

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

Part I

Page

8 - Founding of the Parish

19 - Church Trustees

Part II

20 - Age of Progression

21 - Doctors, Post Office, Town

23 - Early Settlers

Part III

39 - Second Era Generation

48 - The School Era

Part IV

57 - Vocations to Religious Life

61 - Pastors

62 - Parish Surviving

70 - Present Day Generation

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Grandson of Josephine Collette (p. 27) and Henry Bernard

Great Grandson of Octave Collette and Clotilde Blondeau (p. 27)



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Sacred Heart Church

Oakwood, North Dakota



Centennial Anniversary

1881 - 1981

A Historical Album
marking the
Centennial Anniversary
of
Sacred Heart Church
Oakwood, North Dakota
1881 - 1981

Compiled by
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and
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Pope John Paul II



**Bishop Martin Marty,
Bishop of Dakota Territory**



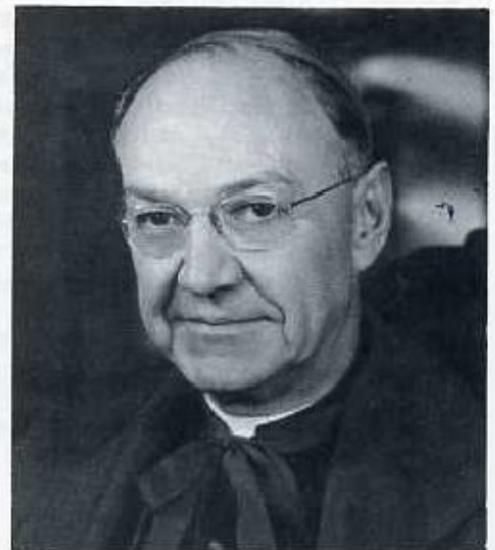
**Bishop John Shanley,
First Bishop of Fargo Diocese**



Bishop James O'Reilly



**Bishop Aloysius J. Muench,
later became Cardinal Muench**



Bishop Leo F. Dworschak



608 BROADWAY
BOX 1750
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA 58102

March 6, 1981



Bishop Justin A. Driscoll
Present Bishop of Fargo Diocese

TO: Reverend Patrick O'Connell and
Members of Sacred Heart Parish, Oakwood

My dear Friends in Christ,

The celebration of the centennial of Sacred Heart Parish, Oakwood, is an important event in this community and throughout the entire Diocese of Fargo.

Sacred Heart Parish, Oakwood, was founded almost a decade before North Dakota became a State or the Diocese of Fargo was begun at Jamestown. The names of Fathers L'Hiver, Bonin, Malo, Robillard, Fortier, and many others tell a proud story of intrepid missionaries, together with the staunch and saintly pioneer men and women of this Plain and Valley, whose lives melted away, often painfully, under the labors and tasks of their day.

Early French-Canadian settlers came to Oakwood and they stayed. They worked hard for God and Country, never counting the cost, especially the almost heroic effort to provide their children with Catholic education.

St. Aloysius Academy had an important role in the life of Sacred Heart Parish as it provided a sound Christian education for more than a half century. It was recognized as an outstanding institution of learning and culture of the time.

The history of Sacred Heart Parish, likewise, was greatly enriched with the coming of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation from Broons, France. They conducted St. Aloysius Academy as long as personal and human resources made it possible. Its influence in the community is easily observed from the numerous young men and women who entered the Priesthood and Religious Life from the families of Oakwood. Over fifty Sisters and ten Priests and Brothers have come from Sacred Heart Parish, including one Bishop to the American Church, Most Reverend Raymond W. Lessard, Bishop of Savannah, Georgia.

