Votava of Cashel, on Oct. 4, 1958, in the Sacred Heart Church of Oakwood. They lived in Grafton until Roger entered the service then came to Oakwood in 1963. The children are left to right, Troy, Todd and Tracy.





**Dennis LeClerc Family.** Dennis, son of Edward and Anna (Lussier) LeClerc, married Kim DeSautel, daughter of Norman DeSautel of Grafton and Loreen (Thompson) DeSautel of Grand Forks. They live 3½ miles east of Oakwood, in Acton Township. They have three children — Jill age eight, Scott age five, and Julie age two.



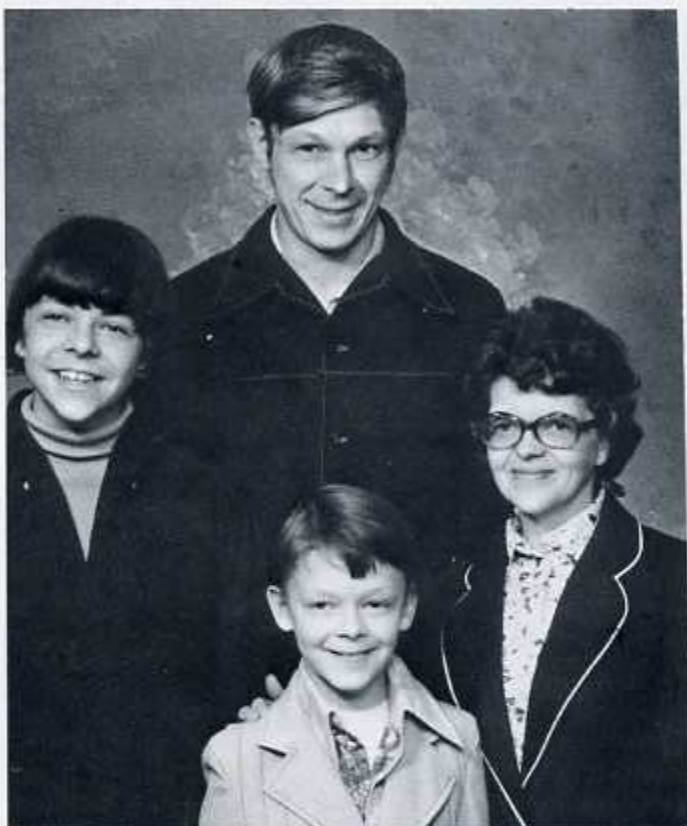
**Hiladore Osowski Family.** Hiladore, son of Frank (deceased) and Helen Osowski, married Pauline Brosius, daughter of John and Rose Ann (Currie) Brosius. Pictured left to right, standing, Terry, Paul, Veann, Rande, Hiladore, Bobby; sitting, Pauline.



**Jerome Pilon Family.** Jerome, son of Emay (deceased) and Delphine (Collette) Pilon, married Mae Rivard, daughter of Fred and Eva (Bergeron) Rivard of Oslo, Minn. From left to right, back row, Robert, David, Joan, Terrance, James, Charles, Katherine and Father Daniel Pilon; front row, Shirley, Mae, Peggy, Jerome and Jean.



**Hilary Osowski Family.** Hilary, son of Frank (deceased) and Helen Osowski, married Jeanette Dolan, daughter of Edmond (deceased) and Mary (McBride) Dolan, in 1950. They are the parents of six sons who all live in the Grafton area. Alan Osowski married Gail Prondzinski, daughter of Chester and Bernice Prondzinski of Grafton, in 1975. They are the parents of a son, Nicolas Ryan, born Aug. 3, 1980. Mark Osowski married Carol Hoenke, daughter of Charles and Ardella Hoenke in 1979. The Hilary Osowskis live on a farm nine miles east of Grafton. Pictured from left to right, back row, Lee, Tim, Jon, Dave; front, Alan, Gail holding Nicolas, Hilary, Jeanette, Carol and Mark.

