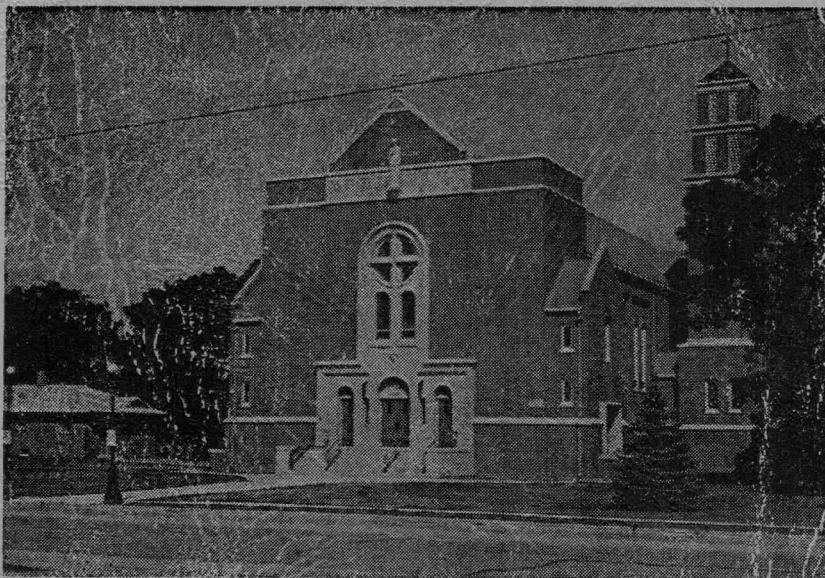


A Century Of Faith



Story Of Church of The Seven Dolors

Millerville, Minnesota

September 14, 1967

*Church of
Our Lady of the Seven Dolors*



Millerville, Minnesota



Most Reverend Peter W. Bartholome, Bishop of St. Cloud
will preach the festive sermon at the Centennial celebration.

**To the Pastor, the Sisters and the people of the
Parish of Our Lady of Seven Dolours in Millerville:**

It is a pleasure for me to write a few words of congratulations and good wishes to you on the occasion of the centennial of your parish. Indeed, it is very appropriate that you commemorate this hundred years of living with Christ in a fitting manner on September 14.

You have the unique distinction, among a few other parishes of the diocese, of having had Father Francis Pierz, the father of our diocese, as the one who said Mass a hundred years ago for the first immigrants who penetrated into the wilderness of Millerville. One of the reasons that was the case was because he was interested in the Indians in northern Minnesota; and while going to the Indian missions he came in contact with the Catholic people who had just recently settled in Millerville. We have celebrated the centennial of a few parishes near and in St. Cloud but Millerville was far removed from this first Catholic settlement in Stearns County and it is to the credit of these early Catholic pioneers that they were interested and had a deep Faith that inspired them to make the sacrifices to establish a parish in their midst.

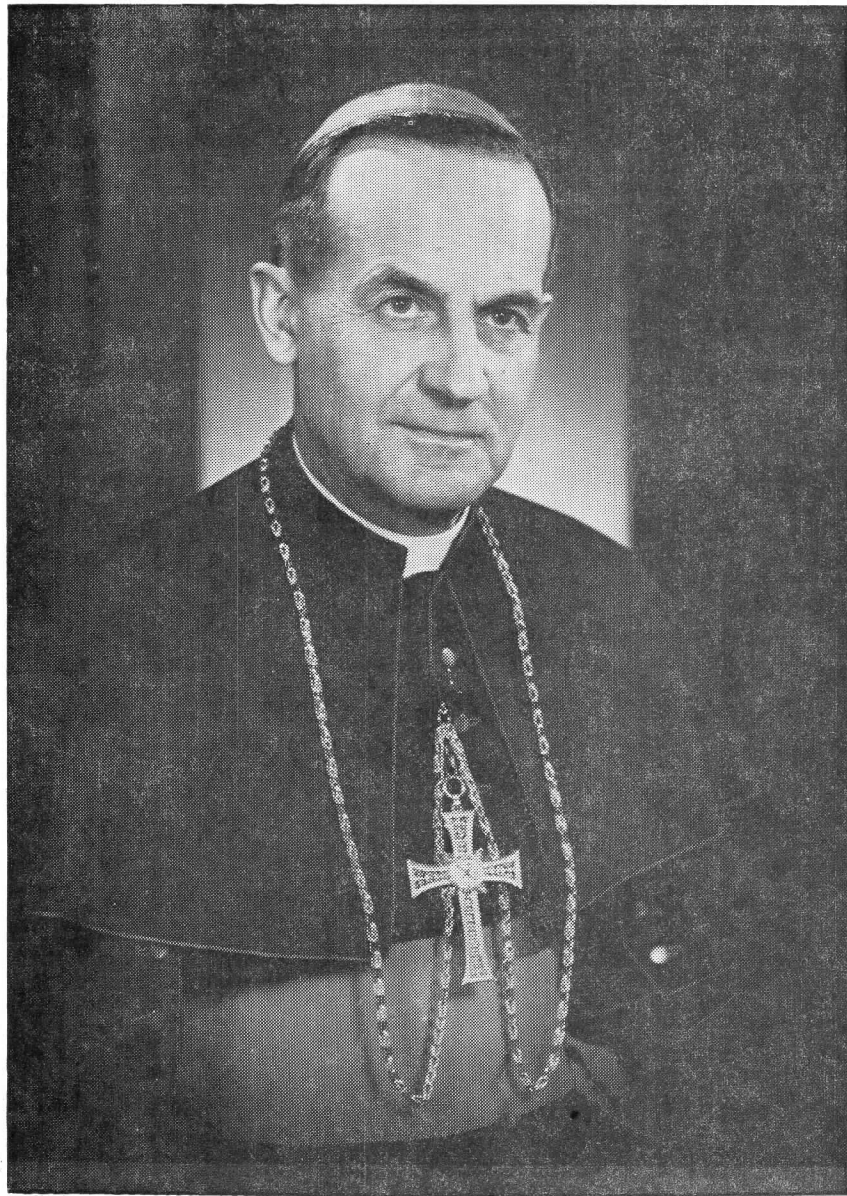
In the history of our parishes there is a definite pattern in their early development. These people were men and women of deep Faith, pioneering in new areas, who were deeply interested in securing a priest, having Holy Mass and the conferring of the Sacraments and the establishment of a parish for their families. It was this type of family that was responsible for the development of practically all of our parishes during those early years in the history of our diocese. Millerville takes on a little different character in the fact that there were people from various nationalities - Germans, Irish, Polish, Slovenians - who gathered together to form your parish.

During this century you have had many successes, some failures, and there were various problems and difficulties that arose; but all of these difficulties were finally ironed because the different groups in the parish had the same Faith and the same loyalties to Christ and the Church.

Naturally on the occasion of the centennial of a parish we talk a great deal about the past. But one of the great reasons for commemorating a centennial and recalling the past is that the people who are living in the parish today will be strengthened in their Faith and inspired to carry on in transmitting it to their children because of the hundred years of Catholic achievement. Each generation in a parish has problems to meet. The present generation has many problems confronting them. We must not downgrade the achievement of the past but build on these achievements to meet the changing times in which we are living. The same self-sacrifice, devotedness and loyalty is necessary today to carry on the work of your parish as was necessary a hundred years ago. I have every confidence in the Faith of the people of the parish, in their fine Catholic family life, in the devotedness of the Sisters and priests, that the problems of today will be met and the tradition of the Faith continue in the century that lies ahead.

Asking God to bless you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Peter W. Bartholome, D.D.
Bishop of St. Cloud



Most Reverend George H. Speltz, D.D.

Coadjutor Bishop of St. Cloud, is scheduled to offer the Pontifical Mass at the Centennial Jubilee and Consecrate the Main Altar.

A CENTURY OF THE MASS IN MILLERVILLE

Founding of the Parish of Millerville, in Douglas County. Thus beings the history of Millerville written in German Script by Father Ginther O.S.B. in the 1880's. We are deeply indebted to Father James Mohm of Osakis for translating this version of the History of Millerville. He translates thus, "First settlers were: John A. Miller, John Lorsung, then came Frank Weber, M. Portz, Schaefer, John Engler, Peter Lorsung, Martin Faust, Mathias and August Wilm.

The first priest in Millerville, was Father Pierz, who founded the parish in 1867. He offered Mass in the home of J. A. Miller. At his visits to the parish now and then he would offer Holy Mass either in the home of Miller, Lorsung or Weber.

After Bishop Grace gave his permission, the first part of the old log church was erected. Then the Church was enlarged and a parish house was built 16x24x12 under the direction of Father Tomazin. Father Holzer put an upper structure on the Church which was used as school during the week days. Father Buh would also visit the parish at times. Father Tomazin took care of the Parish up to July 31, 1873.

There is also a History of Millerville written by Karl Mattias Klein, who owned a drug store in Millerville and we are very indebted to him for preserving some of the memorable events during this period of 100 years. We will try to include all the pertinent happenings in this Parish from these various sources of information. Matt, as he was commonly called, writes thus (the parenthesis in the quotations are intended to make more clear the meaning, since Matt Klein used English only under necessity): "The first firmament (settlement) of the whites in Minnesota, was the establishment of Fort Snelling, in 1819. In 1849 Minnesota was made a Territory; and in 1856 Douglas County with its first boundaries was established by its legislature.

In 1858 Minnesota was made a State, and in the same year the Government road from St. Cloud to Fort Abercrombie was laid out and surveyed, and in about the middle of June, J. C. Burbank & Co., stages began this spring. The people continued to stream in, among whom was Henry Gager, 1859, who opened a stage station in Chippewa, which name was later changed to Brandon.

A great many claims were taken up and improvements made, even a partial government of Douglas County, till one day in August, 1862 when an Indian outbreak made them flee for their lives, and for a short time the county was almost abandoned.

In the fall of 1862 a military post was established near Alexandria, and troops placed there. The people began slowly to return, and the post was finally quitted in 1866.

In 1866, Lincoln's war being over, emigrants began rushing in to all places, also Millerville, in October, where John A. Miller, heading the German settlers, got his name on the township and later village. Miller was accompanied by John Lorsung, and followed by Joseph and Peter Lorsung, his relatives. In two weeks Constant Cichy came, then Frank Weber, Johann Engeler, Bernard Nuss, Jos. Wagner, August Wilm, Martin Faust, Charley Debilzan, and so on till the land was taken up.

These early German settlers chose a good country; they liked the high air, the fertile and easily tillable soil, the splendid vegetation, sweet water, the beautiful lakes and fine fish and game, which were plentiful here in the beginning; also the opportunity to form a congregation to keep their religion and language, besides the common American Kultur. . . .

They gave knowledge of their wants to the Indian Missionary, Franz Pierz; who then came in the spring of 1867, at Pentecost, and offered the first Mass for them in the log house of John A. Miller, and thereby raised up for them the principle of goodness, love, and salvation, for their standard here in the wilderness. This is testified to me by Constant Cichy, and August Wilm, who were both present at the first Mass, and are living yet today here. (Matt published his history in 1930). Then and thus the Catholic Congregation at Millerville was formed. From then on Father Pierz visited the young congregation on his regular trips every few months. And Mass was also read in the houses of Peter Lorsung, and Frank Weber. Miller's farm is now owned by Edw. Schriber (now Alfred Stroh), Lorsung's by J. G. Wagner, and Weber's by Jos. Haiden.