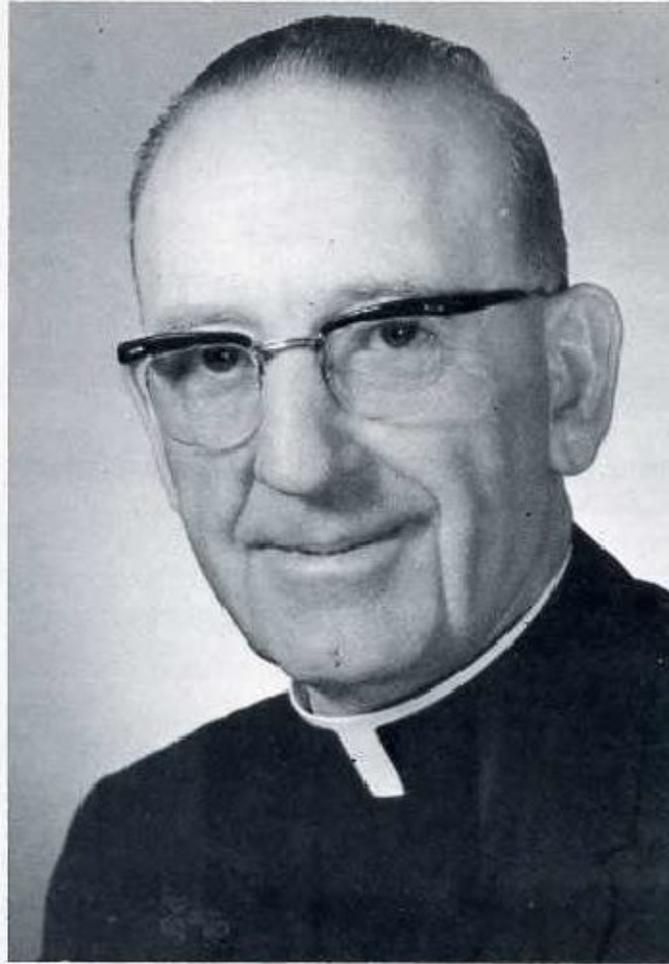
I pray that God will continue to bless you, Father Patrick O'Connell, and all the parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish as you conclude this century and look forward to the future.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus shower His graces and blessings upon you today and always.

With every best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Justin A. Driscoll
Most Reverend Justin A. Driscoll
Bishop of Fargo



Father Pat O'Connell

Rev. Patrick O'Connell, second eldest son of the late James P. O'Connell and Marie Plunkett, was born in Virginia, Cavan County, Ireland, June 21, 1906. Having completed his grade school education at the National School, he made his high school studies at the Christian Brothers' high school in Kells, Meath County. From there he went to St. Patrick's College, Cavan, for four years. After graduating from St. Patrick's College, he entered St. Peter's Seminary, Wexford County, where he took two years philosophy and one year theology. He was then summoned by the late Bishop O'Reilly of Fargo to complete the other three years of theology at St. John's Seminary, Collegeville, Minn., where he was ordained to the priesthood by the late Most Rev. Joseph Busch, D.D., Bishop of St. Cloud, on June 5, 1933.

His first appointment was as an assistant to the late Father Long at Edgeley, where after only three weeks he was appointed as an assistant at St. Mary's Cathedral, Fargo. After five years there he was appointed as pastor at St. Vincent's Church in Stirum and St. Arnold's mission at Milnor. With the removal of the Rev. Lucian J. Arrell from St. Boniface parish in Lidgerwood in August, 1943, Father O'Connell was appointed to replace him. After twenty years in Lidgerwood, Father O'Connell held pastorates in Pembina, Bottineau, Jamestown and Grafton before coming to Oakwood as pastor on August 15, 1972.

Dedication

To the Pioneers of This Community

... the men and women who came here in the "early days" before the advent of the railroad and the automobile... to them, and to their children, and also to the people of the present generation who have labored so zealously in the interest of Church and State... this booklet is humbly and respectfully dedicated.

PATRICK O'CONNELL

Foreword

Because a Parish is a small part of a larger living organism, namely, The Mystical Body of Christ, the history of a Parish is more meaningful than a report of the dimensions of a church building, the dates of several pastorates, or the amount of money contributed during a given period of time. Rather it is the story of the people comprising the parish . . . the story of their spiritual and temporal progress.

This history is concerned for the most part with the temporal progress of Sacred Heart Parish of Oakwood. A sincere attempt has been made toward accuracy, a prime consideration of any historian.

