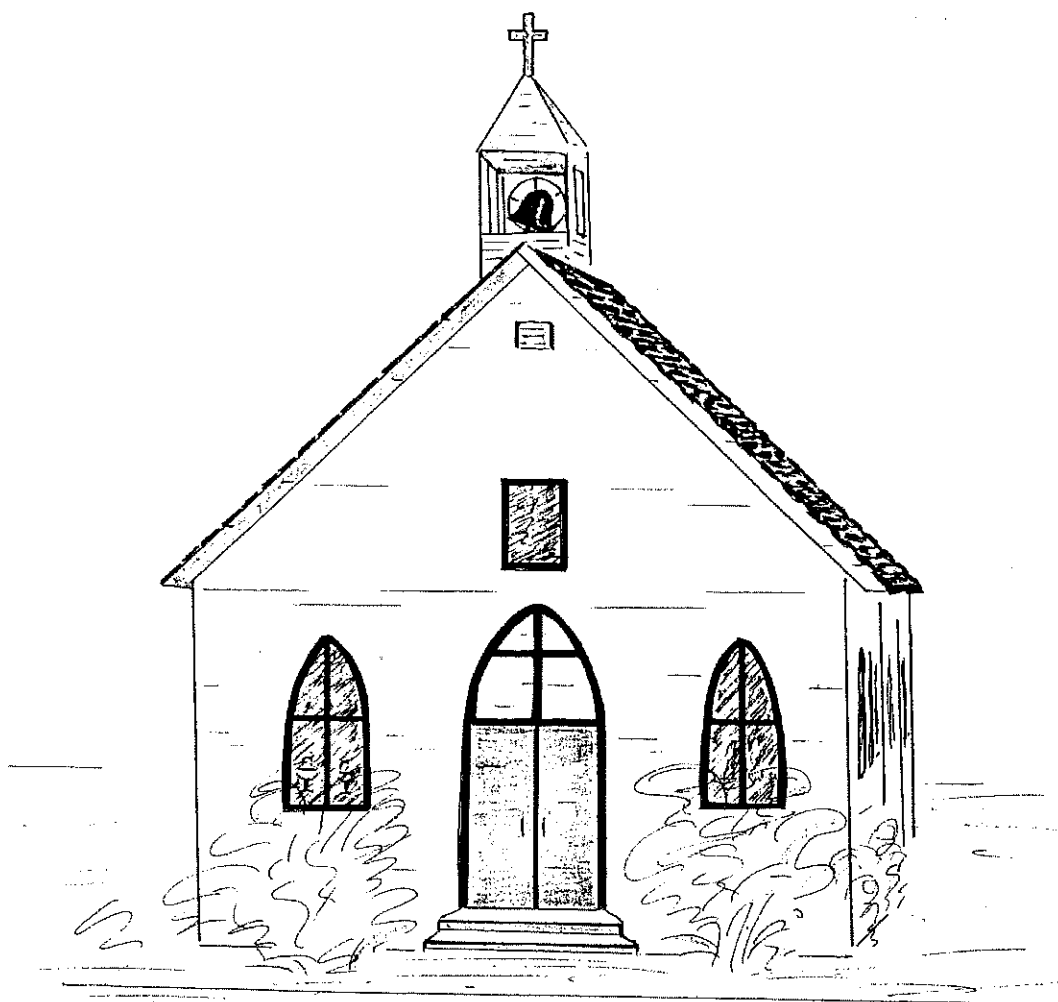


SAINT SCHOLASTICA CHURCH



1899-2009

Saint Scholastica – Our Patron Saint

From: Butlers Lives of the Saints



Saint Scholastica who was Saint Benedict's sister, traditionally his twin, consecrated herself to God from her earliest years, as we learn from St. Gregory. It is not known where she lived, whether at home or in a community; but after her brother had moved to Monte Cassino, she settled at Plombariola probably founding and ruling a nunnery about five miles to the south of St. Benedict's monastery. St. Gregory tells us that St. Benedict governed nuns as well as monks, and it seems clear that St. Scholastica must have been their abbess, under his direction. She used to visit her brother once a year. Since she was not allowed to enter his monastery, he used to go with some of his monks to meet her at a house a little way off. They spent these visits in praising God and in conferring together on spiritual matters.

St. Gregory gives a remarkable description of the last of these visits. After they had passed the day as usual they sat down in the evening to have supper. When it was finished, Scholastica, possibly foreseeing that it would be their last interview in this world, begged her brother to delay his return till the next day that they might spend the time discoursing of the joys of Heaven. Benedict, who was unwilling to transgress his rule, told her that he could not pass a night away from his monastery. When Scholastica found that she could not move him, she laid her head on her hands which were clasped together on the table and besought God to interpose on her behalf. Her prayer was scarcely ended when there arose such a violent storm of rain with thunder and lightning that St. Benedict and his companions were unable to set foot out the door. He

exclaimed, "God forgive you sister; what have you done?" Whereupon she answered, "I asked a favor of you and you refused it. I asked God, and He has granted it." Benedict was therefore forced to comply with her request, and they spent the night talking about holy things and about the felicity of the blessed to which they both aspired and which she was soon to enjoy. The next morning they parted, and three days later St. Scholastica died. St. Benedict was at the time alone in his cell absorbed in prayer when, lifting up his eyes, he saw his sister's soul ascending to Heaven as a dove. Filled with joy at her happiness, he thanked God and announced her death to his brethren. He then sent some of the monks to fetch her body, which he placed in a tomb he had prepared for himself. "So it happened to these two, whose minds had ever been united in the Lord, that even in the grave their bodies were not separated." Her relics are said to have been transferred to France, along with those of St. Benedict, in the seventh century and to have been deposited at Le Mans.

SAINT SCHOLASTICA CHURCH

Erie, Colorado

1899 – 2009

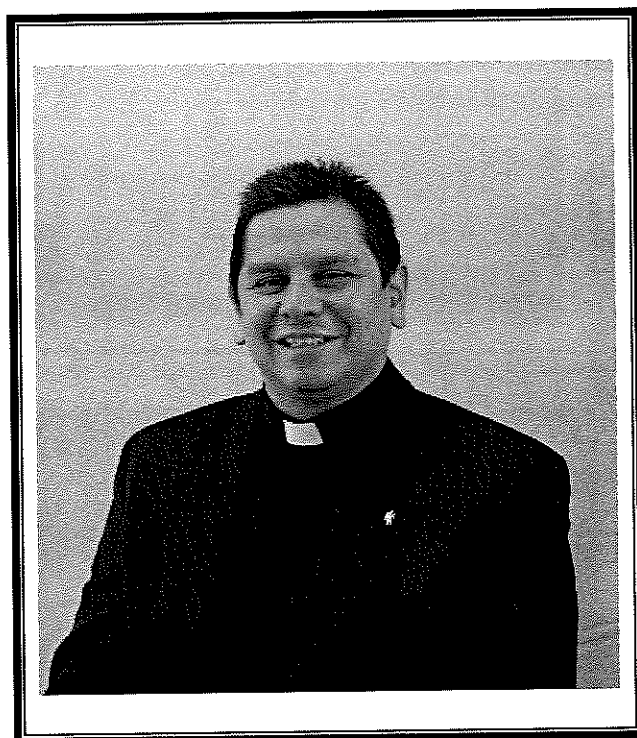
A Journey of Faith

Prepared By:
Jane Kozma
Jane Marshall
Mary Montano
Mary Dicke
Dave Stone

FOREWARD

Saint Scholastica Catholic Church is a place in which we follow in the footsteps of our patroness, Saint Scholastica. Our commitment is to be a community of faith, hope and charity in Christ, mirroring the example of Saint Scholastica, who would spend days and nights praising God and speaking on sacred matters.

On this occasion of our 110th anniversary, we ask once again for the intercession of our patroness that our parish family will continue to grow as an active community that participates in the works of prayer, service and spreading the good news for the sake of the Kingdom of God. I am confident that she, who was fervent in prayer, will intercede on our behalf, just as she confidently prayed to God during a visit with her twin brother, Saint Benedict, and God answered her prayer.



What follows is an update to our 100th anniversary booklet printed in 1999. It details our church's history from its beginnings to the present. The contributions of time, talent and treasure of our parishioners throughout the past 110 years have helped make Saint Scholastica a joyful place in which we experience the presence of Our Lord in the community. I am grateful to all of you, beloved parishioners, for your dedication and tireless commitment to our church.

May Almighty God bless us through the intercession of Saint Scholastica.

Your Brother in Christ,

F. HERNAN FLOREZ A.

Father Hernan Florez Albarracin
Pastor



Mary Montano
PO Box 175
Erie, CO 80516-0175

We would like to acknowledge the generosity of the following sponsors for their financial contributions to the printing of this booklet.

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Anonymous

The authors would like to thank the following for their help in preparing this booklet:

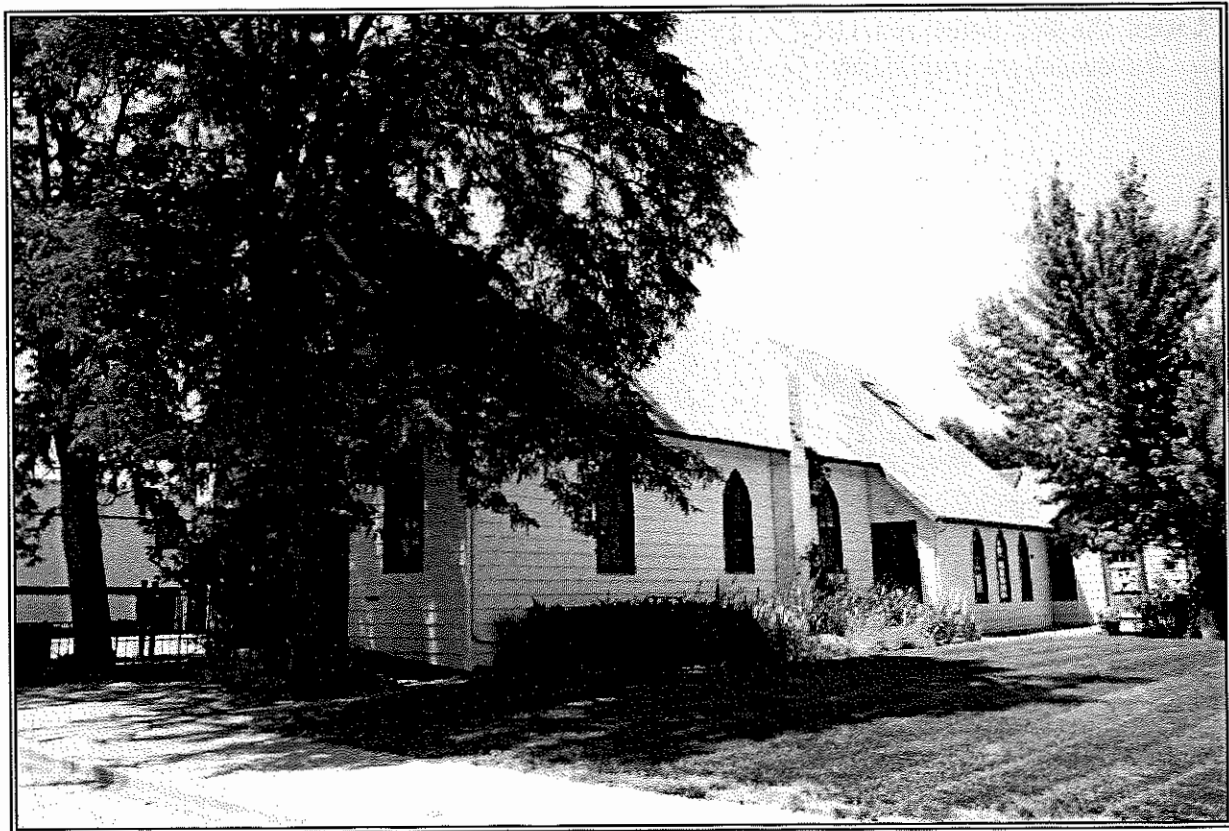
Carnegie Library, The Archdiocese of Denver Archives, Rev. Bernard Gervais, O.S.B. (Archivist, Holy Cross Abbey, Canon City, CO), Brother Brian Boosel, O.S.B. (Asst. Archivist, St. Vincents Arch Abbey, LaTrobe, PA) Helen Monares, Dorothy Whipkey, Madeline Munoz, Polly Montano, Isabell Martinez, and Isabel Pachecho (for their interviews), Janet Melick (for her photographs), Emmy Conroy (for additional photography), Mary Montano (artwork)

