## Catholics in Erie 1968—mid 1980s

In 1968 Father Martin became ill; and after much thought and discussion, officials at Holy Cross Abbey decided that it would no longer be possible for them to supply the church at Lafayette with priests. So after 61 years of continuous Benedictine management, the parish reverted to the Archdiocese of Denver. The Rev. Michael Walsh, a native of Ireland, graduate of St. Thomas Seminary, and priest of the archdiocese, was appointed first secular pastor of the Lafayette parish and the mission at Erie by Archbishop James V. Casey, Father Martin volunteered to stay on as assistant, and his offer was accepted.

In 1968, Holy Cross Benedictine Abbey in Cañon City decided they could no longer supply priests to Immaculate Conception and it's Mission—St. Scholastica.

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