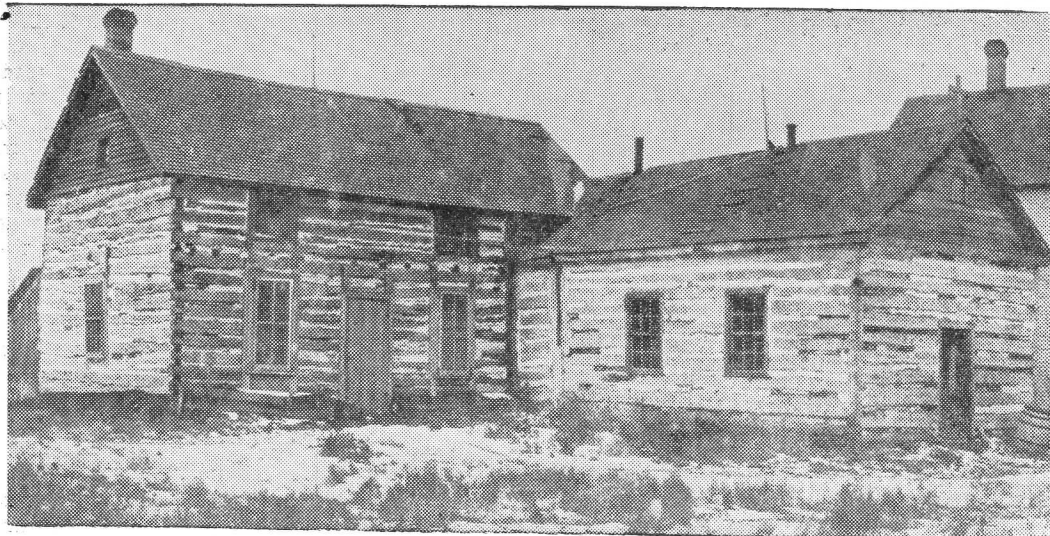
The congregation being formed, the, planned for a church building, prepared logs in spring 1868, which was taken over from the farm now owned by Henry Brooks; hauled the necessary sawed boards and shingles up from St. Cloud, and logged it up early in the summer of hewn oaks. For Rochus Freske tells me, when his father Johann came on August 14, 1868, they attended the Fest Maria Himmelfahrt, (Feast of the Assumption) in it on August 15th.

The nearest trading post was Chippewa (This post was originally in Chippewa Lake, but later when the railroad came thru moved to its present site). Constant Cichy says,

Wyomina

<i>Baptizatorum</i>	<i>Parentium</i>	<i>Patrinorum</i>	<i>Aetas</i>	<i>Locus</i>	<i>Die</i>	<i>Q</i>
<i>42. Petrus</i>	<i>Peter Lorusung Katherine Nabe</i>	<i>Joseph Lason Maria Sebitson</i>	<i>8 dies</i>	<i>Prairie St. Mary St. Mary (Millerville)</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>1867</i>
<i>43. Joannes</i>	<i>Joseph Lorusung Maria Sebitson</i>	<i>Joannes Lason Maria Weber</i>	<i>10 dies</i>	<i>Douglas Co</i>	<i>10 Sept</i>	<i>1867</i>
<i>William</i>	<i>Joseph Pirant Janvier Patier</i>	<i>Joannes Vedue Maria Vedue</i>	<i>4 m eas.</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>Nov</i>
<i>45. Joannes</i>	<i>Mathew Pad. Hieremine Sebald</i>	<i>Joseph Mealin Marie uxor</i>	<i>?</i>	<i>Prairie St. Mary</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>Nov</i>

A photostatic copy from the records of Father Pierz preserved in the Chancery office in St. Cloud shows the familiar names of Peter and John Lorusung, the year 1867, the signature of Father Pierz and the first name of Millerville, Prairie of St. Mary.



A picture of the original parish plant of Millerville. On the right front is the Church built in 1868 and remained so until 1883. On the back and left was added later the parish house and later used as a school from 1882 to 1893, and the second floor as the Sisters' quarters. In the right background can be seen a little part of the Parish house built by Father Tomazin in 1873. It is not sure when Father Tomazin came as resident Pastor, but his record books are here beginning with the year 1871. He made records of Baptisms, Deaths, and Marriages from different places he traveled. Some of these are: Marion Lake (Rush Lake today), Elizabeth, Otter Tail City, Moose Island, Reno, Alexandria, Belle River, Two Harbors, Pelican Lake, Breckenridge, McCauleyville, Moorhead, White Earth and so forth.

when he came in 1866, the Freudenreich Hotel was there, and a store owned by Miller & Metz . . . And Wolfgang Zwack, who came in 1869 says . . . 'and Metz, Paul Metz, is beginning in Millerville about this time, the first store in Millerville. . . .

Millerville got a postoffice in 1867, Frank Weber holding it in his house near Lake Aaron, for three years. Next Metz got it over into his new store. The first mail carrier was a man with some Indian blood, named Grant. He carried the mail on foot and with dogs, over the route from Chippewa (Brandon) (thru Millerville) to Otter Tail City, was told to me by Aug. Koeplin II, and proved by others. It took 3 days to make one trip around.

. . . And in 1873-4 Dobmeyer's mill is built here, which is there today yet, having outlived all the other mills in Douglas County and neighborhood. (The Mill is operated today by George DeLeeuw as a feed mill).

Our land office was in St. Cloud, but on the 1st of February, 1869, it was opened up in Alexandria. . . ."

There was a threshing machine in the county already in the fall of 1868 and the rates charged were, 6 cents for wheat, and 4 cents for oats. Wolfg. Zwack tells me Miller and Freudenreich had the first machine in Millerville and August Wilm managed it for them.

The first school teacher was Frank Weber, and the first school held in his first log house near Lake Aaron, where also the first white child of this settlement was born, Susanna Weber, born March 25, 1867.

When Metz store was there, a blacksmithshop was built a little way north of it soon, by a man named Fleming, says Wolfgang Zwack. Opposite Metz's store Stariha's saloon was built in the summer of 1873; and north of this we soon see a harness shop; in which building school was also held for a time. Andreas Bader was the first harness maker. Budendeik is said to have taught school here. He with Frank Weber and Steichen, were the best teachers here in this time, for they could give instruction also in German.

(Many names of early settlers) On the Gottlieb Meissner farm was Moses Dewey; on the Rudolph and Wilhelm Klein farms was Aaron Dewey. (Our two Lakes, Moses and Aaron are named after these men). Other names are: John Kuhn, August Korkowski, Pischke, Drexler, Jos. Hagedorn, Karl Lehn, Jacob Hagedorn, Wm. Wilken, Frank Meissner, Chas. Guenther, Alfred Guenther, W. Freudenberg, John Kelly, John Maloney.

For our "deutsche Sprache" we always got a bracing hand from the German Lutherans in the neighborhood; for our Catholic religion, from the Irish who came in. And while in the beginning most of us had to learn the English, the Irish were not a hindrance to us, since most of what is left of these is intermarried with the German.

Beginning with 1867 the Irish corner (Southeast of Millerville) Thomas Lanigan, Dennis Maloney, Michael Kelly, Patric Shea, Richard Shea, Pat Finn, John Commerford, Michael Murry, Hubert Kelly, James Faulkner, Mike Mullens, Michael Commerford, John Lehan, Sam Thompson, and C. McCabe.

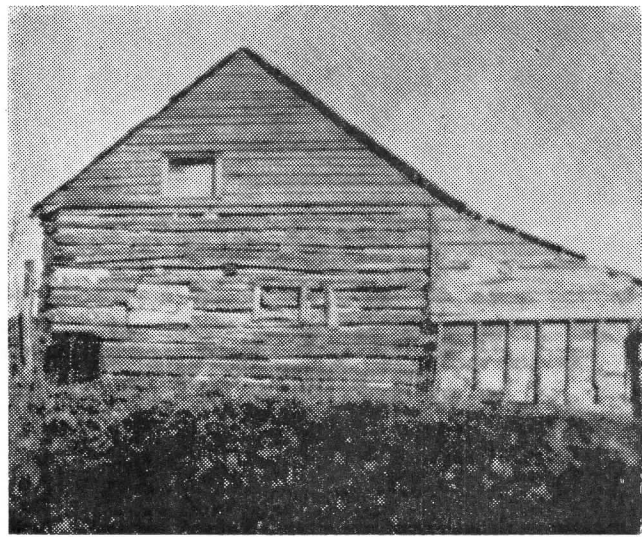
Besides the Irish corner in the Southeast, we got a Polish corner in the Northwest. . . Most of them came in later, and had to settle down in the Leaf Hills.

Missionary Franz Pierz was succeeded by Ignaz Thomazin, first as missionary and then as the first resident priest, till 1873. Thomazin built the first parish house. A small frame building; it stood on the north side of the log church.

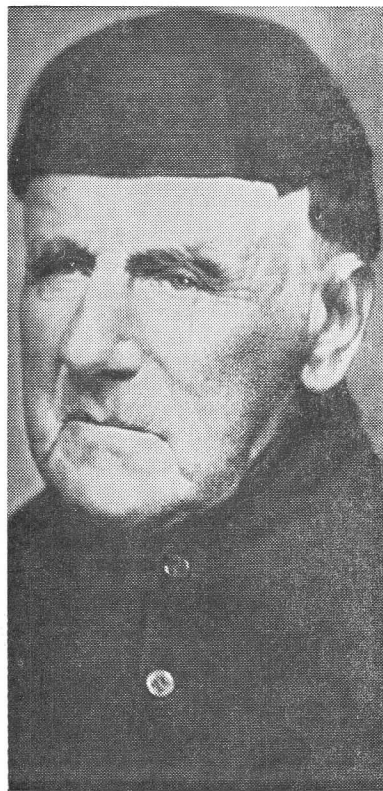
Constant Cichy (told Matt Klein) one time when my brother, Anton, took the Missionary (Father) Pierz to Otter Tail City with Miller's horses a snow storm arose. They got lost; Pierz told Cichy to drive round in a circle. This they did till morning to keep from freezing. In the morning the weather was better and they soon saw Otter Tail City and were saved.

After sheltering Cichy the next evening when it was time to sleep, Pierz asked Anton to go to bed. There being only a bed for one person in the shanty, Cichy disliked very much to do this, but his protests helped him nothing. The Missionary Pierz himself slept on the floor. He was a good man. Pierz, Minn., is named for him.

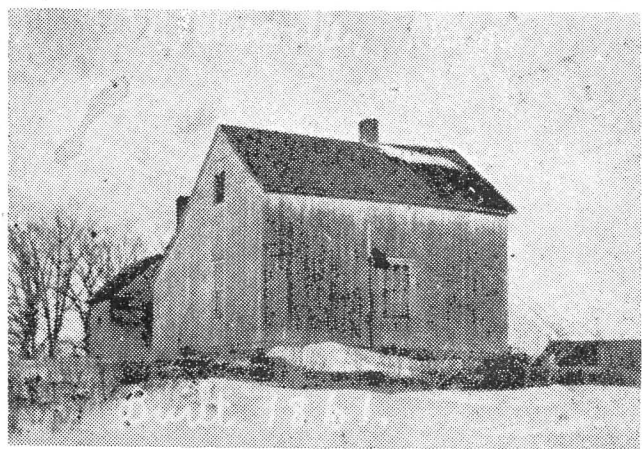
(Another incident) Once when Nick Renkes, Nick Hockert and I hauled wheat to Perham and stopped by a nice lake for our Mittagessen (Lunch) there came three Indians out of the green grove. They lined up directly towards me and looked beggingly. I knew they wanted bread; but they said not a word. I gave a piece to the boy near me, but he handed it to his brother, the next to his father, and the father did not eat it. Then I gave another piece to the boy; again he handed it to his brother. When I gave him the third piece, he kept it; and they ate their bread. After eating, I filled my pipe with tobacco, and also offered some to the Indian. He filled his pipe, arose, and puffed, looked at me and up to heaven. highly pleased, as if thanking God for the kindness and pleasure! Poor People, I thot!