SAINT SCHOLASTICA CHURCH

1899 – 2009

This year we will celebrate the one hundred and tenth anniversary of our church. The first pastor, Benedictine Rev. Cornelius Enders O.S.B., with the help of local parishioners built the church that we still attend today. Over time there have been many changes to the structure; it has been expanded and remodeled, it has been updated and enhanced, but it still stands on the same foundation that Father Enders set in place 110 years ago.

Our community also has changed over the last century. Members have passed on, or moved on, but as they did new generations grew up and new members moved in. We the parishioners of Saint Scholastica in 2009 are a continuum of the parishioners of Saint Scholastica in 1899. We stand on the foundation of community set down by Father Cornelius and the early coal miners. We are but a new generation of the same Catholic community.



Saint Scholastica's Church – 1999

The Beginning of Erie

As is usually the case in history, the migration that started the town of Erie did not cast the first human footprints in the area. The Southern Arapaho were the primary inhabitants of the area for many years. The Ute tribes occasionally descended into the valleys; and once in a great while the Cheyenne camped along the creek as they passed through in their nomadic pursuit of game. When only the tribes frequented this region, it was a far different view from the ridge than what we see today; prairie as far as the eye could see. The stream that meandered through the middle of the nomadic hunters' Eden would later be known as Coal Creek.

It was coal that brought miners to the flood plain along Coal Creek. Jim Baker, famous as an Indian scout at a younger age, settled on the banks of Coal Creek around 1859 and started mining coal from a "slope mine" in the vicinity of what was to become Erie. Hauling the coal to Denver by wagon and selling it for \$1.00 a bushel did not prove to be very profitable and soon he moved on. George Gilson, another early settler, homesteaded about the same time and also ran a "slope mine" operation for a short time. He also tired of the large amount of heavy work for small return and moved on. Various other small operations struggled through the 1860's. The end of the Civil War led to migration to the West. With the growth in population and business, the number of railroads increased. The arrival of the railroad increased the need for coal and provided the means to haul it long distances.

By 1870 a number of mines were in operation and people moving into the area settled along Coal Creek. At this point, what was to become Erie was mostly a tent city. In 1871, Denver-Boulder Railroad Company ran a line from Denver to Erie. The mines multiplied and the town grew.

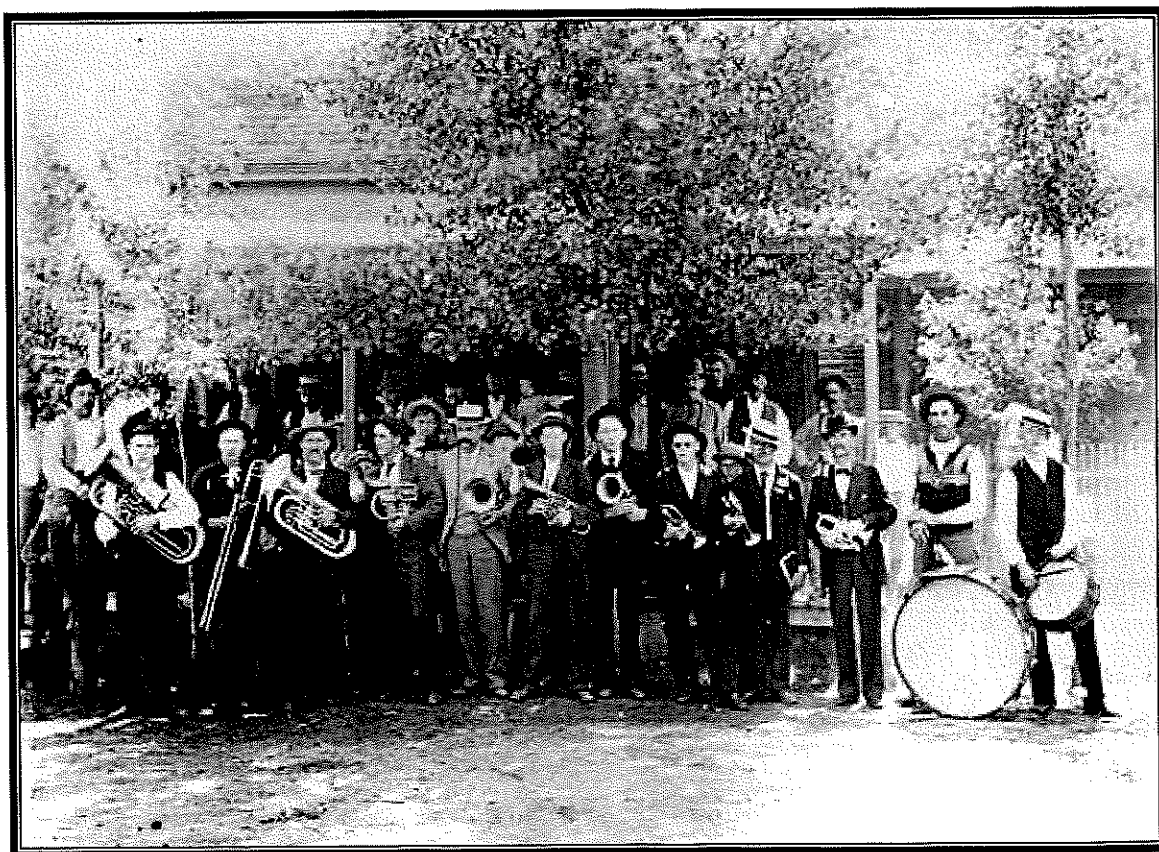


Erie 1876 - Courtesy of the Western History Department at the Denver Public Library

On November 16, 1874, Erie was officially incorporated with a population close to 600. The town was named after Erie, Pennsylvania, the hometown of prominent citizen Rev. Richard Van Valkenburg, pastor of the Methodist church. Erie was now the third largest town in Weld County.

Unlike many other northeastern Colorado towns, the need for miners and not farmers drove the migration of people to Erie. A large percentage of the people who originally settled Erie had their roots in northern Europe. They were experienced miners and many had worked in mines in the eastern United States before moving West. Coal mining was quickly becoming a major force in the economy of the region. Erie was a mining town and that would be a dominant factor in its personality for many years. As the mines expanded and the demand for miners grew, many miners were brought in from eastern Europe and other areas of the United States and Mexico. Mine owners frequent attempts to cut wages would lead to strikes. Throughout the rest of the century, and into the next, there would be many labor disputes, some of them deadly. It seemed until the close of the 1920's the mines were always on the verge of a strike and the miners' jobs were precarious at best.

In spite of the struggles, Erie would grow through the remaining decades of the 19th century. The town had a hotel, boarding houses, a Methodist church and an opera house.



Erie Band 1880 – Courtesy of the Western History Department at the Denver Public Library

Benedictine priests established the roots of Catholicism in Erie. The Benedictine order had been given the responsibility for the missions in this area by Rome, and the early priests came from the Arch Abbey in LaTrobe, Pennsylvania. The earliest reference to Catholic services in Erie is a listing of Christmas Mass in 1877. By 1890 there was a regular Mass being said in Erie as indicated by a notice in the May 30, 1890 edition of the Erie-Canfield Independent.

Newspaper announcements indicate the Benedictine Fathers, throughout the last decade of the century, celebrated Mass once a month in Erie. By 1898 Rev. Cornelius Enders, O.S.B., was saying Mass at the Erie Schoolhouse, coming from Sacred Heart in south Boulder.

CHURCHES.

M. E. CHURCH—Rev. J. R. Rader, Pastor. Preaching each Sunday at 11:00 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Classmeeting each Sunday at 10:00 A. M. Sabbath School at 2:30 P. M. Prayer-meeting every Thursday evening at 7:30.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Rev. R. J. Roberts, A. M. Pastor. Preaching every Sunday at 11:00 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Sabbath School at 2:30 P. M. Prayer-meeting every Thursday evening at 7:30.

CATHOLIC CHURCH—Rev. Father Cornelius O. S. B. Pastor.—Services and Sermon at Public School House every third Sunday in each month.

We know from Father Enders autobiography and testimony of other priests that he was a tireless missionary; he had built a church in Ward in 1897.

In 1898, the same year he was transferred to St. John's in Longmont, Father Enders using his

own team of horses and wagon, began hauling

lumber to Erie from sawmills in the mountains. With the help of local parishioners, he constructed our small church, still located at the corner of Wells and Main streets. The church was completed in the summer of 1899. It was to be dedicated in honor of Saint Scholastica, the sister of Saint Benedict, founder of the Benedictine Order.

Erie-Canfield Independent.

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 1890.

TOWN OFFICERS.

Mayor, J. L. Wilson.
Treasurer, Wm. Angove.
Clerk & Recorder, W. J. Sawyer.
Marshal, Thomas Morgan.
Town Council:—J. S. Morgan, B. F. Hershey, J. R. Powell, Andrew Kullgren, Peter Schilling, Oscar W. Meachen.
Meet first Monday of every month.

CHURCHES.

Welsh Church, Rev. J. T. Williams.
Methodist, Rev. Thomas Andrews, Pastor.
Catholic.—Every third Sunday of each month Mass and Sermon, at the public schoolhouse. Rev. R. M. Goodman, O. S. B. Pastor.