The spiritual progress of a parish is immeasurable in terms of human symbols. This history, therefore, does not attempt to measure that spiritual progress, but it does mention the spiritual opportunities made available to the parish. The number of Religious Vocations from the parish is an indication of its spiritual health.

The event we are celebrating is the One Hundredth Anniversary of the founding of Sacred Heart Parish of Oakwood.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the members of the Book Committee for the many long hours spent in helping to prepare this booklet, to all who have supplied pictures and information, and to all who have helped in any way to make this souvenir booklet possible.

REV. PATRICK O'CONNELL, Pastor

“The Founding of a Parish”

History of Sacred Heart Church

The settlement of Oakwood, founded in 1878 by a Mr. Joseph Charpentier, was part of a region which covered all of Dakota Territory and most of lower Canada which had been explored in 1734 by a French-Canadian by the name of Pierre Gauthier de Varennes, Sieur de Laveranderye. Although missionaries crossed the territories following the explorers wherever they went during those first years of exploration, it was not until 1818, where under the directive of Rt. Rev. Bishop J. Oclave Plessis of Quebec, that two missionaries arrived at a place called Fort Douglas, where today now stands the city of St. Boniface, Manitoba. Their destination was to establish a mission to attend to the needs of that community. The two missionaries were Father Norbert Provencher, later to become the first Vicar Apostolic of Western Canada, and Father S. Joseph Nicholas Dumoulin. In that same year, Father Provencher sent his companion, Father Dumoulin, to minister to the needs of the souls in Pembina. Father Dumoulin arrived in his mission at Pembina in September of 1818, and thus became the first missionary of what is now North Dakota. Father Dumoulin remained for five years, and for a time his parish was larger than St. Boniface where Father Provencher had established his headquarters.



Mr. Joseph Charpentier
Founder (1878) of the Oakwood Settlement
and Donor (1881) of
Sacred Heart Church Property.



Father Louis Bonin
Founder of Sacred Heart Church
of Oakwood

As the number of settlers increased in the Dakota Territories, another missionary, by the name of Father Georges Antoine Belcourt, established another mission center in the year 1848, known as St. Joe's Mission, near the present town of Walhalla. Later, in 1873, the chapel of St. Joe's mission was transferred from its original site to its present location at Leroy.

It was from this mission center that Rev. Father Louis Bonin, pastor at Leroy, came to the settlement of Oakwood, then known as the "Park River Settlement" to attend to the needs of the Oakwood community.

Father Bonin paid his first visit to the Park River settlement on July 11, 1880 and celebrated the first high mass in Oakwood, where on this same occasion he also baptized ten children. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was celebrated in a log cabin, located on the south side of the Park River, about one and one-half mile west of the present church site. That building still stands today serving as a granary, and is now owned by Mrs. Jeanette Gourde.

Among the first settlers, from 1878 to 1880, at the time of Father Bonin's visit, are such names as follows: In 1878 were Joseph Charpentier, John Brunelle, William Brunelle, Joseph Brunelle, Thomas Barnabe, George Barnabe, Albert Barnabe, Octave Collette, Philippe Collette, Ovide Collette, Jean Baptiste Trudeau, Pierre Lachapelle, Theodore Huard, Benoni Brunelle, Ferdinand LaRoche, Antoine Girard, Honore Savard, Theodules Collette and Joseph Deschenes.

Settlers in 1879 were: Edouard LaBerge, Dosithee LaBerge, Arthur LaBerge, Joseph LaBerge, Jean Baptiste LaBerge, Etienne Lessard, Philias Lessard, Louis Lessard, Joseph Lessard, John Sullivan, Sr., John Sullivan, Jr., Mark Sullivan, Urbain Boutin, Alfred Boutin, John Boutin, Francis Boutin, Arcadius Collette, Stanislas Lachapelle, Domina Vary, Moise Vary, Philias Vary, Moise Labonte, Joseph Collette, Alfred Collette, Cyrille Patenaude, Emile French, Leon Suprenant, Joseph Parent, Joseth Pellant, Raymond Pellant, Thomas Poole, Joseph Poole, Francois Desautels, D. DeSautels, Guillaume Boivin, Marjorique Goulet, John Donnelly, Bernard Donnelly, Jean Baptiste Bourcier, Henry McLernan and Michel Charbonneau.