The original home of John J. Miller in which the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was offered before the erection of the Church. Forty acres of the Miller farm were donated for the present parish grounds.



Father Francis X. Pierz near the end of his Missionary career offered Mass the first time in Millerville in the home of John Miller in 1867.



The home of Peter Fidelis Lorsung was also used as a place of offering the Sacrifice of the Mass by Father Pierz and Father Buh in 1867.



Father Buh also stopped on several occasions to offer Mass in Millerville.

Maria Sieben Schmerzen Kirche

Du unsere teure Gruenderin,
Was lag dir wohl im Herzen,
Warum stroemte es dir vom Sinn,
Maria Sieben Schmerzen?

Ja in der Fremde, wild und rau;
Unter Angst, und Leid und Weh,
Zog Schmerz zu der lieben Frau,
Herz zu ihrem in die Hoeh'!

Es brachte die Erinnerung,
Diese Plagenvolle Zeit;
Man lebte nur in der Hoffnung
Hin, bis in die Ewigkeit.

Doch gab's uns auch sein eigen Glueck,
Dummheit soll es nicht schwaerzen;
Doch, sehr enttauscht der Welt Geschick
Maria Sieben Schmerzen.

Traue jetzt nur so dem Leben!
Dies leuchte dir die Kerzen;
Es wird es dir auch noch geben;
Maria Sieben Schmerzen.

1868 - The First Church—

It must have been early in the season when the church building was logged up, for the records show that it was dedicated in the middle of summer. It stood against the lot of the Klein Store or street marked Klein or Schirber's Platt, with its south side and fronted to the east to what we must best call 7-Schmerzen Str. (Seven Dolors street). At first the priest had only a small table for an altar; and for seats the people had oak blocks, no board seats yet. This first log church was made larger two times; first longer, then a wing annexed on the side to the south; all of hewn oaks. In front to the east there was a cross on top.

The first music in the church was made by Joseph Goetz, who played a violin; and who later organized Goetz' Band. The first leading singers were, Peter Lorsung, Frank Weber, Nick Faber and Matt. Schoennenberg. They were all talented for it and did well. Those living say it was more edifying than now.

When I saw it in 1881 a belfry stood at the southeast. The same bell is in use now yet; it has a double-blow hammer. A large white oaken mission cross on a small platform over two steps stood in front between the church and parish house. Inside, the wall behind the altar was decorated with wall paper; the altar with its tabernacle, crucifix, candles and flowers all looked beautiful and dignified to my six year old eyes.

(An example of Matt. Klein's History of each family)

1866 - John A. Miller, Baden Baden, Germany
Homesteaded 160 acres, S14-23, and inherited two other farms in the village. His mother gave 40 acres of her farm to found the Maria 7-Schmerzen Kirche, which was a strong help to establish the village where it is in the township that he registered on his name in St. Cloud, where the Land Office was. He sold his farm to Matt. Butala in 1899 for \$10,000. Matt Butala sold it to Edw. Schirber for the same price in 1903."

(Other names mentioned in Matt Klein's History not already included in the above are: in 1867 - Joe Spitzer (after whom Spitzer Lake is named) - Johanna Flesch - Matt. Portz - William Kapphahn - Joahann Engeler - in 1868 John Debilzan - Nickolaus Faber - Thomas and George Dobbmeyer - Joseph Hopfner - Lorenz Peffer - Johann Freske - Hilari Suchi - Matt Meyers - Peter Ley - Nickolaus Hockert - Peter Boesen - Nickolaus Mager - Karl Reittig - Johann Lambertz - Cornelius Hengen - Jacob Zeimantz in 1869, also Margaret Thoennes, Adolph Preis, Michael Bach - Peter Joseph Langhausen, a schoolteacher, George Keller, August Koeplin I, John Woida, Inaz Kroll, Mattias Kalista, John and Peter Schwartz, Johann Klimek, Andreas Reger, Gottlieb Meissner and Joseph Zwack. Mrs. Nick Hockert died in 1869 and is the third person buried in our cemetery.

(Matt continues)

1869 - Erst Trauung (First wedding)

Das erste Paar wurde getraut anfangs January, 1869 in dieser Gemeinde, Maria Sieben Schmerzen Kirche; es waren Katharina Peffer und Constanz Cichy. Tochter von Lorenz Peffer." We give these names because they are of interest to many people today. In 1870 these came: Valentine Thoennes, Cornelius Schmidt, Linus Wilm, Maria Pauli, Christ and Andreas Blatt.

Johann Kuich, Marienwerder, W. P.—

Homesteaded 160 acres. The farm was sold and divided; it lies south of the Gluba place. His son, Paul, was ordained to the Catholic Priesthood in 1903, and a twin brother, Peter, died before completing his studies.

Also in 1870 Christopher McCabe, Peter Smith and Michael Hoffman came.

In 1871 these came: Anton Klein I, Michael Klein.

In 1872 Matt Kotschevar, Johann Argen, Joseph Lange, Lorenz Goldstein, Nickolaus Renkes, came. In 1873 Johann Bannach, Joseph Stariha, Peter Schecher, Klemenz, and Franz Revering, came. In 1874, Nicko-



Father Edward Ginther O.S.B.

He wrote the history of Millerville in German script. He was pastor when the first frame church was built. He had nuns come from St. Benedict to teach in 1882. He was also here when they left in 1893.



The Church built when Father Edward Ginther O.S.B. was pastor in 1883. This was the place of worship for the people of Millerville until 1923 when the basement Church was built and this building was converted to a parish hall and used until 1950.



A view of the inside of the Church built by Father Ginther in 1883.

Matt Klein has an interesting incident: When the cross was put on the tower, a man named Rollens, stepped on the arms of the cross boastfully, spreading his arms apart, when he lost his balance, fell and slid down to the roof, caught some hold, but turned over and went down to the ground. The skin was stripped off from the insides of his hands, and he was badly bruised; otherwise he was not seriously hurt, tells me Jos. Markling.

laus Politeske, Martin Koske, Jacob Hagedorn, Michael Pischke, Mattias Korkowski, and Ludwig Markling arrived. Jake Kuettemann, Thomas Gluba, Johann and Peter Daas, John and Wm. Wilken, Johann Danelke, Theodore Klimek and Ludwig Horst came in 1875; in 1876 Matthias Baden, and Johann Kraemer; in 1877 Franz Hagedorn, Andreas Drewniak and John Kott.

1878 - The Railroad—

The St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad comes into Alexandria. From the Alexandria Post of Nov. 15, 1878: "The First Regular Train - Its arrival yesterday evening was celebrated by bonfires and anvil-firing". In a year it ran to Brandon and Evansville; and in the fall of 1881 the Northern Pacific ran also into Clitheral.

Johann Bettin, Hubert Roers I, John Frigden, Martin Schirber, Franz Freske came in 1878 and 79. Richard Peffer, Paul Klimek I, Thomas Thomas, Thomas and Hubert Koepp, Andreas Gebur arrived in 1880 - Joseph Hafke, Isidore Ledermann, Karl Buse, Constanz Maroteck, John Miller and Gustaf Guenther in 1881; Paul Cichy, Mattias Haid(e)n, Michael Abel and George Schmidt came in 1882."

Here we leave the history of Matt Klein and quote from the writings of Father Ginther OSB, translated by Father James Mohm again. We gave a lengthy quotation from the first settlers to indicate the large number of settlers and also the handicaps under which they labored. "Father Anton Holzer gave pastoral care to the parish from the beginning of the year 1874 until the end of the month of September 1875. Rev. E. P. Schneider was the successor of Father Holzer and he supervised the parish until October 1877. At that time Father Jakob Hilbert took over the parish and he remained here until the first week of the month of November 1881. Father James Kramer took care of the parish from the beginning of December 1881 to January 7, 1882 at which time the Benedictine Fathers took over the management of the parish.

Father Edward Ginther O.S.B. took over the pastorate of the parish on January 7, 1882 and he stayed here until January 22, 1885.

In the year 1882 a frame church was built. Bishop Seidenbusch had given his permission for the building on December 31, 1881. This permission was given in writing. With the permission of their superiors, the venerable Benedictine Sisters were called into the parish to take over the school. The Sisters arrived here on August 31, 1882, and they opened the school the first Monday in September. During the months of Decem-

ber, January, and February the Sisters were conducting the district school.

During the summer of 1883 this agreement was made with the authorities of the district school 34 that the Sisters hold six months school for the district and that the Sisters as teachers would receive a salary of \$50.00 for each month. It was also agreed that the children of district 34 could attend the parochial school free of charge, that is they did not have to pay tuition.

In this manner it was made possible to have at least for 4 months a Catholic school, that is during the months of March, April, May and June. We closed the year 1882 with an indebtedness of \$2,000.00. A reed organ was purchased in the summer of 1883 from Dyer and Howard and the price of the organ was \$100.00.

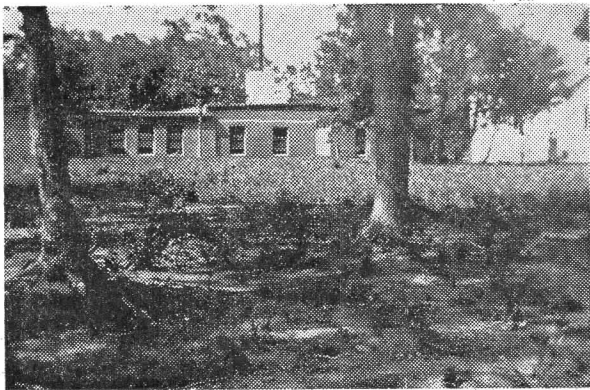
In the fall of the year 1883 Father Edward collected in the district for school benches. Twenty-four double slats were bought with the amount the collection brought in from Paul Sinshrimmer of Minneapolis, Minn.

In 1883 we reduced the debt by \$100.00. In 1884 Father Edward made the first census to establish the status animarum and at the same time he asked for subscriptions to pay off the Church debt. The census showed the number of families as 172. The harvest was very bad in 1884 and the price for the farm products very poor. In spite of all that the debt was reduced to \$1,350.00.

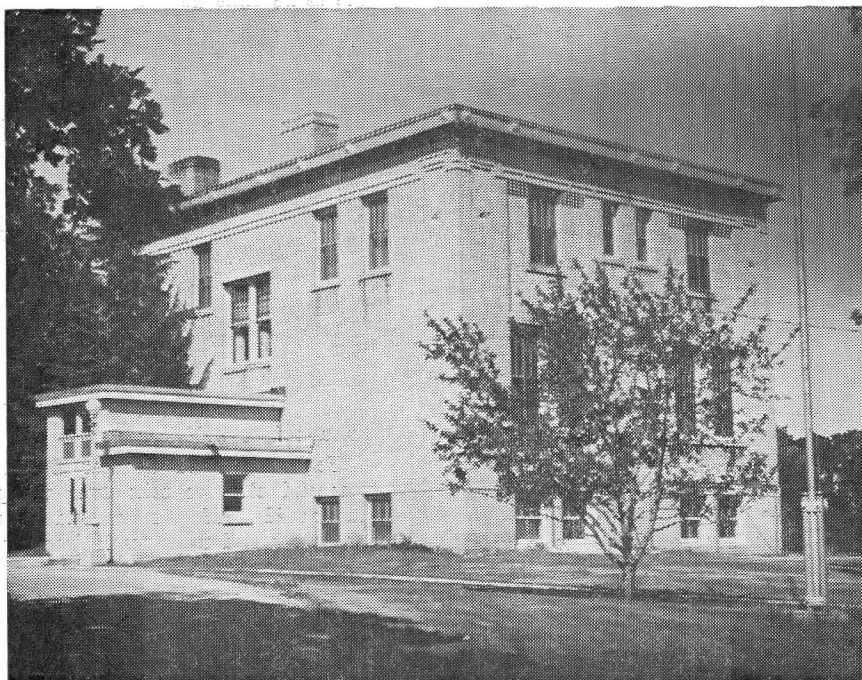
On January 23, 1885 Father Othmar Enen O.S.B. took over the parish and he stayed here until March of the same year. Father Jerome Heider O.S.B. became his successor and he took care of the parish as pastor until September 1886. Father Thomas Borgerding O.S.B. became the successor of Father Jerome and held this position as Pastor until the 22nd day of August, 1888. The Parish debt was reduced each year somewhat, and in August 1888 it still amounted to \$800.00.