Clipping from Erie Review —
September 16, 1898

Clipping from Erie-Canfield
Independent — May 30, 1890

The Dedication of St. Scholastica's Church

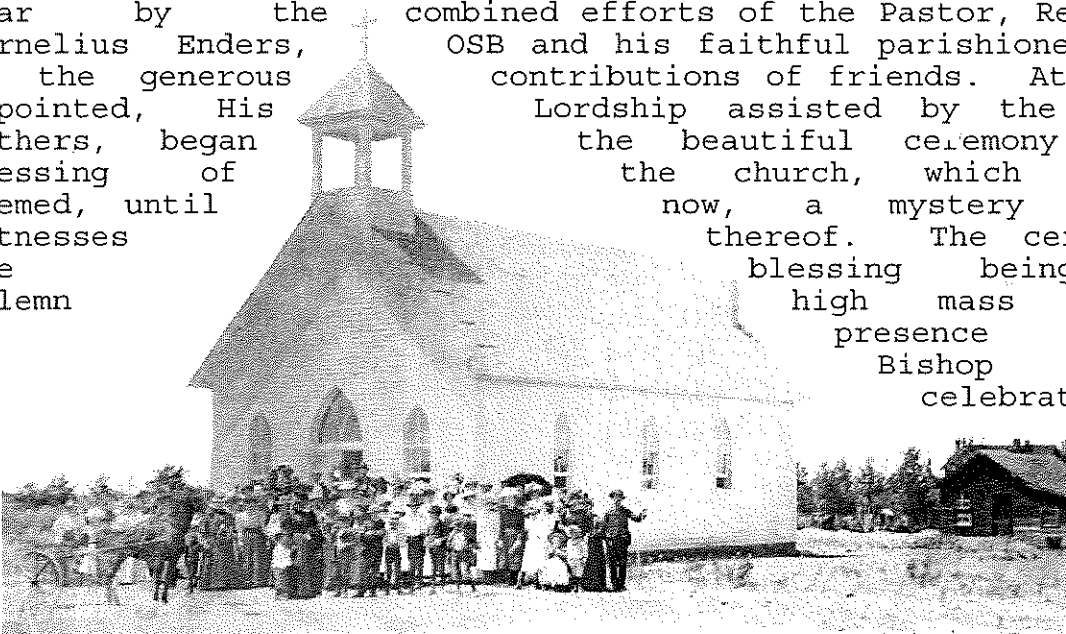
The following is from an article that appeared in "The Colorado Catholic" newspaper, dated August 18, 1899.

This news clipping was originally provided by Mrs. Elizabeth Whiles.

Sunday, August 18, 1899 was a day of great rejoicing and general joy for the Catholics of Erie and their friends. Early in the morning, from all directions, were to be seen conveyances carrying people to the town from Longmont, Lafayette, Louisville, and South Boulder in order to be able to be partakers of this general merriment. (sic). The occasion of this great gathering was the first visit of Rt. Rev. Nicholas C. Matz, DD, Bishop of Denver, to Erie.

About 10:30 o'clock the carriage bearing his Lordship, accompanied by Rev. Fathers Thos. J. Whelan of Chicago, Chrysostom Lochschmidt and Lawrence Ferg, OSB, arrived from Boulder. Another carriage bore the Choir of Sacred Heart Church, Boulder. Rev. Modestus Wirtner, OSB, drove over from Longmont. The Rev. Pastor Cornelius Enders, OSB and Father Henry Hohmann, OSB had arrived on Saturday to make the necessary arrangements for the occasion.

The occasion for the Bishop's visit was the dedication of the new Catholic Church, which had been erected within the space of one year by the combined efforts of the Pastor, Rev. Father Cornelius Enders, OSB and his faithful parishioners, aided by the generous contributions of friends. At the hour appointed, His Lordship assisted by the Reverend Fathers, began the beautiful ceremony of the blessing of the church, which certainly seemed, until now, a mystery to the witnesses thereof. The ceremony of the blessing being over, high mass in the presence of the Bishop was celebrated. The



Reverend Pastor was the celebrant, Fr. Chrysostom, the deacon, and Father Henry Hohmann the sub deacon of the mass. The Reverends Thos. Whelan and Modestus Wirtner, OBS were assistants to the Bishop. The music for the occasion was furnished by the choir of Sacred Heart Church, Boulder. Peter's Mass in D was most beautifully rendered by them. Millard's Ave Maria was sung most artistically by Miss Theresa Kuemmert. Many compliments were passed upon the musical part of the program.

After the Gospel, the Rt. Rev. Bishop preached a most instructive and touching sermon on the Gospel of the day. In the course of his address his Lordship spoke of the benefits which were derived by the institution of the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, and from the worthy reception thereof. Then he made some beautiful comparisons between the

life given by the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist and that derived from preaching and hearing the Word of God. The words spoken by his Lordship on this occasion will long be remembered by his devoted listeners.

The celebration was brought to a happy close by the chanting of the Ta Deus Laudamus (Holy God) which was sung by the choir and various members of the congregation in the English version. The members of the choir were, Misses Josephine Lee, Theresa Kuemmert and Nolan, sopranos; Misses Mary and Louisa Hegmand and Barbara Voegtle altos; Messrs Fred Burger, Louis O'Brien and T. O'Hearn, basses. Miss Mary Hegman presided at the organ.

The celebration over, the Rt. Rev. Bishop, the visiting clergy and the members of the choir were conducted to the Residence of Mr. And Mrs. Frank Konautz, who for the occasion had turned their whole house over to the visitors to partake of a sumptuous repast. Too much praise could not be bestowed on Mrs. Konautz and her daughters, Mrs. B.F. Hershey and Mrs. William Whiles for the courteous entertainment given to their guests, and particularly for the elegant dinner. They will long be remembered by those who had the happiness of being partakers of their kind and generous hospitality.

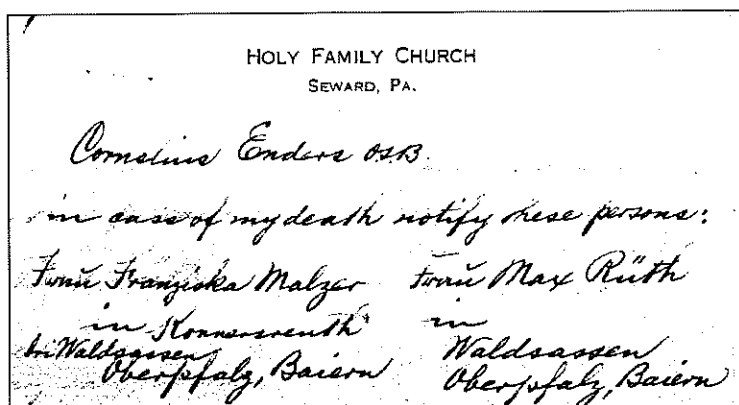
After spending the afternoon in the most enjoyable manner, the hour too soon arrived when parting was in order. The Rt. Rev. Bishop, accompanied by Rev. T. Whelan left on the B & M train for Denver. The visiting Fathers and the members of the choir returned in their carriages to Boulder, fully satisfied that they had spent a most enjoyable day, only regretting that it passed over so soon. The Catholics of Erie deserve great credit and unbounded praise for their efforts to erect a house of worship for God, which they might claim as their own. They have every reason to be proud of the success that has crowned them in their endeavors, for they possess a cozy and beautiful church. May God bless and prosper them.



Church - 1997

Autobiography of Cornelius Enders, OSB

(Rev. Cornelius Enders, O.S.B. wrote this autobiography in 1924 while a pastor at the Holy Family Church in Seward, PA.)



Cornelius Enders, OSB, was born Dec. 7, 1866, son of Johann Enders and Johanna nee Schaller, in Konnersreuth, Bayern. Came to St. Vincent at the end of Sept 1881 with Johann Rath,



who died 2 weeks later with diphtheria and Carl Eckl who became a lay brother. Passed through the scholasticate, entered the novitiate in 1886. Solemn vows 1890, ordained Sept 23-92 with P. Alois Kohlbeck O.S.B. and Ferdinand Hartung O.S.B. Stationed in St. Mary's, Allegheny till Sept. 1896 when a throat affection forced him to go to Colorado. Was stationed at Boulder from where he attended Louisville & Erie & Ward for 2 years and said mass at St. Gertrudes convent during the week. In 1897 build a small church, St. Benedict at Ward, then a flourishing mining town. In 1898 took charge of Longmont which had been turned over to the Benedictines. In 1899, built a frame church at Erie, Colo, St. Scholastica and attended South Boulder and the mountain missions till Oct. 1901 when he went to Chicago on account of eye trouble. Chaplain of Benedictine Sisters & Alexian Bros. Hospital till Feb 1902 when he was sent to St. Boniface, Allegheny. In Sept 1903 went to St. Mary's Elk

Co, S. Heart Church. Built the new church 1905-1907. In 1911 made pastor at St. Vincent till March 1917 when serious stomach trouble sent him to Mercy Hospital. Spent some months in Erie; chaplain Bened. Sisters Allegheny Dec 1917-Apr. 1918, assigned to Spangler, built a brick school. In 1921 sent to Seward as first resident pastor, build rectory 1924. As for the rest I say with the patriarch: *Deus ipse providebit.*

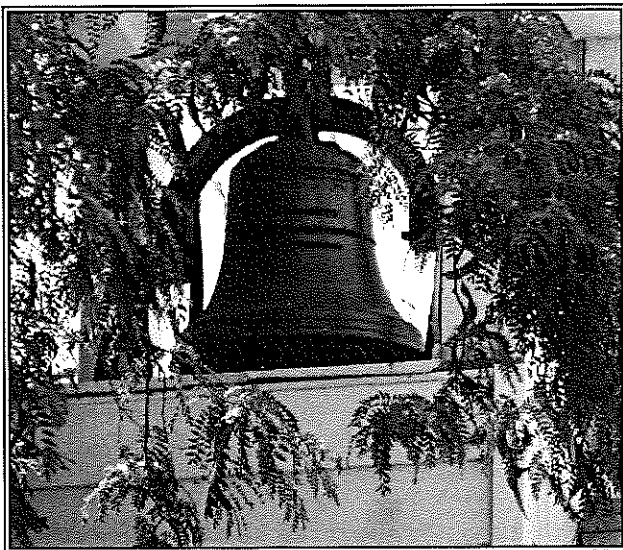
Moving Into A New Century

In 1899, the Catholic community of Erie now had a church of which they could be proud to call home. They no longer would have to depend on the local school as a place of worship. They would enter the new century with a brand new church but their joy would be tempered by the fact that they were soon to lose their pastor who had given them so much.

Father Enders had only been pastor in Longmont from October 1898 to April 1899. After only 7 months of service, he was transferred back to Sacred Heart of Jesus in Boulder where he had been, prior to serving at Saint John the Baptist. With Father Ender's increased duties in Boulder, after the church was finished and dedicated, the responsibility for St. Scholastica fell to Rev. Lawrence Haas, O.S.B. Father Haas had moved to Colorado in hopes that the healthful climate would restore his lungs. Unfortunately, his health did not improve as he had hoped. After a period of only a year, he returned to Pennsylvania to live out his final days.

In July of 1900, Rev. Nicholas Seidl, O.S.B. was assigned pastor of the Longmont Church. He tended to St. Scholastica's while it was a mission of Longmont. He held services in Erie on the first Sunday of each month. Although Father Seidl remained at St. John's for 24 years, increased responsibilities in Longmont forced him to sever Erie as a mission in 1902.