In 1880, such names to be found were: Stanislas LaRoche, Pierre Lacoste, Achille Garant, Emile Garant, Benoni Boulduc, Joseph Campbell, Arsene Campbell, Oswald Campbell, Leonce Couture, Alphonse Sabourin, Alfred Parent, Ernest Soucy, Pierre Fortier, Alexis LaMarre, Alfred Sevigny, Bernard Faille, Pierre Faille, Francois Xavier Demers, Dieudonne Demers, Cornelius Daley, James Bradford, Louis Bradford, John Boulduc, Basie Bellegrade, James Daley.

Although some of the names of these early settlers are no longer present in Oakwood, these pioneer names can be claimed as forebearers by the present generation. The name Charpentier, for example, is no longer listed in our annals, but his generation lives on today. The pioneer of 1878 remains in his descendants: a grandchild, Mrs. Adeline Dipple, deceased; a great grandchild, Mr. Halward Dipple, and three great-great grandchildren, Helen, Dennis and Carol Dipple. Even though the name of Charpentier and the names of other pioneers have vanished, their progeny remains to form the parish of today, with other sons and daughters of pioneers, whose names have remained, like Collette, Campbell, Demers, French, Gourde, Lessard, Pilon and Sevigny. There is no doubt, in the listing of the first pioneers, Charpentier heads the list and not without reason, for to him belongs the title of first settler. Not so much as that he was the first to arrive in this region and establish himself in the locality, but because it was he who donated the tract of land on which the church now stands today. This gift consisted of a plot of land



Mrs. Adeline (Addie) Carpenter Dipple

Adeline Carpenter Dipple was the daughter of Dennis Carpenter and Philomene (Bolduc) Carpenter. She married Henry Dipple in 1920, he was the son of Nick Dipple and Amelia (Schrack) Dipple. She was the granddaughter of Joseph Charpentier who donated the land for the Oakwood church, cemetery and St. Aloysius Academy. Adeline and Henry Dipple had one son, Halward, who is still a member of Sacred Heart Church. All of the others are deceased. Addie died Aug. 31, 1980.

located in the SE corner of the SW¹/₄ of SW¹/₄ of section 12, township 157, range 52, running twenty chains in length, five chains in width, situated on the bank of the Park River. In behalf of the Church in March of 1881 a warranty deed was executed for the consideration of \$1.00.

As Mr. Joseph Charpentier is revered as the founder of the Oakwood community because of his early arrival and the grant of land for the present church site, then also Father Louis Bonin must be called its first pastor, for it was he who attended to the first needs of the community and said the first mass in 1880.

On the 5th of September of the same year, 1880, Father Bonin returned to the Park River Mission. He said mass at the William Brunelle home, about one and one-half miles northeast of the actual church site, on the farm owned today by Mike French. The settlement had progressed to such an extent, that in order to accommodate the ever increasing number of church going people, it was found necessary to provide a place of worship for them.



Rt. Rev. Martin Marty, Vicar Apostolic of Northern Minnesota and of the Dakota Territory.



**Mr. J. Bte. LaBerge
Singer of first mass at Oakwood.**



Mr. and Mrs. Stanislas LaRoche (Evelina LaBerge). Mr. LaRoche was one of the two singers of first mass at Oakwood.