Father Edward Ginther O.S.B. returned a second time to take over the parish on August 22, 1888. At the end of that year the parish had freed itself from an oppressing debt at last.

In the year 1889 we purchased the Altar and the pulpit from Nic. Ehlenz for the price of \$500.00. The ladies sodality bought a rug for the sanctuary and the statue of St. Anne. The families P. Lorsche, Kotschevar, Wagner, Roers, and Markling donated the other statues. In the fall of 1890 a new parish house was started and it finished up to the plastering and painting. In the Spring of 1891 the parish house was completed and many things were purchased for the equipment of the parish house.



In 1922 Father Victor Siegler began construction of the basement Church. It was completed in 1923 and served the parish until 1955. This view shows the East end used as a meeting hall with the sanctuary to the left of the picture. The extreme right is a small section of the old church being used as a hall.



St. Mary's School, Millerville. Built in 1913 by Father Wippich - it was necessary to put in their own light plant and their well, both driven by gas engines. This view is now the front, facing West and the road. Formerly the road went through the Church property and the school front was on the east side facing that road. The entrances were built on in 1960. There are two nuns teaching and one lay teacher, Mrs. Lester Quinn. There were 83 pupils in 1966-67 school term.

In the course of the winter of 1892 the ladies of the parish collected the necessary money to purchase a baptismal font. Mrs. Keller was the one that gave the idea and the push for it. The drive turned out so well and so much money came in that in addition to the baptismal font they could purchase 3 pairs of candlesticks. The baptismal font cost \$50.00 and the candlesticks \$42.00. They were bought from the well known church goods house of Benziger Bros. at Chicago. Mr. Peter Lorusung donated two small candlesticks. The ladies bought also a chair for the pastor's use in the Sanctuary.

This winter we had many sick people in the parish. (LaGrippe) The sickness that appeared in 1890 was much more common this winter. In the spring of 1892 the measles appeared in a very violent form. Hardly any children were spared from the sickness. In Holy Thursday the Blessed Sacrament was exposed for veneration and adoration.

In April Father Kitowski came here to give the Polish people an opportunity to make their Easter duty in their mother tongue. On April 6 Father Kitowski sang the High Mass and he preached in Polish. After the Mass they had Benediction with the Blessed Sacrament. The Polish people were happy and satisfied about it.

On May 11 and 12 a new staircase was built at the entrance of the Church, and this summer arrangements were made to enlarge the Cemetery.

The "Status animarum" of the year 1884 was corrected this summer. On August first the number of families of the parish amounted to 166. The members of the parish were invited to come and help with the grubbing, as it is always the custom among the Millervillers. Only a few members of the parish showed up and the work was done so carelessly that it was not worth anything. For that reason I gave the job of grubbing, clearing the woods, and removing the wood cut down and also breaking the land to Mr. V. Thoennes for \$75.00. The job to burn the brush I gave to Mr. Keller and Pauli.

During the winter of 92 and 93 repairs were made on the church and the church tower. During the month of December the pastor invited Father Kitowski at the request of the parish to have services here and preach to the members of the Parish of the Polish tongue. In August (1893) he visited the parish again.

The venerable Sisters left our parish and school on account of the poor condition of their home. Due to the hard times the parish was not willing to start building a new home for them. Because the greater part of the parishioners had no advantage from the Sisters, it was decided to build a

parish school first and then add a new Sisters home. Mr. Jacob Zimmer took over the school run by the Sisters and he directed it rather successfully."

(Matt Klein has an interesting comment)
1882 - The Benedictine Sisters.

In the fall three Benedictine Sisters come from St. Joseph, Minn. They lived first in the parish house, and then on the floor over the school. I remember that the priest slept in the sacristy of the church for a time; and that he took his meals a time by L. Markling. The Sisters were better than the temporary government girls, but also had faults; and the female can never equal the male teacher. Altho without a just cause, the people were annoyed by them (Sisters) with their begging for a better home and their annual school closing entertainment; "even in First Communion instruction time", as it was said; and the priest, even a Benedictine Edward Ginther, let them go. They came in 1882 in fall, and left in the spring of 1893. The teachers were: Humilitas, Vincent, and Walburga. Walburga was here longest.

The Sisters gave instruction also in German, but in common they were the first to leave off from its use; while all of our priests used the German with pleasure, excepting that the last two were led off by Baala, instead of instructing and admonishing her."

(Father Ginther concludes his writings thus)

On the 21st Sunday after Pentecost, which was in October, Father Kelly O.P. preached English in our Church. Rev. Adrian Schmitt O.S.B. supervised the parish in April, substituting for the sick pastor Fr. Ginther O.S.B. In the fall of 1894 they started putting the fence around the Cemetery. But because the dealer did not get the pickets (posts) needed the fence was only finished in the summer of 1895.

During the month of November of this year, Father Kitowski, at the invitation of the pastor, visited again the parish and held services and preached for the Polish speaking members of the Parish. Father Adrian Schmitt took over the parish for one week during November because the Pastor was absent. In 1894 a cope and two new vestments were bought.

During this year the Young Men's Society was founded under the name of St. Aloysius. The Young Ladies Sodality was placed under the protection of St. Rose.

On March 4, 1895 Father Otto Wiest paid a visit to the Parish. He was told by the Administrator - Sede Vacante - to hold himself in readiness to take over the Parish on April 1, 1895. The Administrator was Monsignor Bauer. On March 23, 1895 Father Edward Ginther O.S.B. was informed by



The inside of the basement Church constructed in 1923 with a seating capacity of 600. It was spacious and served the parish until the superstructure was added in 1956.



A view of the parish house with the entry to the basement church built by Father Siegler in 1923. The west end of the church. The picture is taken from the south.

letter from his superiors that he was appointed pastor of St. Martin in Stearns County, Minnesota.

The Signer of this, who supervised the parish from the 22nd day of August 1888 to April 1st, 1895 wishes his successor and the parish God's choicest blessings.

Edward Ginther O.S.B.—

Father Ginther on a separate page notes the "Episcopal Visitations of the Parish of Millerville, Douglas County:

The Most Rev. Thomas L. Grace visited the parish on July 9, 1872 and at that occasion administered the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In October 1878 the Most Rev. Bishop Seidenbusch O.S.B. visited the parish and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation.

On June 3, 1882 again Bishop Seidenbusch came to Millerville. Quite a number of young men received the Bishop at the depot in Evansville and accompanied him to Millerville.

On Sunday, June 4, 1882 the Most Rev. Bishop confirmed 97 Confirmands after the Sunday High Mass. In the afternoon at 2:00 the Most Rev. Bishop laid the cornerstone for the new Church. Fther Francis Merschmann O.S.B. preached the sermon. (The Bishop preached in the morning.)

On June 15, 1883 the Most Rev. Bishop honored the parish again with his presence. The new Church was dedicated by the Bishop with the assistance of Frs. Cyril, Ulrich and Edward on Sunday, June 17, 1883. The High Mass was celebrated by Father Edward and Father Ulrich preached in German and English. After the High Mass the Bishop preached in German and addressed the Confirmands. Then he confirmed 47 children and one grown up.

On October 3, 1886 the Most Rev. Bishop Seidenbusch administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 100 Confirmands.

On September 7, 1891 the Most Reverend Bishop Otto Zardetti came to Brandon. He was met by the reception committee consisting of Father Edward O.S.B., Mr. Joseph Wagner, and Mrs. Ludwig Markling, who accompanied the Bishop to Millerville. Fr. James Wagner was the driver for the Bishop and Fr. Goebel was also with the Bishop. Mr. Ludwig Markling, the Fathers Ambrose and Edward were waiting with the Confirmands across from Mrs. Lorsche's home and about 350 other parishioners to welcome the Bishop

and then lead him in procession to the Church. When they got into town some other 150 parishioners joined the procession to make it a rather imposing procession. At the entrance of the Church Father Ambrose and the servers with holy water and censer awaited the coming of the Most Rev. Bishop. After the Bishop arrived at the main Altar and having sung the prescribed orations, he thanked the parish for the cordial welcome and he imparted the entire parish with his episcopal blessing.

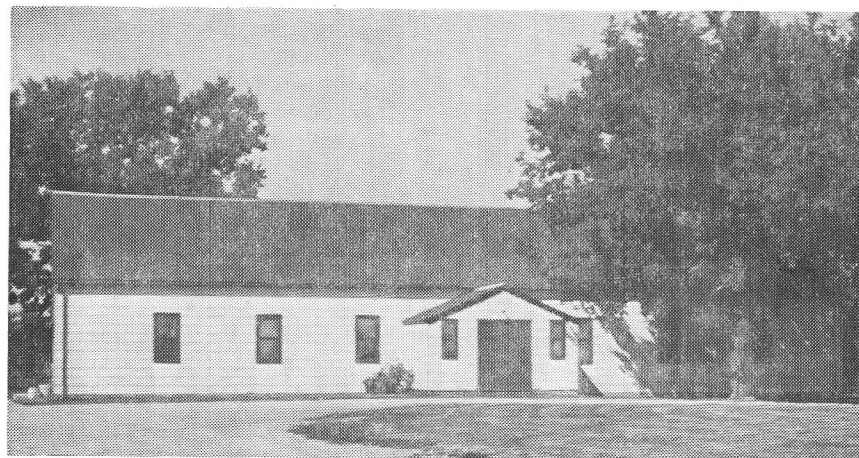
On Sept. 8, 1891 the Masses were at 6:00 offered by Fr. Ambrosius, Mass at 6:30 offered by Fr. Edward. The Most Rev. Bishop offered his Mass assisted by Frs. Goebel and Edmund at 8:00 o'clock and Fr. Goebel offered a Mass. Coram Episcopo (before the Bishop) at ten. After the High Mass the Bishop addressed the Confirmands in his own inimitable and enthusiastic way, which touched the hearts of all present. Then the Most Rev. Bishop confirmed 215 persons. Among them were two that did not yet receive their First Holy Communion. But for certain reasons I permitted them to be confirmed. They were Johann Schmidt, son of Peter Schmidt of Leaf Valley, and Anna Wilken, daughter of William Wilken. After the Confirmation the Bishop expressed his appreciation for what the parish had done up to that date and encouraged them to keep on in their zeal. He exhorted them to cooperate with the priests. He then referred to some local conditions and the danger in which the parish finds itself. He emphasized the necessity of the instructions for the children and growing boys and girls. He ended up by giving yet an English sermon. The Bishop gave the blessing with the Blessed Sacrament and the "Holy God, we praise thy Name" ended the beautiful and inspiring celebration. In his appreciation talk he commented on the fine behavior of the Confirmands, the Mass servers, and he also praised the cleanliness he saw around the Church and Altar. He also expressed his satisfaction about the Sister's School.