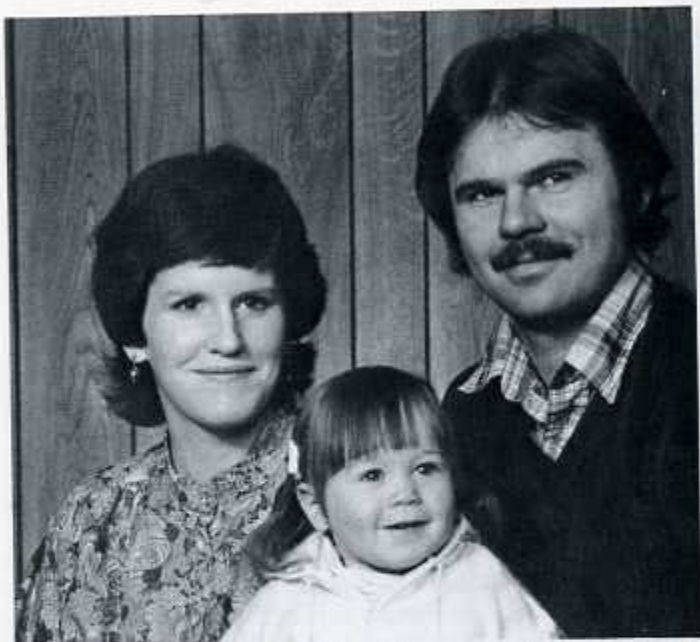


**Clem Petrick Family.** Clem, son of Matthew (Mike) and Anna (Cicha) Petrick, married Jeanette Bessette, daughter of Cecilus (Cecil) and Helen (Duquette) Bessette. Their sons are John, left, and Michael, lower front.





**Larry Salinas Family.** Larry, son of Larry Salinas, Sr., and Matilda (Molina) Salinas, married Shirley Bruce, daughter of Vernie and Lena (LaTraille) Bruce. They are the parents of three daughters – Jennifer the oldest who is standing; Teresa to the left, and Nikki.



**Jim Mihelich Family.** Jim, son of George and Beverly (Jensen) Mihelich of Grafton, formerly of Effie, Minn., married Kathleen (or Kass) Landrigan, daughter of John and Molly (Flahavan) Landrigan of St. Thomas. Their daughter is Allison Marie.



**Oliver Pilon Family.** Oliver, son of Emay and Delphine (Collette) Pilon, married Flora, daughter of Edward (deceased) and Emma (Demers) Sevigny of Grafton. Three children are pictured – Noel, to the left, Gayle, and Brian (oldest) to the right.



**Cecilia Sass,** daughter of Homer (deceased) and Clarinda (Campbell) French, married Leonard Sass, son of John and Kathrine (Prondzinski) Sass, at Oakwood. They had four daughters – Mrs. Wilbert (Patricia) Graf; Mrs. John A. (Mary Jane) Olson; Mrs. Dan (Carol) Schluchter; and Mrs. Dean (Susan) Berry.



**Cyril Seeba Family.** Cyril George, son of George and Barbara (Krier) Seeba, married Anna Gerszewski, daughter of Alexander and Stella (Paschke) Gerszewski of Argyle, Minn., Oct. 8, 1946. From left to right, Mrs. Michael (Darlene) Graetz, Rodney, Leo, Robert, Daniel and Loren, the youngest.





Leslie Seeba family on their 25th anniversary.



Leslie Seeba, son of George and Barbara (Krier) Seeba, married Frances Mozinski, daughter of Anton and Margaret (Slominski) Mozinski. He died Jan. 3, 1978. They had six children. Mrs. Terrance (Diane) Gallagher, Jerry, Ronald who died May 25, 1968, Mrs. Steve (Marlys) McDonald, Myron and Bradley, the youngest. Ten grandchildren - Shane, Kristi, Darcy and Ron Gallagher; Shawn and Chad Seeba, children of Jerry and Margie Seeba; Todd Seeba Curtin and Tonia Curtin, children of Carol (Slominski) Seeba; and Tim Curtin and Travis and Trina Seeba, children of Myron and Patricia Seeba. Pictured is Mrs. Frances Seeba and son, Bradley.



Myron Seeba Family. Myron, son of Leslie (deceased) and Frances (Mozinski) Seeba, married Patricia Sackett, daughter of Harley and Elinor (Rees) Sackett. They have two children - Travis and Trina.



Daniel Sevigny, son of Edward and Emma (Demers) Sevigny, and Louise, daughter of Bruno and Stella (Ebertowski) Osowski, were married April, 1953. They had one daughter who died when she was 12 days old and one son, Alan.



Orell Sevigny Family. Orell, son of Edward and Emma (Demers) Sevigny, married JoAnne Karnik, daughter of Charles and Beaty (Spale) Karnik. They have two daughters - Stacy, seated at the left, and Roxann Jo the baby, and one son, Edward.