From 1902 to 1908, it is unclear whether Erie had regular services. Most likely, Benedictine priests from the neighboring parishes took turns saying Mass at St. Scholastica. From 1908 to 1914, the pastor from Saint Ida's in Lafayette served Erie, but the pastor from Sacred Heart of Mary in South Boulder occasionally attended.



Church Bell - 1999

Although information from these decades is incomplete, we know that the church stood without a bell for almost 10 years. In 1909, the bell that graces the steeple of our church was donated by Mr. & Mrs. George Zimmerman. It was cast in St. Louis Missouri at the Stuckstead Brothers Foundry that same year. What an occasion it must have been when the bell was raised and mounted in the steeple and for the first time announced Mass on a Sunday morning!

From 1914 until 1916, Rev. Robert Murray, O.S.B., pastor at Saint Ida's, took charge of Erie and practically rebuilt it according to *A History of the Catholic Church in Lafayette, Colorado*.

Because St. Scholastica was not connected with one particular church and mass may not have been celebrated on a weekly basis, it suffered from some

neglect. It is likely that Father Murray looked after Erie until 1919. From 1919 to 1921, St. Scholastica was tended to

by priests from Sacred Heart of Mary including Rev. Regis Barrett, O.S.B. who is listed in the Boulder County Directory as the priest of Saint Scholastica's in 1921.

Records could not be found to show who was assigned to the church from 1921 to 1926. Again, it is likely the priests from neighboring parishes held services here. Referrals to Erie in correspondence between the Longmont Church and the Archdiocese during this time lead us to the assumption that pastors from Longmont held services in Erie. Also, it is known that Rev. Albert Schaller, O.S.B. was an assistant priest in Longmont in 1926, the same year he took responsibility of Erie.

From 1926 to 1931, Father Schaller, who also took care of Louisville, tended to Saint Scholastica. Father Schaller also tended to the new chapel at the Columbine Mine.

"Polly" Montano recalls attending catechism classes in a barracks on Briggs Street. The barracks had been brought into Erie in 1927 when the governor ordered the militia to Erie to quell a miners' strike at the Columbine Mine in Serene, a mining town located four miles southeast of present day Erie.

Under the Wing of St. Ida's

In 1931, Erie became a mission of St. Ida's in Lafayette and would remain so for almost 45 years. The first priest from St. Ida's to serve St. Scholastica was Rev. Robert Murray, O.S.B. Father Murray had already served St. Scholastica's from 1914 to 1916 but had served St. Ida's continuously since 1914. Father Murray had led St. Ida's through much hardship including economic disaster caused by labor problems and miner's strikes, the flu epidemic of 1918, and persecution by the Ku Klux Klan in 1920.



First Communion Class - 1940

Father Murray remained in Colorado until 1937, when because of ill health, he was replaced by Rev. Urban Schnitzhofer, O.S.B. Father Urban was responsible for moving the chapel from the Columbine Mine where services had ceased in 1931 to Lafayette. The remodeled building would serve as St. Ida's parish hall.

The next three priests would all remain for only short period of time before each in turn would be called into the service as an army chaplain. In 1941, Rev. Matthew Connelly, O.S.B., replaced Father Urban. Next, Rev. Charles Forsyth, O.S.B. served both Lafayette and Erie. In February 1942, Rev. Raymond Layton, O.S.B. replaced Father Forsyth and remained until late summer 1943.

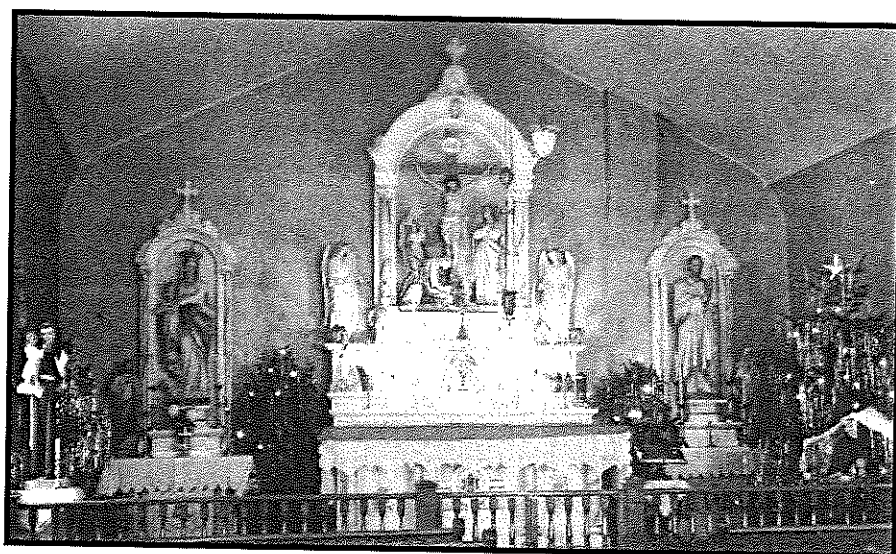
Dorothy Whipkey recalls her father Joe Miller who was a coal miner making his own table wine. When Father Robert Murray was the pastor, her father supplied the wine that Father consecrated for the Mass. Her father was very proud of this because he felt that supplying the wine for Mass, was his way of offering the fruits of his labor to the Church. Unfortunately, the Archbishop sent a directive that only sacramental wine could be used on the altar.

Rev. Maurus Zabolitsky, O.S.B. became pastor at St. Ida's and St. Scholastica in October 1943. He remained pastor until 1946, when Rev. Paulinus Hammer, O.S.B., replaced him. Father Maurus returned to replace Father Hammer in January of 1947.

In June 1949, Rev. Joseph Hannan, O.S.B. was assigned to the two parishes. It was he who was responsible for St. Ida's new church. In 1954, the new Catholic church in Lafayette was dedicated and renamed Immaculate Conception. Father Hannan remained until 1956, when we was succeeded



Father Layton - 1942

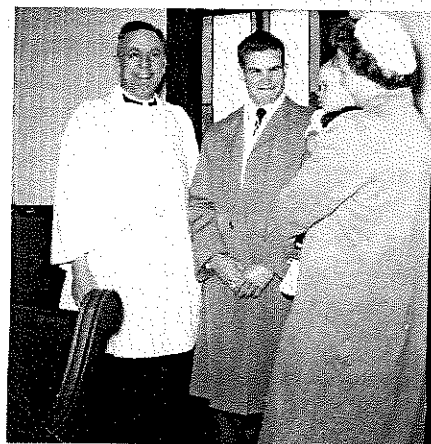


Christmas 1946

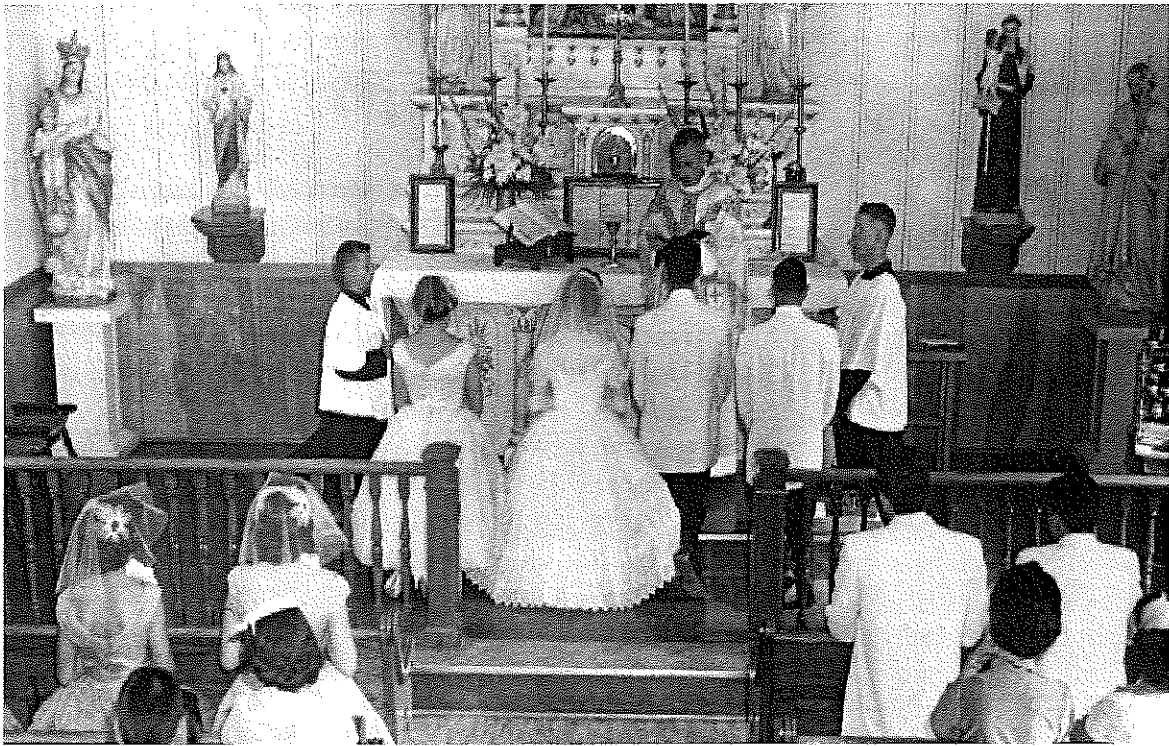
Notice the altar linens. Isabell (Monares) Martinez recalls her mother Antonia crocheting the church's white altar linens and doilies. The intricate handiwork included designs of crosses, grapes and wheat.

by Rev. Vincent Peter, O.S.B. Father Vincent returned to the Abbey to teach a few months later and was replaced by Rev. Martin Arno, O.S.B. Father Arno was responsible for having the parish hall in Lafayette moved to Erie to become the parish hall that still stands. The Ladies Altar and Rosary Society started under Father Arno. They held fundraisers in the new parish hall. Father Arno was transferred to Longmont in 1960 and Father Hannan returned.

Have you ever noticed the medallion of Saint Benedict that hangs on the front of the altar? It was a gift to the church from the Holy Cross Abbey in Canon City.



Father Hannan - 1952



*Alex and Mary Montano's wedding in 1959. Father Joseph Hannan officiating.
Rick & Ted Arneson are the Altar Boys*

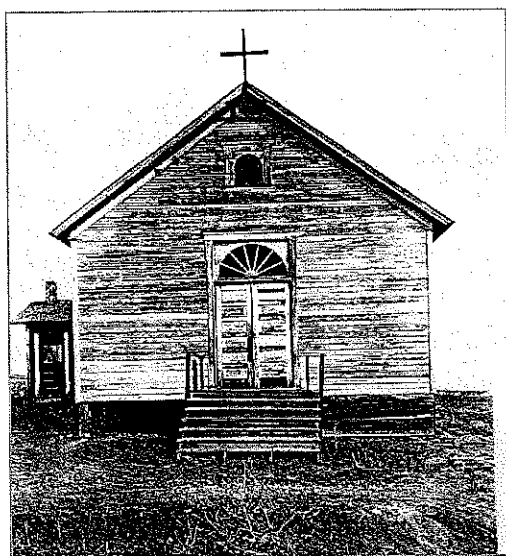
From 1961 to 1964, Rev. Dennis Langdon was pastor and the tradition of Benedictine Priests who had served the area for sixty-two years was broken. In July of 1964, Father Langdon left to become chaplain at the Colorado State Penitentiary and was replaced by Rev. Peter Hudson. Father Hudson was assisted by Fathers Mark Jackson and Dominic Scianfani.