It was no doubt with the wholehearted approval of the Vicar Apostolic of the Dakota Territory, Right Rev. Martin Marty, O.S.B., that Father Bonin in the spring of 1881 acquired the property donated by Mr. Joseph Charpentier and presided over the erection of the first church in the community. Father Bastien, in his 50th Anniversary booklet, relates the memorable event in these words: "The snow was still on the ground; ice still on the Red River and the building material had to be secured from Stephen, Minnesota, then called Tamarac Station, on account of its proximity to the Tamarac River. The work was begun at once; every willing settler full of courage and contentment, put his shoulder to the wheel and helped in the good work until it was completed. Some shoveled the snow off the ground where the building was to be erected; others, who owned oxen teams or horses, hauled the material from the Tamarac Station. The work proceeded without interference whatsoever until one day the ice on the Red River, over which the caravan of timber loads had to cross, gave way to the warm rays of the bright spring sun and went suddenly. When this happened, there were still three loads of building materials to be hauled from the station to Oakwood and an unexpected though unavoidable delay followed. Nevertheless, determined to have the church completed, the volunteer workers succeeded with great effort in getting the needed lumber across the river at Parr's, the only ferry available to them, and brought it to its destination. Among the carpenters who worked on the church building were Stanislas LaRoche, Honore Savard, Mr. Charbonneau and Ovide Collette deserve special mention; but many others too, helped to the full measure of their ability. The new church building was completed in June following, and Mass was celebrated in it for the first time June 5th, 1881, by Rev. Father Bonin.

Naturally, the building of the new church brought the problem of paying for the expenditure caused by its construction. For this reason a meeting was held on June 5, 1881, whereat Father Bonin was authorized, by a unanimous vote of the congregation assembled, to borrow from \$400 to \$500 at the high interest rate of 10 percent per annum; half of this amount to be payable in November, 1882, the other half in November, 1883. The assembly also chose advisers for the priest. They were Stanislas

LaRoche, Edouard LaBerge and Joseph Brunelle, Jr., and constituted the first committee of the newly organized mission. The Park River Settlement was now known as the Sacred Heart Mission because its new chapel had received from the church authorities the most blessed name of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

There was still the matter of the pastor's salary to be settled, and it was on the 15th of August, 1881, on the feast day of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that Father Bonin returned to Sacred Heart Mission to say mass. After the celebration of the mass, a meeting was held and it was unanimously agreed by all the members present, that the sum of \$400 be paid to the missionary, for the first year, as an initial salary for his services.

Father Bonin's most deserving work was now completed. The Sacred Heart Mission near the Park River, was now known as the Sacred Heart Church of Oakwood. Father Bonin returned to his parish of St. Joseph and was succeeded by Rev. Father J. F. Malo who became the first resident pastor of the parish of Oakwood. It was on October 4, 1881, that Father Malo arrived to take charge of the young parish after he had received the letter of appointment reproduced below:

September 1st, 1881

Dear Rev. Father Malo:

Go to Park River, to the Sacred Heart Mission, organized by the Reverend Louis Bonin, missionary of St. Joseph, Hyde Park, Pembina County. This mission comprises fifty-five families and several young men, owners of homesteads. The population is French-Canadian, except ten Irish families, and a German one.

The most important families are precisely those who insist in asking for a resident priest.

As customary in those regions, the crops are plentiful and the means are not lacking to complete the building and to pay the priest's salary which for the first year is to be \$400.00. But you will have to take along with you chalice, missal, vestments, wine and everything necessary to the Holy Sacrifice and to the administration of the sacraments.

Farewell,
Yours,

M. Marty, Vicar Apostolic of D.T.

On Oct. 9, 1881, Father Malo called a meeting of the congregation to resolve the problem of a dwelling place for the pastor, and an enclosure for the graveyard. The assembly decided to use the upper part of the chapel for the pastor's living area, and a wire fence to enclose the cemetery. By the end of the same month, a second meeting was called to solve the problem of furnishing the chapel with pews. The people were favorable toward the realization of this need, and also established a pew rental system to service the financing of this project.

During the following months, other general improvements were made. A chimney was built, storm windows and double doors installed, the sanctuary and the whole interior of the chapel were finished and painted, and furniture was offered to the priest for his apartment.

Though much of Father Malo's time and attention was absorbed in the material improvement of his mission, his zeal for the spiritual and intellectual welfare of youth was too great to allow him to overlook the question of their education. The worthy priest taught, not only religion, but also the common branches of study to the children of the settlement. The chapel served the purpose of a school building until a public school was erected a few hundred feet from the chapel, and Father Malo, together with his pupils, made good use of it. The school house now serves as the Oakwood Township Hall.