**John Sevigny Family.** John, son of Philorum and Laura (Proulx) Sevigny, married Alice Grabanski, daughter of Anton and Frances (Slominski) Grabanski. They have three children, standing, left to right, LaVonne Storhaug, Cynthea Holt, and Rita Havis. Seated, John and Alice.



**Philip Sevigny Family.** Philip, son of Philorum and Laura (Proulx) Sevigny, married Mary Jane Demers, daughter of Frederick and Clarabell (Campbell) Demers. They have two sons and five daughters – back row, left to right, Julie and Randy (oldest); middle row, Brenda, Gary and Gail; front, left, Monica (youngest), and Tricia.



**Jerome Votava Family.** Jerome, son of Frank and Cecilia (Matcha) Votava, married Helena Deschenes, daughter of J. C. (Joe) and Mary Ann (Sabourin) Deschenes. Pictured from left to right, top row, Mrs. George (Joe) (Marjorie) Ellefson, Dennis, and Mrs. Byron (Rose Mary) Watterud; seated, Jerry, Mrs. Roger (Joan) Mattson, and Helena. Another daughter, Martha Helen Jean, died at 15 months. They all live in Cashel.



**Ray Zok Family.** Ray, son of Raymond J. and Mary (Maule) Zok, married Renee Stanek, daughter of Otto and Delores (Jelinski) Stanek, all of Little Falls, Minn. Pictured with their family – Jennifer to the left, and Melissa, right, and Jason.



**Philorum Sevigny Family.** Philorum, son of Alfred and Eudoxie (Laberge) Sevigny, married Laura Proulx, daughter of Clovis and Oliva (Morin) Proulx. Their children, pictured left to right, are Mrs. Jeffrey (Margaret) Gourde, John B., Mrs. Edmond (Marie Louise) Lafreniere, Gabriel and Phillip.



As a tribute to all the priests who served at Oakwood, as well as to all Priests of God,  
let us call to mind the words of the following poem by James J. Metcalfe.

#### THE PRIEST

The priest is more than just another man  
Who walks and eats and drinks  
He is the image of Our Lord  
In what he says and thinks.  
He is a creature set apart  
From all the world of sin  
To guide us in the game of life,  
And show us how to win.  
His fingers are anointed so  
That they may touch the Host  
And bless us for the Father and  
The Son and Holy Ghost:  
To help us and forgive us when  
We fall away from grace;  
To marry us, baptize us and  
Protect our resting place.  
The priest is one who gladly gives  
His life for you and me,  
That we may share the golden joy  
Of God's eternity.

James J. Metcalfe



## Conclusion

By Father O'Connell

As we lay down the pen on one hundred years of Catholicity in Oakwood, we pause briefly, and our thoughts wander back across the years as we review the panorama of events from the founding of the humble Sacred Heart Mission of Park River to the stately church and flourishing parish of today.

We certainly would be remiss in our duty if we did not pay special tribute to the gallant men and women who preceeded us, whose heroic deeds and sacrifices in the interest of God and Country have placed their names amongst the immortals. We are indeed tempted to recall the words of the poet:

"The lives of great men all remind us  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And departing leave behind us;  
Footprints on the sands of time."

Many thoughts and feelings well up in the minds and hearts of our people as our parish celebrates its centennial. There is the dauntless faith, courage, and stamina of the pioneers, the numberless blessings of Almighty God bestowed on the parishioners down the long corridor of years, and the inevitable challenges that lie ahead. Perhaps all of these can be summed up in one word — gratitude. As we celebrate one hundred years of the Sacred Heart Parish in this Oakwood community we celebrate God's love and His ever watchful care over us with gratitude. This includes our gratitude for all of God's gifts to those who have preceeded us, especially, the priceless heritage of our faith.

We are indeed grateful for the parish we are honoring, but even more so, for the faith of the parishioners. Without doubt, not a few serious and difficult decisions had to be made in order to found and maintain a parish for a century. The men and women who made them were moved to do so because of a boundless faith in God and His Divine Providence.

The material and spiritual condition of the parish of today is excellent. The many vocations to the religious life and the sterling Catholicity of our people is a matter of common knowledge throughout much of the Diocese of Fargo and the state of North Dakota. This bodes well for the future of the church in Oakwood.

May the reading of this brief history be an inspiration to us and spur us on to emulate the noble deeds and sacrifices of our forefathers in the faith.



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# Congratulations Oakwood

On Your

## Centennial Anniversary



As a native of Oakwood, I would like to add my personal Best Wishes for a successful Centennial Celebration.

*Dan Lessard*

Dan Lessard  
President

**We're glad to be involved!**



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