On Sept. 9, 1891 Bishop Zardetti offered Mass, assisted by Frs. Goebel and Edward at 8:00 a.m. At ten the Most Rev. Bishop entered the carriage of M. Wagner and he was driven to Brandon. After his Mass that morning the Bishop visited with the pastor, the school and the children sang some songs for his benefit.

In November of that year the Rt. Rev. Abbot of St. John's' honored us with a visit and he celebrated the High Mass and also conducted the afternoon services that Sunday. He preached also to the general inspiration of the parishioners.



Before the new parish house was constructed, here is a picture of Bishop Busch with neighboring priests before the entrance of the old parish house. The priests from left to right are: Father Barron, Father Wessling, Father Gumper, Father Besselaar, Father Nick Donnay and Father Dvorak, with Father Victor Siegler, the only living former pastor of Millerville.



From Father Schmidt's 1950 report: The old frame church which stood for many, many years was torn down. The good lumber was saved. The men of the parish decided to build the new hall themselves. The dimensions are: 34 by 90 feet, with a 34 by 20 kitchen. The hall has red interlocking asphalt shingles and white asbestos siding. The interior is insulated with balsom wool. Two large heating units are installed. The water and heating is connected with the Church. We hope the hall will be of great service to the parish and school for many years to come.

In 1967 the hall kitchen was enlarged and lavatory facilities were installed. One corner was sealed off to maintain heat to keep from freezing.

Missions Preached in the Parish of Millerville—

Noted by Father Ginther O.S.B.

During the summer of the year 1872 the highly respected Missioner Fr. F. X. Weninger S.J. preached the holy Mission in this parish. Unfortunately nothing is recorded in our books about this Mission. The Mission itself and also the gifted Missionary are well remembered by the parishioners. For that reason we are safe in saying that the Mission was a blessed and successful one.

In the year 1886 the then pastor of the parish, Fr. Thomas Borgerding O.S.B. invited Fr. Edward Ginther O.S.B. to come to Millerville and preach a Triduum. During those three days two sermons were preached daily on the most important truths of our holy Faith. God blessed the efforts of the speaker. The people all took part in it and all received the Sacraments (with the exception of ten grown persons) in order to gain the plenary indulgence which the priest imparted.

In June 1888 the Frs. Neubrand and von Gudemus S.J. came here to give a Mission at the invitation of the pastor Fr. Borgerding. The Mission started on June 8 and ended on June 15. In spite of the poorly (chosen time, on account of the farm work) the attendance of the parishioners was very satisfactory.

(Father Raster added this Mission note)

In the year 1903 the Fathers J. Jordan and Theodore Hegeman, Jesuit Priests, came to Millerville at the invitation of the pastor, Fr. Alois Raster, to preach another Mission. In spite of the very bad weather the Church was packed to the last place at each Mass and Sermon. At that time the parish was still well united. Fr. Hegeman preached the English sermons for the Irish members of the parish in the district school building. As a fruit of the Mission we celebrated that year the six Aloysian Sundays and on no Sunday were less than 200 young men there for Confession and Holy Communion. This Mission was the most glorious feast of the Parish before it split up. *Maneant fructus. (May the fruits remain)*

(Translator's comment - Father James Mohm) Father Wiest made no entries. He was pastor of Millerville beginning with April 1, 1895 to October 6, 1899 when he died in Millerville. Fr. John J. Kicken supervised the parish from the death of Father Wiest to the 17th of November when Alois Raster became pastor.

(Matt Klein has this commentary in his History of Millerville)

1895 - Otto Wiest

Augsburg, Bayern. Priest—

He tried to build a parochial school. When a part of the foundation was laid north of the frame church, and anger rose among the people, he stopped it. The frame school was put up too late. 1891 (We do not know to what he refers here)

He (Father Wiest) founded the St. Otto Court of the Catholic Order of Foresters in Millerville. Before this there was no society carrying insurance here; whenever a case of need came, they took up a collection for it; and the people were sanctified thru it. Insurance makes this charity a matter of business, and hardens the heart. The Church did not like it, but allowed it, to keep her members from free and dangerous societies. He died in 1899, and is (buried) on our Maria 7-Schmerzen Friedhof. (Mary of Seven Dolours Cemetery)

(Matt Klein's History)

1900 - Reverses—

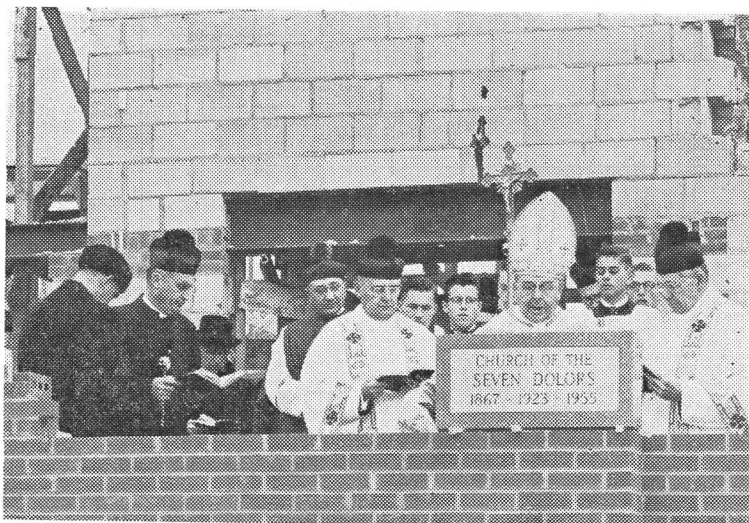
The new century brot reverses for the Village of Millerville. In the time when its best prosperity would have come it was set back. In 1902 the people separated off and built the St. Anna Church at Brandon. (about 7½ miles from Millerville) who belonged to the Maria 7-Schmerzen Gemeinde. In a few years the Soo Railway was built in Miltona and Parkers Prairie (16 miles East of Millerville) and this took away the traffic of the Germans of Leaf Valley, who stopped here often on their way to Evansville and Brandon. In 1903 the Herz Jesu Kirche was built in Urbank, separating off that portion which for worse even to her own membership, came nearer than Brandon, causing a rubbing 2½ mile line. (Urbank is about 5 miles from Millerville as the crow flies). Then we lost the Post Office thru the R.F.D. in 1907.

In 1909 Markling's store burnt down. Then came the car carrying away trade; the great war; and the death of one of our best businessman, P. B. Lorsung, and the death of the wife of another, Mrs. A. J. Lorsung. Next Prohibition closed the 3 saloons. . . . Finally the bank failure thru Swenson of Brandon.

1904 - St. Peter's Colony,

Saskatchewan, Canada—

Beginning this year many of our settlement go to Canada (about 30 are named) and some more. We have supplied enough people to that colony to form a congregation alone. Most of the settlers here have raised large families; besides the above children, others wander away continually to many different places. Only few come in new or return."



The blessing of the Cornerstone of the superstructure of the Church by Most Reverend Bishop Peter W. Bartholome in the Fall of 1955. Included in the picture left to right are: Father Gall, Father (now Monsignor) Dimmerling, Monsignor Lorsung, Monsignor Wrobel, the Bishop, and Father Victor Siegler.



The inside view of the Church. The lone statue of the Sorrowful Mother beside the cross emphasizes the grief of our Blessed Mother. The painting of the Church was done in 1967 by Frank Eisenschenk of Richmond. He also painted the pictures in the niches in Bayronese art. The Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and on the side walls, Maria Goretti, the symbol of purity for our young people. On the south side St. Isidore and his wife Maria de la Cabeza his wife, the symbol of Christian farm family life.

(It appears that the trials warned about by Bishop Zardetti were the problem of the school and instructions and the partition of Parish. Millerville had two natural born children, one was a normal birth, Brandon, and the other a breach baby, Urbank, but as in all normal families after the birth pains, the mother is proud that a new parish is born into the world) (compilers comment).

(Entries made by Father Alois Raster)

On November 17, 1899 Father Alois Raster, the new pastor arrived. He was up to that date pastor of the parish of the Sacred Heart, Little Falls in Morrison Co., for 9 years and 3 months. On Sunday, Nov. 19, 1899 he gave his first sermon as pastor and after the Mass the parish books were handed over to him in the name of the administrator, Father Kicken. The pastor announced that there would be no change in the financial system, the time of the services or any other affairs of the parish. November 26, 1899 after the High Mass the pastor gave them time to make up their minds whom they wanted as church committee. This election took place at the Bishop's orders, because the parish was supposed to be incorporated. Five names were proposed and they were: Frank Bitzan, J. C. Drexler M.D., John Kott, Michael Kelly, and Mattias Hayden. J. C. Drexler and Michael Kelly were elected the lay members of the Corporation.

The laws of incorporation and the by-laws were signed by the Most Rev. Bishop James Trobec and the Vicar General, Edward Nagel, with the pastor of the parish, Alois Raster and Michael Kelly and J. C. Drexler as lay trustees. After that J. C. Drexler was appointed Secretary and Michael Kelly as treasurer of the corporation. Bonds of \$1,000.00 were given.

Regulations were made in regard to the catechism classes of the children of the district school. The children were without exception Catholics. These regulations were laid down for the Sunday classes. Because it was impossible for the pastor to give the Sunday instructions, it was decided that two teachers would give the instructions after the High Mass. The pastor could not do it because he had 100 or more confessions before the early Mass. Between Masses there were Baptisms, Blessings of mothers and again confessions. We could not give any instruction before the High Mass because the children arrive too late for that.

On December 17, 1899 John Arken, an old man of 65 years, made a public apology to make good the scandal he caused to old and young in the parish by marrying a Protestant woman before a Justice of the Peace. NAH, NAH, Age does not preserve us from foolishness. But better late than

never. The nineteenth century comes to an end. The Parish is healthy in soul and body.

We march towards a glorious future, if the "Crozier" does not interfere too much. At the end of the year the writer will expound to you his plans as he told them to the Parish and found approval by the majority. The parish of Millerville is in the center of 4 townships i.e. Millerville, Leaf Valley, Brandon, and Leaf Mountain. We have the idea to build in Millerville a very beautiful and substantial house of God. We like to change the old Church into a school and Sister's house. From this solid center we shall erect mission stations in Brandon and Effington. To be able to do that an assistant pastor should be appointed for Millerville. The reason for all this is that we like to get Sisters here for the District school, so that the children that live far away from the church will at least get a few months catechism instructions before they make their First Holy Communion. Those children, they are not too many, could easily find homes here in town that would take them in during these months.

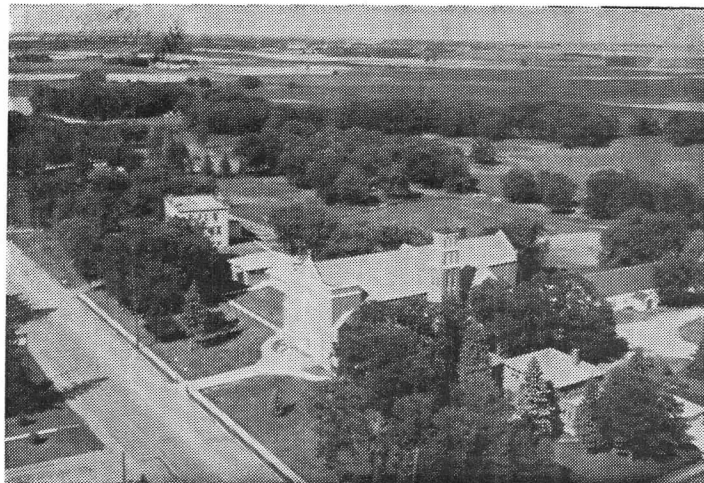
December 25, 1899 Christmas as usual. Midnight Mass at 12:00 and a beautiful service and the crowd was exceptionally large.