Father Arno returned to serve Lafayette and Erie in 1966. Beloved Father Martin remained as pastor and later assistant pastor until his death in April 1974. He was the last priest of the Benedictine Order to serve Lafayette and Erie. Rev. Michael A. Walsh, a warm and witty Irishman became pastor in 1968, with Father Martin as assistant pastor. Father Walsh remained for two years when Rev. Kenneth Funk succeeded him. Father Funk passed away in February of 1974 and Rev. James L. Morgan became pastor in June 1974.



*First Communion Class of 1969
Mary Miller and Father Michael Walsh*

A Special Meeting Place



*Columbine Mine Chapel
Serene, CO 1930*

Services at the Columbine Church ceased in 1931. In 1940, Father Urban Schnitzhofer who was the pastor at St. Ida's Church (now Immaculate Conception) had the chapel moved from Serene to Lafayette to be used as their parish hall.

By 1957, St. Ida's had outgrown their hall and was in need of a larger one. Saint Scholastica's needed a parish hall and the one from St. Ida's would suit them well. The old chapel from Louisville was to take a third and

In a history of Immaculate Conception in Lafayette written in September, 1934 and titled, 'History of Lafayette Congregation and Associated Missions', there is an entry as follows:

In 1927 it was thought advisable to put a church 5 miles east of Lafayette at the Columbine Mine...A deserted frame church was bought in Louisville and moved to the Columbine, which later became Serene P.O. The church was fully equipped excepting pews, which were secured immediately by their new pastor Rev. Albert Schaller.

Dear Mr. Craven:

In answer to your inquiry of June 20 permit me to say that we have disposed of the church building at the Columbine mine as follows: as I could not sell it or dispose of it in any other way, I had it moved down to Lafayette, where we intend to make it over into a parish hall. Of course, we have to remove the roof, as we could not otherwise have got it under the many light and power lines crossing the roads and highways.

Yours very sincerely,

Fr. Urban, O.S.B.

Most Rev. and dear Archbishop:

This is to thank you for the \$1,000.00 check which you sent us for the restoration of the social hall of Lafayette.

We now have the building moved and set on the foundation at Erie. We hope to have it ready for use early in September.

Respectfully and sincerely yours,

Martin Arno, O.S.B.
Martin Arno, O.S.B.

Letter from Father Urban to Attorney

Joseph Craven Dated June 29th 1940

hopefully final excursion.

Father Martin Arno was instrumental in obtaining the hall for Saint Scholastica's and moving it to Erie. The Ladies Altar and Rosary Society held fundraisers to help pay for moving the hall and restoring it and volunteers provided the labor. A new foundation was set in place, a new furnace was installed, and new plumbing was provided. The restored building continues to serve our parish.

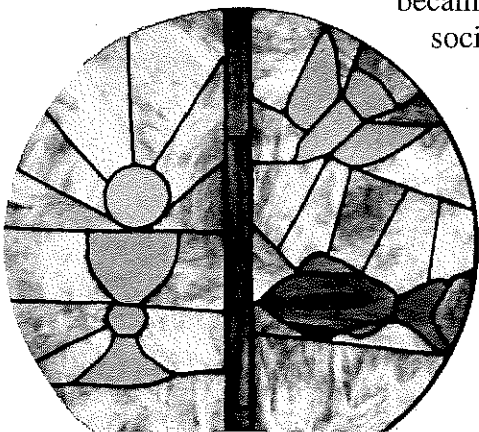
Letter from Father Arno to Archbishop Vehr

Dated July 29th 1957

The Tri-Parish Community

In 1975, St. Scholastica became a mission of St. Theresa's in Frederick. Reverends Peter and Leonard Urban were appointed to St. Scholastica in the summer of 1975 and served our parish until 1986. The brothers were based in Frederick and served the newly formed tri-parish of St. Theresa's in Frederick, Guardian Angels' in Mead and St. Scholastica's in Erie. Sister Elizabeth Dyer and Kathy Santopietro completed the team.

This was an exciting time of change for our parish. A new parish council was established and with it involvement in church activities mushroomed, including an increased attendance at Mass, religious education classes for both adults and children, a busy youth group, and many social activities for everyone. Social issues were a big concern of the Urbans and under their leadership our parish became more aware and involved in social causes.



Window above the Altar

The well-liked brother priests, Sister Elizabeth, and Kathy left the tri-parish and moved on to new assignments in the Summer of 1986.

The Reverend John D. McCormick was assigned to the tri-parish in July 1986. "Father Mac" as he liked to be known, possessed a friendly smile, an infectious laugh, and a love of people. He continued ministering to the poor and was instrumental in setting up the St. Vincent de Paul Society which actively served the people of Erie for many years. Father Mac was assigned to St. Anne's in Arvada in 1988.

Reverend Donald G. Willette arrived in 1988 and served the tri-parish community through the spring of 1991. Father Don had served in the U.S. Air Force, been a businessman and in real estate before he became a priest. In spite of, or perhaps because of, his worldly experiences, Father Don was always in touch with the people, offering a smile or kind word whenever needed. Youth outreach and ministering to migrant workers were priorities of his. He was instrumental in the renovation and addition to the church in 1990, planning, guiding the volunteers and physically helping. Parishioners will long remember his rendition of "Danny Boy" at his farewell gathering.

In 1983, Father Leonard Urban approached Marion Greeley about the possibility of creating a shrine to the Blessed Mother in front of the rectory. The small statue that was used had been stored in the parish hall for some time. Sandy Ketelboeter cleaned
--

A Church Grows in Erie

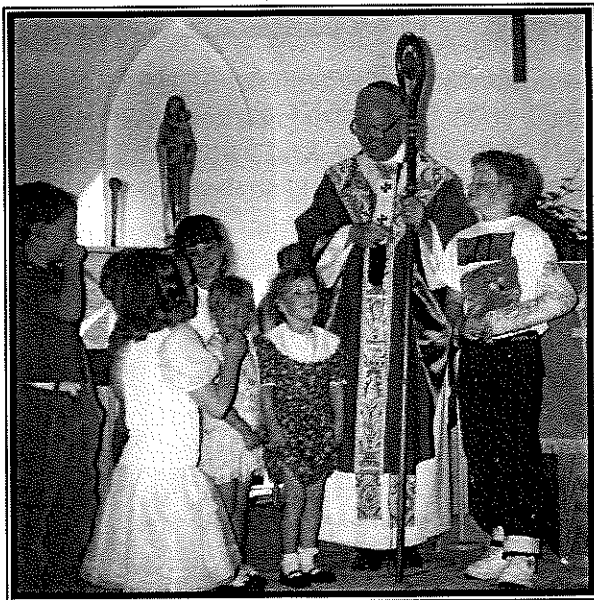
In the late 1980's it was apparent the church was becoming overcrowded. The only addition to increase the capacity of the church had been the choir loft added in the early years of the century. Additional masses were not an option since the priest for St. Scholastica's also celebrated Mass at Frederick and Mead.

In 1988, Father Don Willette approached parish caretaker and master carpenter Marion Greely about the possibility of enlarging the church on the north side. From some scribbled sketches, a larger more beautiful St. Scholastica's was to grow. The plan called for the majority of the interior and finish work to be done by parishioners to minimize the impact on the parish savings.

After the major structural work and installation of the roof, the volunteers of the parish took over. Under Marion Greely's direction, the volunteers, recruited by Tom Connelly, finished the interior of the church. The ceiling of knotty cedar in the new sanctuary and the nave of church, accented by the exposed beams made the church something of which everyone could be proud. Father Don was able to commandeer enough pews from another parish in the midst of reconstruction to provide a complete matching set for the enlarged church.



Father Don, Robert "Sully" Sullivan, and Tom Connelly



Archbishop J. Francis Stafford

On July 28, 1991, Archbishop J. Francis Stafford came to Erie to rededicate the church. The church was packed to the new cedar ceilings. As the prayer of the faithful commenced, the bright morning sun shining through the skylight illuminated the crucifix in its new alcove above the altar.

Although Father Don had moved on to be pastor at St. Louis parish in Louisville, he was there to celebrate, share, and give thanks for all the people who were instrumental in making the expansion a success.

REDEDICATION

ST. SCHOLASTICA CATHOLIC CHURCH

JULY 28, 1991

REV. LUIS GARCIA, J.C.L.
DEACON MARTY SANCHEZ

OFFICIATING: THE MOST REVEREND J. FRANCIS STAFFORD,
ARCHBISHOP OF DENVER

THANK YOU, HEAVENLY FATHER, FOR OUR NEW PASTOR, OUR
COMMUNITY, AND OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY GATHERED HERE
TODAY TO CELEBRATE THE OCCASION OF THE REDEDICATION OF
ST. SCHOLASTIC CATHOLIC CHURCH.

THROUGH THE VISION OF OUR FORMER PASTOR, FATHER DON
WILLETTE, THE DREAM WAS BORN --

THROUGH THE EFFORTS OF MARION GREELY AND TOM CONNELLY
WORKERS WERE RECRUITED AND THE WORK BEGAN --

THROUGH THE COUNTLESS HOURS OF LABOR BY MANY, MANY
VOLUNTEERS, THE WORK PROGRESSED --

OUR BEAUTIFUL CHURCH IS PROOF OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND
COOPERATION, OF OUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER, AND MOST OF
ALL, YOUR LOVE FOR US. WE THANK YOU FOR ALL OF OUR
BLESSINGS.

Rededication Announcement July 28, 1991

Nearing the End of the Century

Reverend Luis Garcia, J.C.L., a Canon Lawyer, was appointed as Administrator to our parish in July of 1991 and remained with us until the Summer of 1995. Father Garcia initiated saying a Mass in Spanish in Frederick and it soon attracted many area Hispanics. In August 1993, he arranged for host families, transportation, and tri-parish youth to attend World Youth Day in Denver, Colorado at Cherry Creek Reservoir where Pope John Paul II met with international young adults and youth for five days of prayer and reflection. Erie area shut-ins, especially the elderly, always looked forward to Father Garcia's weekly visits when he would distribute Communion.



Sanctuary of Church - 1999

The Very Reverend Timothy Gaines, V.F. is currently the pastor of our tri-parish community. Under his direction, the religious education program has been revitalized and is flourishing. This includes a fun-filled vacation bible school for the children. Although it involves more work for him, Father Tim has added Saturday evening masses to both St. Scholastica and Guardian Angels. Through his efforts, seven new beautiful stain glass windows adorn the sanctuary of our church. One window is dedicated to his beloved mother. For our 100th anniversary celebration, Father Tim worked tirelessly with many volunteers to pull off a wonderful celebration.