New Year - 1900 - The Beginning of The Twentieth Century—

At the beginning of a new century even a "Bush Pastor" has something more to think of than Sauerkraut. If he does that, what will the learned professors and doctors prophesy and guess for the coming century. On my desk lies a book called "Dreizehn Linden" (13 Linden trees) and alongside of it Holy Writ and the "Imitations" by Thomas A' Kempis. We may apply to the last century the words of the poet of Dreizehn Linden when he, filled with experience and feeling says: (translated)

Oh! The times have become heavy and hard
They warn me in confused rumors
They listen to different music and teaching
Wild are the hearts and there is no loyalty
Gold and power are the highest gods
And they undermine the Altar
On one side the hypocrites
And on the other the scoffers.

Even in an idyllic country parish - all Catholic - the light, shy Uhu (owl) has found its way to undermine the life of faith. Just imagine, a farmer, who can hardly read or write and he has Schopenhauer in his hands and reads it. (There was a farmer called "the night owl")



An aerial view of the Millerville plant taken by Bob Bitzan. Starting from the right, bottom corner is the new garage, the parish house, the Church, convent, and school. In the rear of the Church the parish hall is located. The view is from the south looking north.



Another aerial view taken from the northwest looking toward the southeast. A good view of the cross shaped church.



An aerial view of the cemetery taken by Bob Bitzan. The cemetery has well over 500 graves. There are four major sections and plans have been made to add another section to the north.

Old Uhu, yellow envy, you may be angry and
provoked;
Yet there will always be a rich and velvety
garden,
Where man's roses grow and bloom
He carries the nightingale in his bosom
It will call and sing every spring
As long as on this earth roses bloom
And hearts beat with joy.

(Dreizehn Linden)

So entered also this parish into the new century with this proverb: "Begin with God and end with God; this is the most beautiful course of life."

The new year, Jubilee Year, was introduced with the ringing of the church bells for half an hour. At midnight, after the ringing of the bells, a Solemn High Mass was celebrated. We had exposition with the Blessed Sacrament from the midnight Mass until the High Mass in the morning. The Catholic Foresters received Holy Communion in a body, all wearing their insignia of the Order. The different parish organizations changed off in the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The crowds were large, beyond expectation and at the end we sang the "Te Deum" wonderfully, inspringly, forcefully, so that the walls were shaking.

On January 7, 1900 a meeting was called of all men of the parish in good standing in order to decide about a new church building and also to carry out the other plans mentioned above.

The most important meeting took place on January 14. The entire parish was present for this meeting. There was not even standing room anymore in the place. The question to be decided was whether to build a real substantial church in Millerville. As mentioned above the old church was to be changed into a school and Sister Convent. After the High Mass there was an intermission of 20 minutes. Then followed the voting. Present were 134 heads of families in good standing and entitled to vote.

In the meantime some of the people of Effington had gotten together and they came to the pastor, Fr. Raster, with the request, "Father we must build a church in Effington, because Millerville wants to build. If we do not build now, we will never build. If you tell us we cannot build we will not, but if you give us permission we will go ahead and build a church." Thomas Koepf, Joseph Terfehr, and Valentin Thoennes were the delegation. (Father Raster did not write the answer he gave them, but he did not trust them very much).

The meeting was opened with prayer. The pastor read the rules of the Council of

Baltimore in both German and English and explained them to the people. The results of the vote was a vast majority voted for a new church. Naturally, Effington voted against it.

It was decided to keep the idea of a parochial school and its maintenance in mind. (likely, because these plans had not received official approval and the threatening changes that were liable to curtail the grand program).

January 20, 1900. A mass-meeting is announced for January 21, 1900. At this meeting it was decided that subscriptions should be solicited and those that had subscribed to be announced publicly. The bonds for the builder were set \$12,000.00 by the building committee. The building committee for the proposed new Church are the following members of the parish: Mathias Haiden, Jacob Tamble, John Bitzan, Louis Markling, Conrad Sauer, Mathias Butala, and Peter Lorsche. Peter Lorsche was elected Secretary and Louis Markling, Treasurer.

Due to the violent snow storm only 250 to 300 parishioners were at Mass that day. After the High Mass the list of subscribers for the church was made public and the amounts they promised to give. Thus far all is well. Man plans, but God directs things.

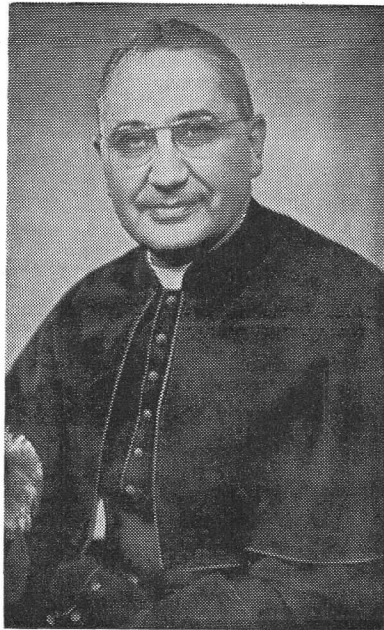
When Effington saw that we meant business they realized that they had to act fast with their intentions of separation. Either now or never was the idea. (the pastor states that he has no animosity toward these people, but he figured that some were doing it only for their own personal benefit.) A delegation went to St. Cloud to ask the Most Rev. Bishop for permission to build. The Bishop wrote his decision to the pastor of Millerville on Feb. 2, 1900 i.e. Father Alois Raster. He said, "I have informed the good people of Effington that I have not the power to split parishes, to found new parishes etc., because such things must be brought up before the Consultors of the Bishop and they must approve it. You as pastor of Millerville have the right to vote against such a division." But since the Bishop expressed his idea that a sister parish would have to be started in Effington eventually, he set this rule, "that no church could be built closer than 6 or 7 miles from the present church."

The pastor, Fr. Alois Raster, answered the Bishop's letter in this manner in the name of the church committee. "Nobody had any objection that this division should take place between Millerville and Effington as long as the new church will not be built closer than 7 miles from Millerville."

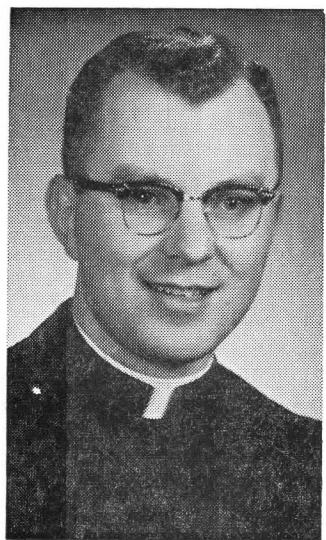
PRIESTS ORDAINED FROM MILLERVILLE PARISH



Reverend Paul Kuich was ordained in 1903. He is now deceased. R.I.P.



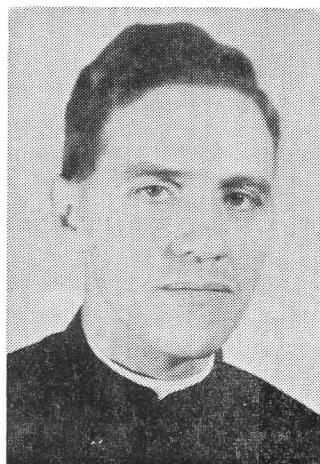
Monsignor Peter A. Lorusung, the Vicar General of the Diocese ordained in 1933.



Reverend James Thoennes was ordained in 1964 and is presently Assistant Pastor at Melrose.



Father Francis Julig was ordained in 1935. He is now deceased. R.I.P.



Reverend Leo Kappahn was ordained in 1939 and is now pastor in St. Odilia's Church in St. Paul. He is a member of the Crosier Order.

On February 4, 1900 on a Sunday after High Mass, Martin Schirber was elected to the building committee to replace M. Butala, because Butala wanted to sell his farm. Thus far the subscriptions to the new church building amount to \$2,805.00. The same day the pastor gave the money to the financial treasurer that he had on hand and asked the trustees to examine his report, and they found it correct.

February 25, 1900. Exhortations were given to the congregation to make use of their citizens rights to frustrate the plans and designs of the APA, against the Catholic schools, especially the Indian schools. The same day the pastor read the decision of the Consultors in regard to the new church planned at Effington to the congregation. This decision was sent by the Most Reverend Bishop and it read this way:

St. Cloud, Minnesota, February 21, 1900
To Rev. Alois Raster, Millerville, Minnesota
Reverend and dear Confrere:

The Consultors met today and among other things they decided on the planned new church at Effington. Asked their opinion about it, they unanimously voted against a church in Effington for the following reasons:

- 1) because the new church will be too close to the old one.
- 2) there is no chance for Catholics to move into the territory because the present settlers own all the land already.
- 3) If the church would be built, both parishes would be too small to build and support a parochial school. Without a parochial school there is no complete Catholic parish.
- 4) The old church is really at present in the middle of the settlement.
- 5) Four-fifths of those who have signed up for the new church live close enough to the (old) church to reach it comfortably.
- 6) If ever a church would be built it had to be built in section 18 and not closer, which at the moment does not seem to be possible.

By orders of the Most Rev. Bishop and the Consultors.

Yours in Christ
G. J. Goebel,
Secretary of Consultors meeting

March 4, 1900. After the publication of the above quoted declaration of the Bishop, we continued with the collection for the new church. Up to today, 72 families contributed \$5,210.00 in subscriptions. There

are 80 families left that have not subscribed and some of them are the well-to-do families. The size and the expenses of the new church shall be definitely set down by a general meeting after all have subscribed to the building fund. The rough structure shall not be more expensive than \$13,000.00.

After the Reverend Pastor of the parish consulted with the Most Rev. Bishop in regard to the building, the Most Rev. Bishop encouraged the pastor to begin immediately with the building project. So we began to haul stones for the building. All those whose names were read hauled stones for the new church building from Lake Aaron. Up to date 30 cords (loads) of stone were hauled. Mr. Louis Markling did most of the job.

July 15, 1900. Today 84 children of the classes of 1899 and 1900 received their First Holy Communion with due solemnity.

July 29, 1900. The Most Rev. Bishop James Trobec administered the holy Sacrament of Confirmation.

July 29, 1900. The Rev. Pastor read again a letter from the most Rev. Bishop in which he exhorted the parish to stay united and work together as they are now for the parochial school with united effort.

At this time the Rev. Pastor suggested to the parishioners to erect a monument on Father Wiest's grave. It should not cost more than \$150.00.

Sept. 23, 1900. The Rev. Pastor appointed supervisors according to a request made by the parish leaders in the different districts of the parish, so that they may supervise the hauling of the stones for the new building. They were: John Kelly, Joseph Hopfner, Jacob Loeffler, Martin Schirber, Wilhelm Wilken, and Henry Julig.

We also decided at a meeting of the most influential members of the parish to hold a Fall Festival (Picnic) sometime in October for the benefit of the new Church building fund.

The St. Aloysius Society for the young men was reorganized according to the statutes laid down in 1897. On Oct. 7, 1900 a Solemn High Mass for Father Wiest should be offered on October 9th. 34 members were taken into the St. Aloysius Society after the High Mass.

Dec. 31, 1900. At the orders of the Rev. Pastor the bells were rung for 15 minutes to ring out the old year and ring in the new one. A Solemn Thanksgiving Mass was held at 10:00.

SOME OF THE PASTORS OF MILLERVILLE CHURCH



Reverend Victor Siegler is the only former pastor that is living. He is now pastor of St. Marcus Church, in Clear Lake. He has celebrated his golden jubilee. He was pastor in Millerville when the basement Church was built and also the Parish house.



Reverend John Wilkes wrote up the history of the parish for the "Register" special edition included in this booklet. He died in 1945 and is buried on our Cemetery.



Reverend Adolph Schmidt was pastor when the Hall was constructed. He wrote up the summary of the education development included in this booklet.



The present pastor Reverend Lawrence Botz has been pastor since 1954. He has compiled this booklet and hopes that it will give a clear, true picture of the progress and development of the Parish of Millerville.

February 7, 1901. At a special meeting called for this day by the building committee and the parish board, The Rev. Pastor was requested to send another petition to the Most Rev. Bishop asking him not to permit the intended splitting up of the parish into two parishes. Effington is still agitating for it. This petition was sent to the Bishop on February 10th with 20 reasons given why it should not be granted.

Feb. 12, 1901. Two laymen that were legally elected to head the corporation (trustees) Ferdinand Dohmeyer and Hubert Roers, were put into their offices after the Bishop and Vicar General gave their approval.

April 21, 1901. In a special meeting it was decided to drain the cemetery where there are graves inundated due to the high water level.

June 6, 1901. We had solemn Corpus Christi procession. Captain Weber had drilled a military unit among the young men's society, about 36 in number, which gave a rifle-salute at the blessing. The whole parish and all organizations were together in full strength. An inspiring spectacle. However, the pastor felt bad and hurt, because he saw that such a promising parish, on account of a few intriguers, would be soon spoiled for the entire future.

June 21, 1901. Feast of St. Aloysius and nameday of the Rev. Pastor. Today ended the two month long parochial school. The Rev. Pastor gave a picnic to all the children that attended the parochial school.

On July 1, 14 and 21, 1901. On everyone of these Sundays after the High Mass we had a Jubilee procession in honor of the 25th Jubilee of the Holy Father. The attendance was very numerous.

Sept. 15 we began the Forty Hours Devotions. Sept. 18, 1901 a Solemn Requiem Mass for Father Wiest and dedication of the tombstone after the Mass. Present were the following: Rev. Fathers Bernard Richter and Leuthner. Father Richter gave the sermon. The tombstone cost \$150.00 and this money was given by voluntary gifts from the parishioners and societies. October 2. First Communion for the children.

Nov. 6, 1901. The Rev. Pastor of the parish received the orders from the Most Rev. Bishop to bless the bells at Effington. No Pastor for Effington yet.

October 22 and 23, 1901. At 10:00 a Thanksgiving High Mass for all the benefits received on both days. A Fair was held the results were clear money and the ladies of the parish must receive the lion's share of the credit for the success of the bazaar.

November 26, 1901. From the Episcopal Residence, St. Cloud, Minn.

Your Reverence:

The Catholics of Brandon would like to build a church. Due to the distance and due to the well-known fact that townspeople do not like to attend church in a country church, because they have no horses to bring them there, we see ourselves forced to give permission to build a church. 25 families have signed up already and they raised \$1,200.00. If you consider all circumstances, I am sure you will not object to the plan.

In real affection and respect,
yours truly,
Jacob Trobec, Bishop

The Rev. Pastor of Millerville gave his consent with pleasure for the new foundation of the parish of Brandon. In the meantime we continued with hauling stones for the new church. The parishioners helped with great zeal.

Dec. 9, 1901. From St. Cloud, Minn.

The Consultors declared themselves in favor of the founding of the parish of Brandon. Please help the good people of Brandon with your advice and assistance in order that they achieve something worthwhile and have not too many debts.

Yours sincerely,
Jacob Trobec, Bishop

Dec. 31, 1901. From St. Cloud, Minn.

The church in Brandon will not hurt Millerville very much. We had long ago decided in the negative in regard to Effington. Happy New Year.

Yours truly, Jacob Trobec

January 10, 1902. From St. Cloud. Reverend and dear Father:

Please appoint the patron Saint for the Church in Brandon in order that I may fill out the incorporation papers and send them to you. Then the land involved can be directly deeded to the Corporation.

Yours sincerely, Jacob Trobec

(There are no more entries made by Father Raster. This is sufficient to give you a picture of the times. The rapid growth of the parish, the promising future, the efforts made to solve the school problems and teaching of the children, and the frustrations that befell the best of intentions. The entries made by Father Brender reflect the headaches and heartaches of the priest at this time).

"Sept. 29, 1905. Arrival of Rev. J. B. Brender, incardinated into the Diocese of St. Cloud on Dec. 18 (1904?) and ordained



The Convent for the Sisters was begun in 1964 and completed in 1965. It is of brick veneer. It is a split level home with private accommodations for six nuns. It was built by the Paavola Brothers of Brandon.

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in 1892, as pastor of the parish of "The Seven Dolours (Sorrows)". I fear there are more than seven sorrows and pains connected with this parish. Courage. Even if the heart breaks, do not quarrel with the Lord above. I will not get mixed up with the "historic" parochial school in Millerville. The priests do not get any help "from above" The people rule in this country. After Effington (so called P.O. Urbank) came suddenly into existence by all kinds of intrigues and tricks, there is hardly any chance for a German Parochial school. The men of the cloth have little to say and the laymen get rich."

The Sequence of Pastors of Millerville from 1867 to 1905—

(as noted by Father Ginther and Father Raster)

1867 up to July 1873 Rev. Pierz, Buh, and Tomazin (The records in the Millerville Parish today begin with year 1871 - before that time records were at the Chancery Office or in St. John's Abbey) January and February 1874 P. Joseph Vill O.S.B. administered the parish.

Rev. Holzer from March 1874 to the end of September 1875.

Rev. E. P. Schneider from Sept. 1875 to October 1877.

Rev. J. Hilbert from October 1877 to November 1881.

Rev. Joseph Kraemer from December 1881 to January 7th, 1882.

Rev. Edward Ginther O.S.B. from January 7, 1882 to January 22, 1885.

Rev. Othmar Enen O.S.B. from January 25, 1885 to March 1885.

Rev. Jerome Heider O.S.B. from March 1885 to middle of September 1886.

Rev. Thomas Borgerding O.S.B. from September 1886 to August 22, 1888.

Rev. Edward Ginther O.S.B. from August 22, 1888 to April 1, 1895.

Rev. Otto Wiest from April 1, 1895 to the sixth of October 1899 when he died in the Lord. RIP.

Rev. John J. Kicken was administrator of the parish April 1, 1899 to Nov. 17, 1899.

Rev. Alois Raster from November 17, 1899 to September 1905.

(to complete the sequence of Pastors to the present time)

Rev. J. B. Brender from 1905 to 1910.

Rev. Ignatius Wippich from 1910 to latter part of 1921.

Rev. Victor Siegler from 1921 to April 1930.

Rev. John B. Wilkes from 1930 until his death in 1945 (Father Wiest and Wilkes are laid to rest on the Millerville Cemetery)

Rev. John Bussmann from May 1945 to May 1946.

Rev. Theodore Rams from May 1946 to end of August 1947.

Rev. Felix Reiners from September 1947 to April 1949.

Rev. Roscoe Finnegan administrated the parish until July 1949.

Rev. Adolph Schmidt from July 1949 until his death in October 1954.

Rev. Lawrence Botz from October 1954 to the present time.

Father Ginther has an inventory noted of the parish house, which may be of interest to some readers.

1 Kitchen stove and cooking utensils - 6 heating stoves and one heating box - 4 bedsteads - 7 blankets - 3 mattresses - 4 springs - 13 sheets - 8 pillows - 8 pillowcases - 6 lamps - 4 tables - 1 writing desk - 1 carpet for the Bishop's room - 3 lace curtains - 1 cedar pail - 4 washstands - 2 mirrors - 3 chamber conveniences - 3 wash dishes with pitchers - 4 pictures - 3 rockers - 17 chairs - 8 tins under stoves - 1 wash sink - 1 cupboard - 2 tubs - 1 oil can - 2 candlesticks - 1 coffee mill - 5 knives - 8 forks - 6 tablespoons - 10 teaspoons - 14 plates - 4 bowls - 6 cups - 10 saucers - 1 butcher knife - 1 fire shovel - 1 poker - 1 boiler - 1 bookcase - 6 cuspidors - 1 slop pail.

In the Sister's house: 1 kitchen stove and utensils - 3 bedsteads - 2 washstands.

The above inventory was revised by me April 1, 1895 and found to be substantially correct.

Signed: Edward Ginther O.S.B.

The St. Cloud Register in August 1954 had an Education Issue in which Father Adolph Schmidt summed up the Millerville education accomplishments. Besides what has already been quoted in the past Father Schmidt goes on to say: After a "vigorous and effective campaign", the Rev. Ignatius Wippich directed the building of the present St. Mary's School.

The cornerstone was laid June 29, 1913 by the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Bernard Richter,

of Melrose. On Oct. 26, 1913 the Rt. Rev. James Trobec, Bishop of St. Cloud, blessed and dedicated the new school. It was opened on Sept. 1, 1914.

The school, costing \$17,000.00 consists of three large classrooms, a library, choir room, and 10 rooms for the Sisters quarters.

Nearly all the children of the parish attend the parochial school. The parents take the responsibility of transportation upon themselves, whether bringing their children by car or paying the bus transportation.

From 1932 to 1939 the Sisters also taught first and second year high school. When this was no longer allowed, the pupils went to the public high school at Brandon with the exception of a few who went to Catholic High Schools away from home.

The following at one time or another attended classes by the Sisters here: The Rt. Rev. Peter Lorsung, Vicar General, The Rev. Leo Kapphahn, O.S.C.; Father Julig, and Father Kuich, (the last two are now deceased (Now we add also, Father James Thoennes and Brother Elmer Cichy O.S.B.)

(Father Maurice Suchy was baptized here, also)

(Sisters) Sister Edward Kelly, Sister Mary Leonard Klimek, Sister Baptist Lorsung, Sister Jerome Hockert, Sister Gerlanda Bettin, Sister Barnaba Wilm, Sister Roberta Bettin, Sister Ottona Dohmeyer, Sister Ethelinda Bitzan.

Mother Placidia Haehn, Sister Alicia Pischke, Sister Gerard Majella Klimek, Sister Eulogia Wagner, Sister Carina Julig, Sister Marcine Schirber, Sister Adelma Roers, Sister Paschaline Roers, Sister Lourdine Thoennes, Sister Agnesia Wagner, Sister Roselma Roers, Sister Rosalinda Wagner, Sister Lois Klimek, Sister Wilbert Julig, Sister Padua Korkowski, Sister Lucy Revering, Sister Lucia Weniger. (These last three added since 1954).

Besides these there are many successful businessmen, good farmers and housewives, nurses, and teachers who received their elementary education here at St. Mary's School."

Parish of Millerville Founded in 1867 by Indian Missioner, Father F. X. Perz

(Headlines of the Register, Jubilee Edition, Sunday, Sept. 10, 1939. Written up by Father John B. Wilkes, Pastor.)

Millerville - (Seven Dolors Parish) —

Millerville is a little inland town about 20 miles northwest of Alexandria. It is in the lake region of Minnesota. The parish at Millerville was started in the year 1867 by Rev. Francis X. Pierz, one of the early Indian missionaries. He said the first Mass in this community at the home of John A. Miller, leader of the first German-speaking settlers, after whom the town was named. The little mission was then named Seven Dolors of O'Chippewa station. (However, the name of Millerville as recorded by Fr. Pierz in his Baptismal Register was, "Prairie d' S. Marie")

The first church was built of hewn oak logs in 1868. In the December issue of the "Wanderer" Father Buh writes the following; "After New Year several new churches will be blessed, three of which Father Pierz is pastor. They are Seven Dolors of O'Chippewa station, (now Millerville) one at Rush Lake, Otter Tail County, and one at Rich Prairie (now Pierz, Minn.)