Father Tim is a visionary who sees a need and works hard to accomplish it. His dream of having a pastoral assistant in residence was realized in 1997 when Sr. Regina O'Rourke, O.P. joined his staff. Recently, Father Tim was instrumental in acquiring the Catherine Brown house for use by the parish.



Christmas Eve Mass - 1998

Father Gaines with parish children

A Centennial Celebration

Nineteen hundred and ninety-nine marks the one-hundredth anniversary of our parish. The highlight of our centennial celebration was the anniversary Mass. Archbishop Charles Chaput came to celebrate Mass on February 7th, the Sunday closest to the feast day of our patroness Saint Scholastica. As part of the Mass, Archbishop Chaput blessed the new stained-glassed windows in the sanctuary. The turnout was so great that the church was filled to capacity and some of the



Archbishop Charles Chaput assisted by Elizabeth Harvey

The celebration continued at Miners Hall in Frederick with a reception which allowed people time to mingle and view the display of parish memorabilia. Dinner was setup by volunteers from the sister parishes of Guardian Angels and Saint Theresa's. Youth from the parishes served the meals with style and grace and compliments flowed from all the guests. When the meal was finished, many people stayed to enjoy and dance to the music of the talented Martinez Brothers.

parishioners watched the Mass from the parish hall where a television monitor and sound system had been setup. One of the highlights of the Mass was the presenting of the gifts by three very special and long time parishioners, Isabelle Martinez, Mary Katich, and Jean Stermlon. It was a heartfelt moment when the three gracious ladies carried the gifts up to the altar. A beautiful Mass was celebrated and after the closing hymn the congregation left the church to the greetings of the Archbishop and glorious sunshine.



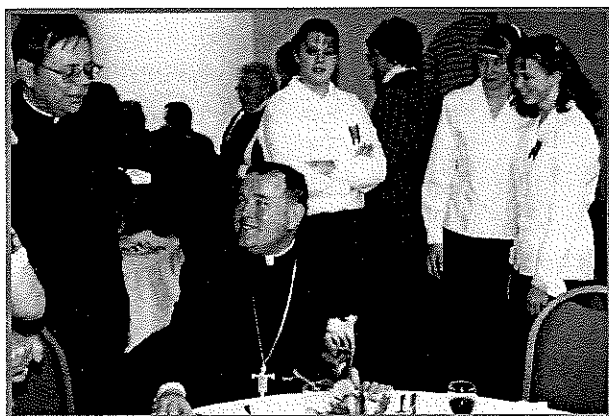
From Left: Megan Rieder, Katy Hartigan, Elizabeth Harvey, Deacon John Pontillo, and Evan Gerwig

A better day could not have been planned. It took the efforts of many people in our tri-parish community to make the day such a success. It was a day to reflect, rejoice and to commemorate the sense of community and belonging that has prevailed in our parish for the last hundred years. Although our community is rapidly growing and eventually we may outgrow our beloved church, we hope that we will always keep the small town and small parish spirit that we hold so close to our hearts.

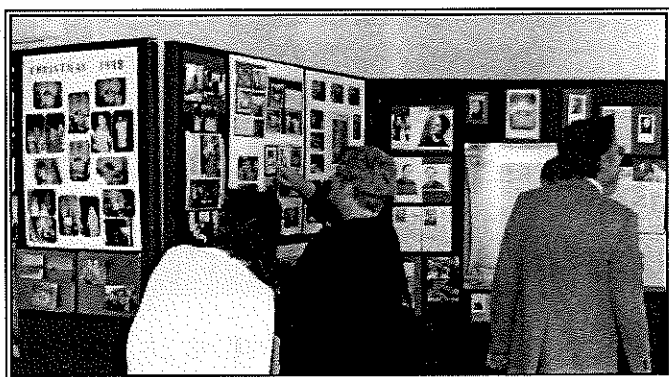


Archbishop Chaput with Father Willette

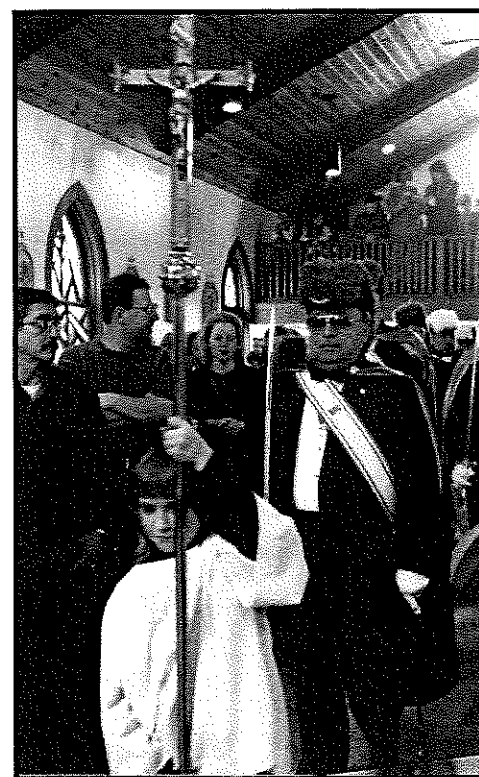
The story of Saint Scholastica's Parish is a story of the spiritual journey of a Catholic community. The journey has been a struggle at times, a reflection of the working class people who have made up our parish since the beginning. The journey for this community started when the country was at the edge of a new century. Our journey continues on the edge of a new millennium.



Father Gaines and Archbishop Chaput with Confirmandi



*Above-Viewing the Parish Memorabilia at Miner's Hall
At Right-Cross bearer Megan Rieder*



Coloring the Light

Stained glass windows bring something special to a church. They break the sunlight into so many different facets. They shield the faithful from the harshness of the outside world. At Saint Scholastica's, our stained glass does even more. Our windows are reminders of the dedication of our parishioners. The windows in our parish are relatively recent additions that were acquired through the efforts of our clergy and parishioners.

In 1976, parishioner Jerry Kincade offered to create six stained glass windows as a gift to the church. Mr. Kincade had taken up stained glass as a hobby and with the help of his son Jeff, he designed and built the stained glass windows. It was a monumental task that he completed in a year and a half of his spare time. These windows are the ones that can be seen in the nave of the church.

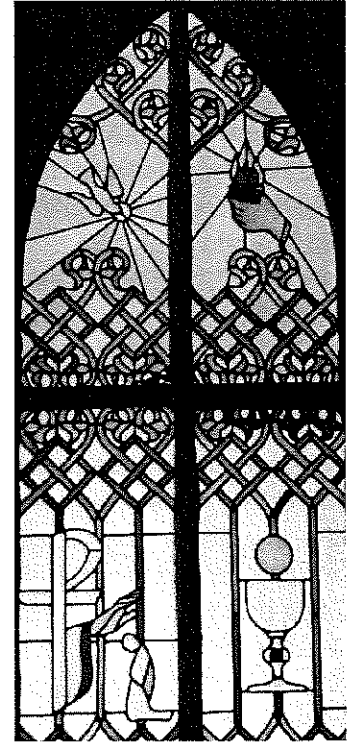


*Window in nave of church.
At right, one in the
sanctuary.*

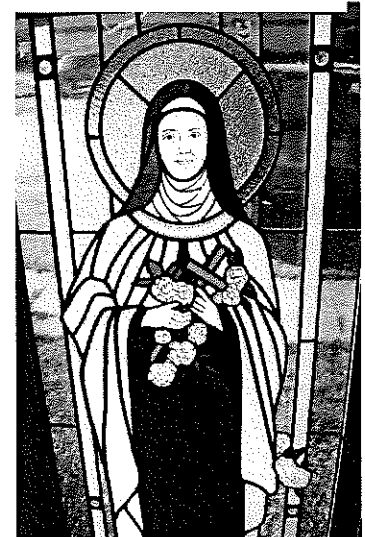
In 1991, another parishioner, Marion Greely, built the round window that is above the altar, in memory of his wife Leone.

In 1997, an inquiry from the family of Mary Miller, led to the installation of the windows in the sanctuary of our church. Donations from Mrs. Miller's family, Fr. Gaines, and the parishioners provided enough funds to commission Regina Adduci Studios to design, build and install

the seven windows. These windows use both clear and translucent glass in their unique design that complements the natural wood in the sanctuary. As part of the anniversary celebration Mass, Archbishop Chaput blessed the new windows.



*A window in the nave of
the church. Try to count
the number of pieces!*



THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

The start of a new millennium was a time of both joy and sadness for the parish community. The parish had just finished the celebration of its one hundredth year, but now Father Tim was leaving for a new assignment as pastor at St. Joan of Arc in Arvada. He left behind a parish community that had multiplied under his stewardship.

The year 2000 brought a new century and a new pastor. Rev. Robert Whipkey became our pastor. He brought with him a long history of family association with St. Scholastica. His grandfather, as a boy of 12, helped lay the flagstone foundation that still supports our church. His grandmother, Mary Miller, had been a faithful member of the parish for many decades. She had served the parish as organist, choir director and head of the religious education program. His emotional attachment to the parish showed in his homilies and his special interest in the church that his family had helped build and the community they had helped to nurture. Father Bob, with the untiring help of Sister Regina, expanded programs for the parish. Their stewardship was a partnership that enriched the life of the parish.

It was evident that the church was becoming too small for the community and Father Bob was very active in the pursuit of land for a larger worship space. A successful capital campaign raised funds for a down payment in the event that land was found. This was a pursuit with many false starts and much frustration for Father and for the parish. The search for suitable land continues to this date.

The year 2005 brought a cloak of sadness over the tri-parish communities as Sr. Regina fell sick and passed away. This was a life-stopping occurrence for Father and the community as all struggled to overcome the loss of such a special person.

Father saw a need for better living arrangements for the pastor. For some time the pastor's living quarters had been an extension of the parish office in Fredrick. Father sought and received support from the archdiocese and the parish community to replace the convent on the Catherine Brown property with a new rectory. Father Bob was transferred before the new rectory was in place and he was unable to enjoy the fruits of his labor in acquiring a new home which will serve his successors for years to come.

In 2007 a modular home was purchased and set in place on a newly poured foundation.

January, 2008 would also bring our parish a new administrator, Rev. Hernan Florez, who would have a new home with room for visiting priests and seminarians. Volunteer labor from St. Scholastica and St. Theresa put in landscaping around the new rectory. Money was raised and a housewarming held. The house was furnished and provided with all the necessities of a comfortable home.

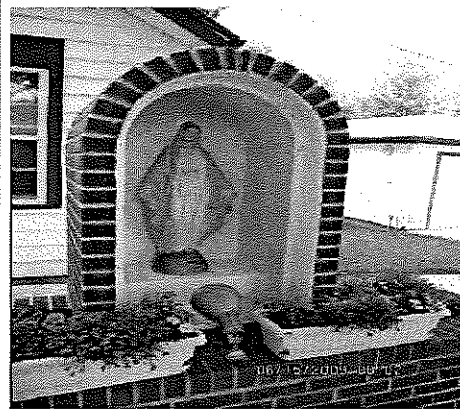
Fr. Hernan has brought with him a new sense of community to our parish. His encouragement and open armed acceptance of volunteerism has transformed our community into a true parish family. He has allowed us the freedom to believe in ourselves and what we can accomplish as a Catholic community.