Millerville mentioned in 1876. The name of Millerville was first mentioned in 1876. At that time there was only one parish with a resident pastor in Douglas County, the Millerville pastor, Father James E. Schneider, and two missions, one at Osakis and one

at Belle River, which were attended from Long Prairie by the Rev. John Schenk.

The second church was built in 1883 under the administration of the Rev. P. Edward Ginther O.S.B. It was of frame construction with a seating capacity of 400. It is now used for a parish hall.

The present basement church was built in the fall of 1922. The Rev. Victor Siegler was the pastor. The part of the basement which is used as a church seats 600. Besides the Church part proper, there is a room for the boiler and two rooms used for a winter chapel and for society meetings. The cost of the basement was about \$30,000. It is made of concrete.

The first parish house was built in 1873. The Rev. Ignatius Tomazin was then pastor. Whether he then became the resident pastor or not isn't known. It seems that at that time he lived in Millerville and was also taking care of Elizabeth, Breckenridge and St. Joseph's in Perham. This parish house was later enlarged (1891) and lasted until 1928, when it was replaced by the present rectory which is of brick construction. It is joined to the church basement by a cloistered walk. The Rev. Victor Siegler was then pastor.

After this the building activities of the parish ceased on account of the depression, which began in 1930. The parish, however, was not idle. The old house and other buildings were torn down and removed. The grounds were landscaped and shrubbery and

trees were planted, so that the parish grounds are now of the finest in the diocese. Also in this time the heating plant and waterworks were repaired and placed in good condition. The graveyard was also remodeled and beautified. The parish grew to such an extent that, in spite of Urbank and Brandon's having separated, the parish has at present about 160 families. It is in a flourishing condition and all work in harmony.

(This concludes Father Wilkes' summation. The repetition was omitted.)

Commentary and Conclusion of A Century of Progress—

by Rev. L. F. Botz

This brief has been compiled in order to commemorate the 100 years during which the Sacrifice of the Mass has been offered in this area. It is to preserve the efforts made by previous writers interested in noting the memorable events in the history of the parish of Millerville. In particular the German script writings of Father Edward Gintner and Father Raster. This was very difficult to read and translate, and again we must give Father James Mohm of Osakis a great deal of credit for his painstaking efforts in giving us the mind of the author. There were many fine incidents recorded by Matt Klein in his book from which we drew freely in order to have the highlights of the century preserved in one heading. We do regret the repetition in some parts and the differences in chronological order, but we do feel that we should keep the different summations given by Father Adolph Schmidt and Father John Wilkes in these contexts. We did omit some repetition and also added in places facts that have been added since their writing.

In giving details of the early part of the history, we felt this would do more to give a picture of the times and situations of these days than anything else that could be said. What enticed these people to this area? How they flocked in from different nationalities and areas in just a few weeks and then so many in such a few years? Then all of them of the same religion? We will try to give our ideas on these matters.

These people must have been quite independent and self-sufficient. They had a great deal of initiative and boldness. They struck out for their own way of life, and yet they had some very solid principles. Their religion was primary and if you look at the whole picture, it is the only binding force that drew them and held them together. This, however, was also the source of their difficulties with regard to the teaching of their children, the construction of their churches,

and the building up of their parishes. We must give Father Wippich a great credit for solving with firmness and boldness the school question. We must give Father Siegler a great deal of credit for solving the language problem by firmly insisting on English in Church and school. These steps, although they were a source of anguish for the pastor, were unifying and constructive to the development of the parish.

There is little doubt that the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass begun in 1867 was the spiritual food for the development and growth of the parish and community of Millerville. The teachings of Jesus Christ held them together and, in the final analysis, solved their difficulties and upheld them in times of trials.

The Final Years of The Century—

Father Adolph Schmidt came from St. Francis Parish Stearns County in 1949. He began immediately to raise funds for the construction of the new Church. In 1950 he had the old Church Hall razed and used the lumber for the construction of the Parish Hall at a cost of approximately \$5,000.00. He had a great gift of gathering funds and by the end of 1954 had on hand about \$134,000.00. He had plans for the construction of the superstructure of the Church drawn up by the architect, Louis Freed. However Father Schmidt died October 1954, before he could begin construction.

In October Rev. Lawrence Botz was assigned as Pastor of Millerville with instructions to build the Church. The cost of the building was very high and there was still an option to either build on the old foundation constructed by Father Siegler in 1923, or raze this foundation and build smaller, or build an entire new construction on a different location. The building committee was to bring two other men with them and a vote was taken after the entire situation was explained. The vote was nearly unanimous to build on the old foundation, which had been tested and found to be very sound. Construction began in the Fall of 1955 and the Church was dedicated in 1956, October 25. The cost was about \$285,000.00. The church is debt free. However, the church was narrowed down so that now the capacity is for 450 people.

In 1964 the Sisters finally got a new Convent. The cost of the convent was about \$37,000.00 and to date the indebtedness of the parish is about \$17,000.00. Besides these major construction projects, there have been a number of major improvements: a two car garage was built, two new deep wells have been drilled, the entrances to the school have been rebuilt and enclosed, the Church

has been decorated and painted. The Hall was modernized. The material development of Millerville has progressed by leaps and bounds in these latter years, and we do believe and hope it is because of its spiritual development and this stemming from the foundation laid by its forefathers.

Status Animarum - the situation in Millerville at the present time.

The parish has dwindled from its early population because of the enlarging of the farms and the lack of territory for new families. At present there are 650 baptized persons in the parish. There are 125 families.

In 1897 the St. Otto's Court of the Catholic Order of Foresters was founded. This was before the division of the parish so that its membership is interparochial. John G. Wagner is the Secretary.

In 1895 the Catholic Aid Society was established into St. Catherine's Society for the Women and St. Joseph's Society for the men. This likewise is interparochial. Mrs. Leander Stariha is Secretary for the St. Catherine's society. Some of the oldest members are Mrs. Frances Debilzan 97, initiated in 1903, together with Mrs. Mary Klein 86. Veronica Haehn was 90 years old but only entered the society in 1906.

In 1937 the Knights of Columbus from Fergus Falls moved their headquarters for

their Order to Millerville, where it has been since then. Some of the oldest members are Matt Kraemer from Parkers Prairie, August Lehn from Brandon, Joseph Straemer from Elbow Lake and Joseph Haiden from Millerville. It reaches out into the whole area. Bernard Thoennes is the present Grand Knight succeeding Aloys Korkowski.

The Christian Mothers Society has been active in the Parish throughout the years, but it seems that their beginning is lost in the past. The Society was not Nationally Affiliated until 1962. Mrs. Gerhard Thoennes is the present President succeeding Mrs. James Gluba. This Society is parochial and carries out the work of the National Council of Catholic Women. All the women of the parish are enrolled in this organization.

The men are enrolled in the Council of Catholic Men and are particularly active when the construction projects were to be activated. The building committee are Albert Bitzan, Emmett Kelly, Gerhard Thoennes, Anton Roers, Nick Otto, August Ledermann, Martin Korkowski, Aloys Korkowski, Ferd Hockert and George DeLeeuw. The present Trustees of the Parish are Gerhard Thoennes, Secretary and M. J. Schiele the Treasurer. The Pastor is Rev. Lawrence F. Botz.



The parish house and cloister walk to the Church were built by Father Victor Siegler in 1928. The electric current was uncertain at this time and a unique furnace, now a trash burner, was included so that heat could be maintained in the house in case of a power failure.

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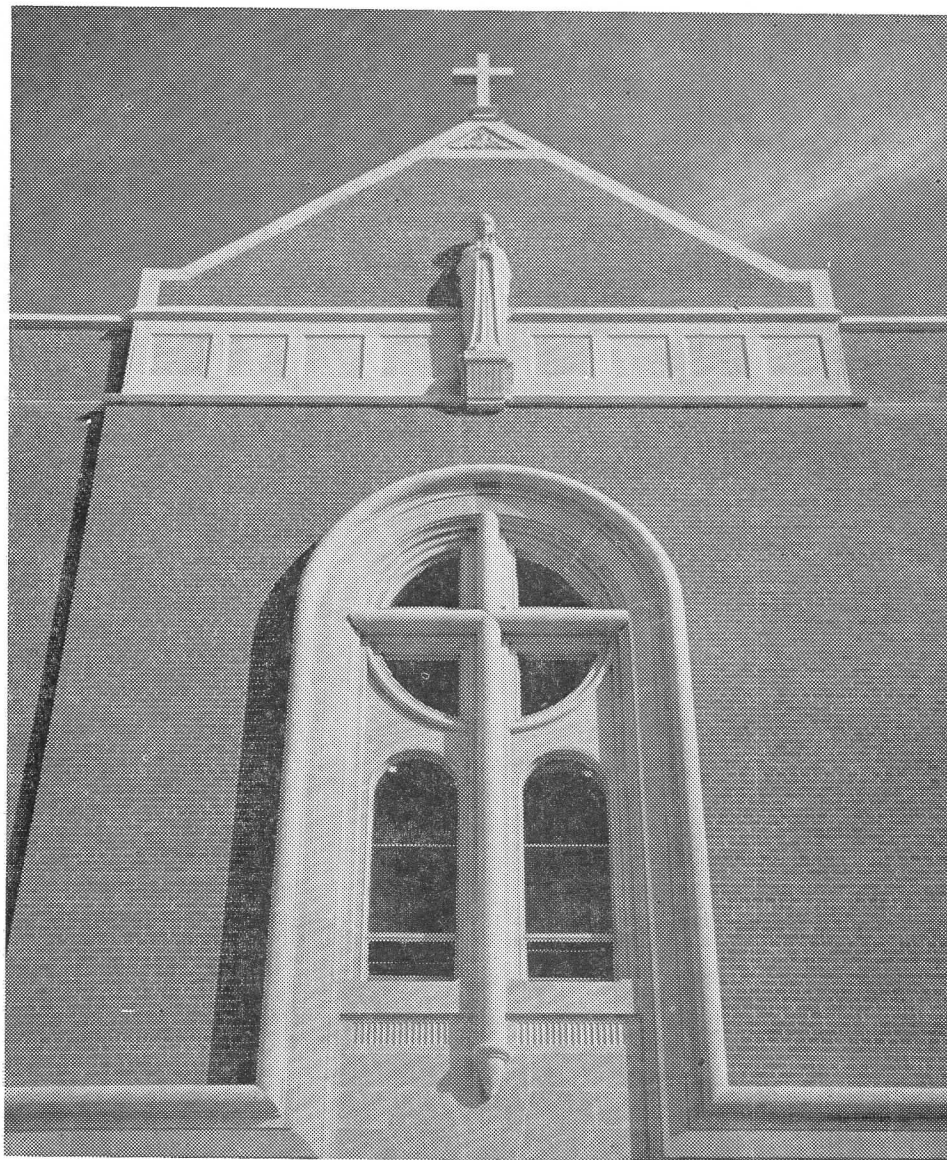
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An imposing view of the front of the church looking up from the front steps

The superstructure of the Church was built over the foundation laid in 1923 by Father Siegler. The length of the Church is 140 feet and the widest part is 80 ft. It is 55 ft. to the roof top and the tower is 85 ft. high. The superstructure was built in 1955 and completed in 1956. The capacity is 450 in the nave.