Deacon Jeff Norfolk was assigned to St. Scholastica in 2008. While pursuing his final studies to become an ordained priest, he assisted Fr. Hernan in the many duties of the parish. He was ordained in South Dakota in May, 2009.

Looking ahead into the new century there are many challenges. We are a growing community. Our church building and hall are over a hundred years old and there is no room for replacement or expansion. The future holds many uncertainties. Can we find suitable land for a new church? Can we find suitable land that we can afford in these economically challenging times? The Town of Erie is a growing community. It has grown tenfold in the last 20 years and will continue to grow in the coming decades. With that growth will come many new Catholics. We have a responsibility to Fr. Cornelius and to those coal miners and their families to continue the journey of faith started by them 110 years ago. Our community must plan to accommodate those future members who will join us on this journey of faith.

UPDATING THE GROTTO

Jerry Pierzina, with the help of volunteers from St. Scholastica and St. Theresa, restored the Grotto of the Virgin and the surrounding area outside the office, providing the parish with a place for quiet reflection.



Icon of St. Scholastica, which hangs in the nave of our church, a gift from Buz Dabkowski's confirmation class.



Rev. Hernan Florez

Father Florez was born in Cucuta, Columbia, and has a father and four sisters who reside there. While pursuing his college studies, he received the calling to the priesthood. He attended the Redemptorist Mater Seminary in Denver and was ordained a diocesan priest on May 14, 2005. His mother joined Our Lord just before his ordination. Father Florez is one of the few bilingual parish priests in the dioceses. Upon his ordination, Father Florez was assigned to St. John The Baptist Parish in Longmont until January of 2008 when he became administrator of St. Scholastica Church in Erie and St. Theresa's in Frederick. In May, 2009 Father Florez was named pastor of St. Scholastica and St. Theresa's with an assignment of six years.

Deacon James Devlin

Deacon Jim is our permanent deacon assigned to St. Scholastica and St. Theresa's in Frederick. His studies were obtained through the Archdiocese of Denver and he was ordained as a deacon at the cathedral on June 14, 2003, by then Bishop Gomez. At the time of his ordination he was living in Ft. Collins with his spouse Janet and their children Kristie, Nathaniel, Brandon and four grandchildren. Among his duties as deacon are: serving the Liturgy, assisting at Mass, performing baptisms, preparing couples for marriage, performing marriages, officiating at funeral services outside of Mass and the blessing of homes, rosaries and building sites. Deacon Jim also serves as an advocate for those wishing or requiring an annulment. In October, 2008 Deacon Jim and Janet moved to Erie to be closer to this community.



SISTER REGINA A REMEMBRANCE

Sister Regina was a native of Colorado, born and raised in Walsenburg. She came from a large Irish family with strong ties to the church. She worked in the banking industry in Walsenburg prior to entering the religious life as a novitiate with the Dominican community of Great Bend, Kansas in 1988. She took her final vows on August 4, 1995, in Great Bend, Kansas.

With the help of a selection committee, she was hired by Fr. Tim in 1997 as Pastoral Assistant for St. Theresa's and Guardian Angels and as Pastoral Coordinator and director of religious education for St. Scholastica's. The living quarters attached to the back of the church, formally occupied by Marion Greeley, were upgraded and became Sister's convent. The community of St. Scholastica had its own religious sister in residence.

A short time later, she was joined by her fellow Dominican, Sr. Annette Winter. Soon, thereafter, they took up residence in the Catherine Brown home around the corner from the church. The house had been offered to the parish by Mrs. Brown's daughter, Janet Melick, at a very charitable price. After some remodeling and upgrades, the sisters had a suitable convent.

From the very beginning, Sister Regina was a powerful presence in the parish. Her strong practical spirituality and her dry Irish wit drew people to her the minute she set foot in the parish. In addition to her duties in Erie, she was the tri-parish bookkeeper, personal adviser to the pastor, and sensitive but practical listener to anyone in the parish, "a comfort zone" as one parishioner aptly stated. She formed a women's group, worked tirelessly coordinating the religious education program, started a vacation Bible school for the children and taught an adult Bible class.

Always an advocate of the role of women in the Church in many and differing ways, she prayed a version of the Stations of the Cross during Lent from a mother's perspective. On the occasion of the Pope's visit to Denver, she respectfully beseeched the authority of the Church, asking for a greater role for women.

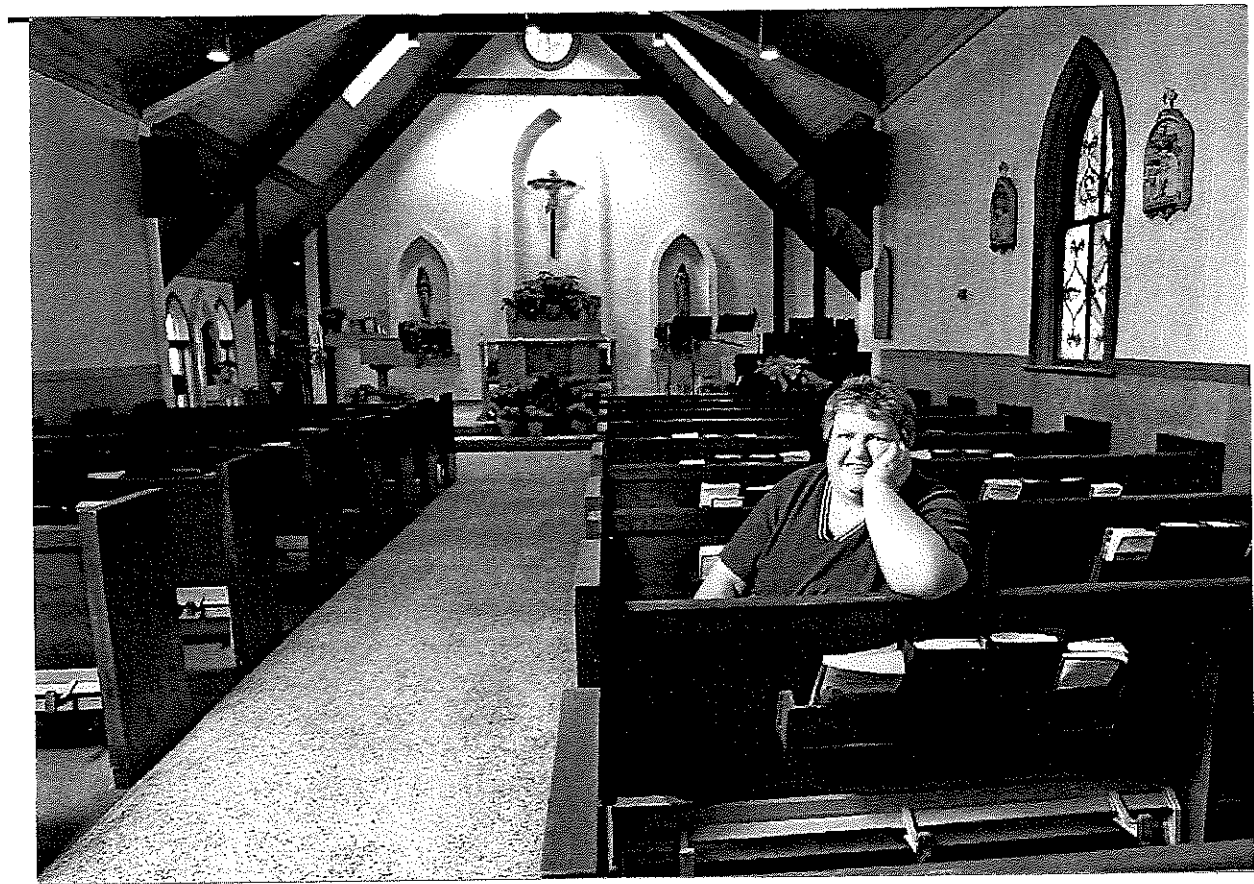
Combining her Irish wit and her sense of giving parishioners a greater voice in how their community should function, she claimed that some priests just "wore their collars too tight". Her two greatest addictions were the "Broncos" and the television show "ER". Dave Stone can recall Thursday night meetings being called for time when "ER" was on.

Sister's health was always a concern. However, she never let the constant pain and discomfort she lived with affect her attitude or her work. She moved slowly, but tirelessly, toward what was best for our community.

Even as she lay deathly ill in the hospital, her main concern was that the day-to-day operations of the parishes were being properly administered, constantly grilling Father Bob on items that she knew were necessary to keep the three parishes running smoothly.

When Sister passed on February 18, 2005, it was an immeasurable loss to the parish community. To each person in our parish it seemed a light had gone out, only to be rekindled by the fact that she had moved on to a place which was the culmination of her dreams. The results of her stewardship still live on in our parish. Her legacy is forever.

May God Bless You Sister Regina



APPENDIX

Early Benedictines Saying Mass at the Erie Public School House

1890 – 1892	Rev. R.M. Goodman, O.S.B.	
1893	Rev. Homan, O.S.B.	
1898	Rev. Cornelius Enders, O.S.B.	Pastor at Sacred Heart of Jesus

Early Benedictines Saying Mass at St. Scholastica

From 1902 to 1926, St. Scholastica was periodically tended to by Sacred Heart of Mary (SHM)

1899	Rev. Cornelius Enders, O.S.B.	Pastor at St. John the Baptist
1899-1900	Rev. Lawrence Haas, O.S.B.	Pastor at St. John the Baptist
1900-1902	Rev. Nicolas Siedl, O.S.B.	Pastor at St. John the Baptist
1908-1910	Rev. Suitbert Rickert, O.S.B.	Pastor at SHM, possibly Erie
1911-1914	Rev. Antonine Hintenach, O.S.B.	Pastor at SHM, possibly Erie
1914-1919	Rev. Robert Murray, O.S.B.	
1920-1926	Rev. Regis Barrett, O.S.B.	Dates are approximate
1926-1931	Rev. Albert Schaller, O.S.B.	From Baptismal Records

Benedictines and Diocesan Priests serving Erie when it was a mission of Lafayette
(Compiled from the histories of the Lafayette Church and Baptismal Records.)

1931-1937	Rev. Robert Murray, O.S.B.
1937-1941	Rev. Urban Schnitzhofer, O.S.B.
1941	Rev. Matthew Connelly, O.S.B.
1941	Rev. Charles Forsyth, O.S.B.
1942-1942	Rev. Raymond Layton, O.S.B.
1943-1946	Rev. Maurus Zabolitsky, O.S.B.
1946-1947	Rev. Paulinus Hammer, O.S.B.
1947-1949	Rev. Maurus Zabolitsky, O.S.B.
1949	Rev. Claude Roberts, O.S.B.
1949-1956	Rev. Joseph Hannan, O.S.B.
1956-1957	Rev. Vincent Peter, O.S.B.
1957-1960	Rev. Martin Arno, O.S.B.
1960-1961	Rev. Joseph Hannan, O.S.B.
1961-1964	Rev. Dennis Langdon
1964-1966	Rev. Peter Hudson
1966-1968	Rev. Martin Arno, O.S.B.
1968-1970	Rev. Michael Walsh
1970-1974	Rev. Kenneth Q. Funk
1974	Rev. David Sobieszczyk
1974-1975	Rev. James Morgan

Clergy at Erie During Tri-Parish Period

1975-1986	Rev. Peter Urban
1975-1986	Rev. Leonard Urban
1986-1988	Rev. John D. McCormick
1988-1991	Rev. Donald C. Willette
1989-1992	Deacon Martin L. Sanchez
1991-1995	Rev. Luis Garcia, J.C.L.
1992-1995	Deacon Daniel Marthe
1995-2000	Very Rev. G. Timothy Gaines, V.F.
2000-2007	Rev. Robert Whipkey

Clergy Presently Serving Erie

2008-present	Rev. Hernan Florez
2008-present	Deacon James Devlin

Major Additions and Changes to Church

1898-1899	Original Church Built
1909	Bell Installed in Steeple
1957	Parish Hall Moved and Remodeled
1976	Stained Glass in Nave Installed
1989-1990	Church Extended
1997-1998	Stained Glass in Sanctuary Installed
1999	Parish Convent Acquired
2008	New Rectory Replaces Convent

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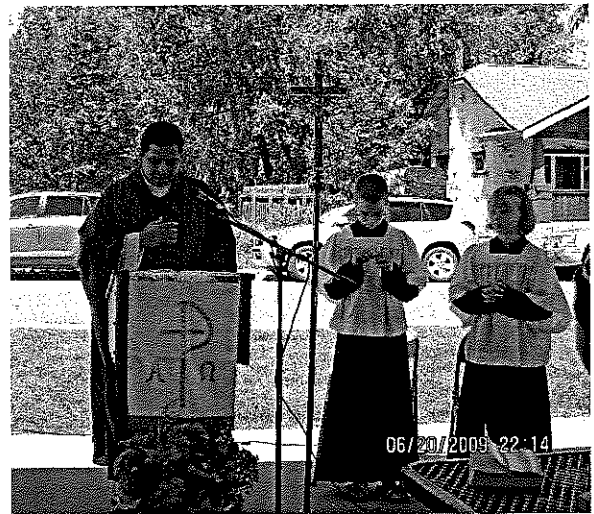
Other:

Erie Newspapers at Carnegie Library.
Church Folders at the Archdiocesan Library.

Mass and Picnic in the Park, 2009



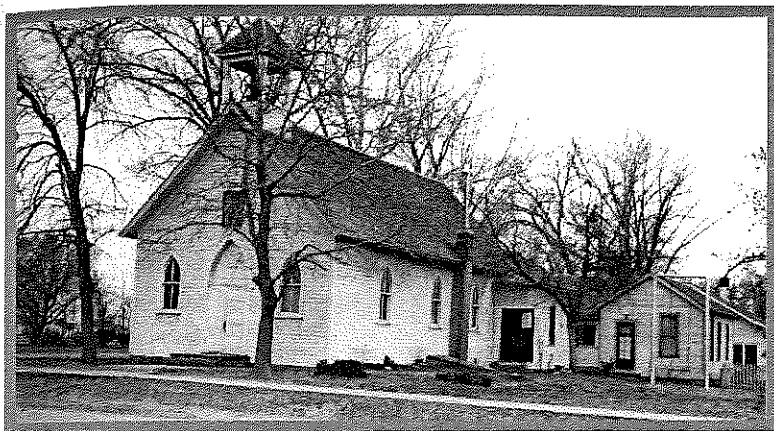
Thank you to all our musicians and choir



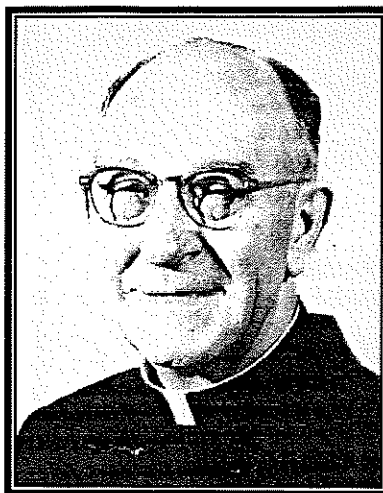
Blessed and well fed



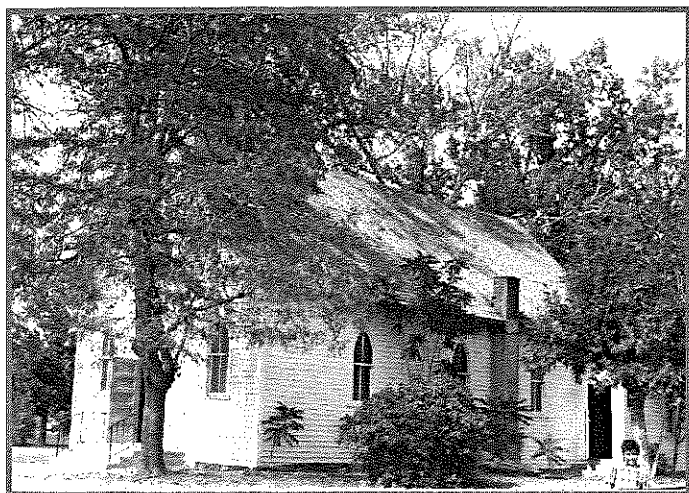
New rectory 2009



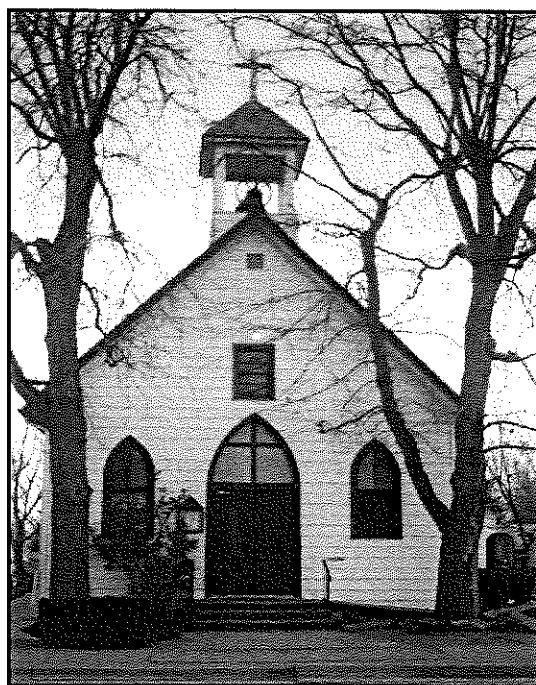
Church – in 1940's



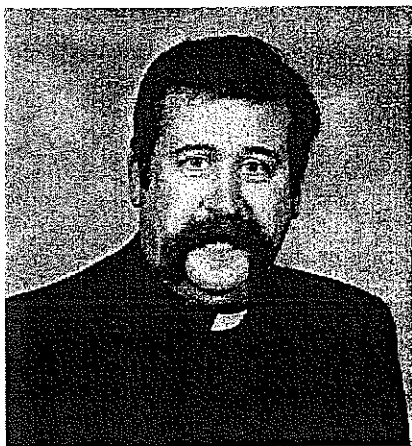
Father Martin Arno



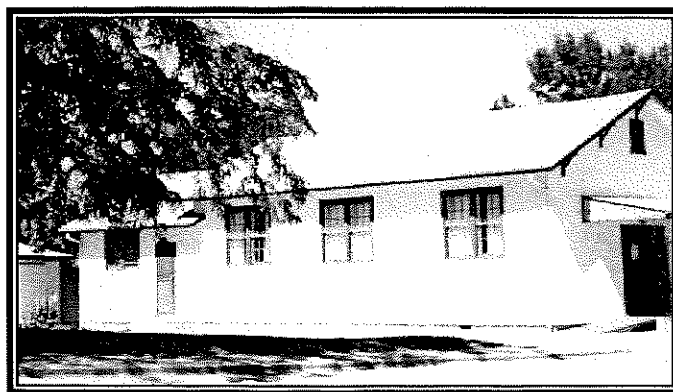
Church - 1964



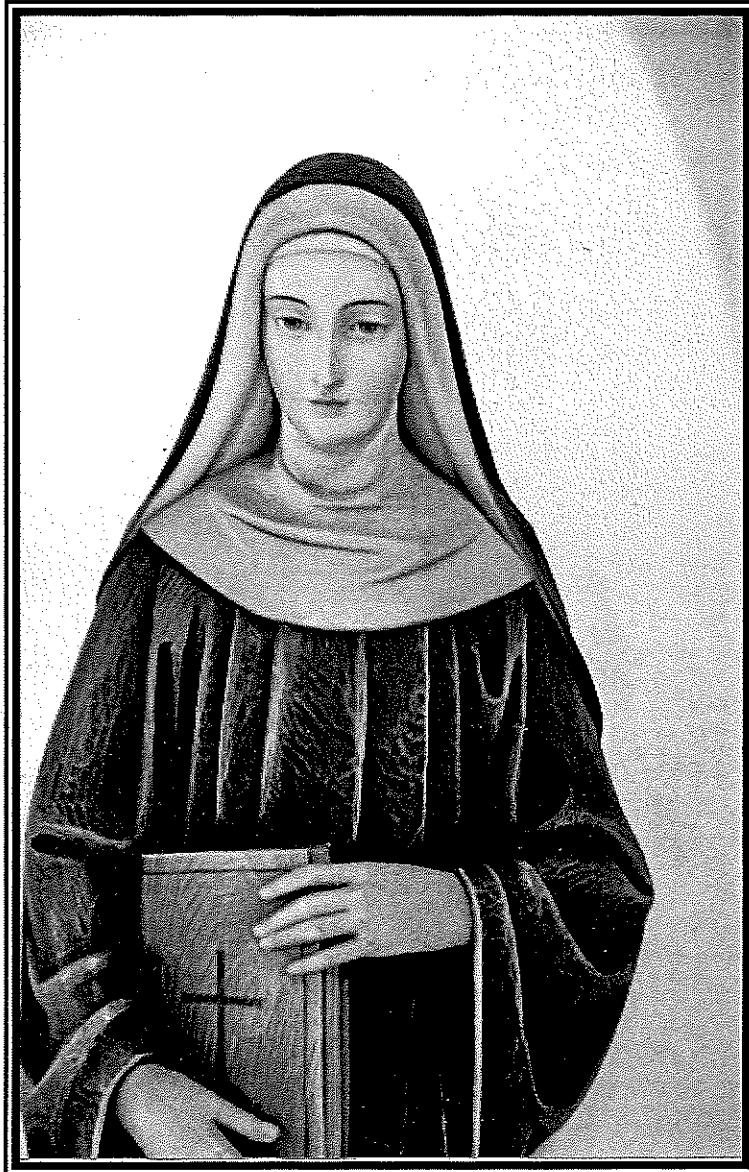
Church - 1997



Rev. Robert Whipkey



Parish Hall 1999



Our patron St. Scholastica