The devoted missionary was not the first school teacher in the locality, however, for this honor belongs to Mrs. Fred Worthing, born Cooper, who taught in the Oakwood settlement during the months of June, July and August of the year 1880. As a school room, she used part of Mr. John Brunelle's log house, located half a mile northeast of the present Oakwood village, a short distance from the place where now stands the home of Mr. Roland Collette, which was newly built by his father Mr. Arthur Collette.

Father Malo left the Oakwood mission in April, 1882, and for many years had charge of different missions in the region of the Turtle Mountains. He now rests in the cemetery of St. Ann's Church at Belcourt, North Dakota, where the population, who had the privilege to know him well and to appreciate his virtue, honors his remains as those of a saint.

From April of 1882 to March of 1884, the young mission was served by three pastors at subsequent periods, during which none of whom remained for any great length of time. The first of these, to be appointed pastor of the young mission, was Father J. S. Robillard, who arrived in May of 1882, and left in July of the same year, much to the regret of the majority of the congregation, who felt at his departure the loss of a dignified priest and of a real gentleman in the true sense of the word. He was succeeded by Father J. J. Fortier who took charge of the parish in August of 1882. His administration is credited for the erection of a cemetery cross during the summer of 1883, shortly before the pastor's departure in the month of October of the same year.

In November of 1883, Rev. Father Cyrille St. Pierre, visited the young parish after having been requested and empowered to do so by the Rt. Rev. M. Marty, Vicar Apostolic of the Dakotas, and to report as to the conditions of the parish. While on his visit, he presided over the ceremony of the dedication of the Sacred Heart Cemetery Cross, erected by Father Fortier, which he



Rev. Fr. J. F. Malo
First resident pastor of
Sacred Heart Church of
Oakwood.

blessed according to the rites of the church.

On Christmas Eve, December 24, 1883, His Lordship, the Rt. Rev. M. Marty, Vicar Apostolic, also visited the Sacred Heart Mission, and on this visit he blessed two graves and baptized one child. From the time of this visit, in December of 1883, the Oakwood parish was without a priest and no services were held in the Sacred Heart Chapel until Rev. Father F. Hamet was appointed pastor and took charge of the parish at the beginning of March of 1884.



Father Cyril, St. Pierre



Father J. J. Fortier



Father F. Hamet

At this point, we would do well to review the history of the episcopacy that governed this territory in its spiritual beginnings. What is now North Dakota was first spiritually governed by the Rt. Rev. N. Provencher, the first Bishop of St. Boniface, Canada, then by his successor Archbishop Tache, who was Vicar General of the American Bishops. From 1837 to 1850 it was under the care of the Rt. Rev. Mathias Loras, first bishop of Dubuque; from 1850 to 1875 it was within the jurisdiction of both the Rt. Rev. Joseph Cretin, first bishop of St. Paul, and his successor the Rt. Rev. Thomas Grace; from 1875 to 1879 it was governed by the Rt. Rev. Rupert Seidenbush, O.S.B. mitered abbot of St. John's monastery at St. Cloud, Vicar Apostolic of Northern Minnesota and of the Dakota Territory; from 1879 to 1889 it was committed to the care of the Rt. Rev. Martin Marty, O.S.B. Vicar Apostolic of the Dakotas. On December 27, 1889, the Rt. Rev. John Shanley was consecrated bishop in St. Paul and became the first bishop of what is now known as the Diocese of Fargo. However, at the establishment of this new Diocese, Jamestown was the see city of all North Dakota from 1889, to August, 1891, when John Shanley moved his see to Fargo, and resided there until he died on July 16, 1909. He was succeeded by the Rt. Rev. James O'Reilly. When James O'Reilly (1910-1934) was consecrated as second Bishop of Fargo, the western part of North Dakota had just been established as the Diocese of Bismarck. Most Rev. Aloisius J. Muench (1935-1960) was nominated third Bishop of Fargo at the height of the Depression. He established the Catholic Church Expansion Fund to save mortgaged parishes and provide credit for future parish development. He founded a monthly diocesan newspaper, convened the first synod in the diocese, published a synodical book of diocesan legislation, established diocesan scholarships for needy seminarians and organized a mutual aid fund for disabled and retired priests. In 1946 Bishop Muench was appointed Apostolic Visitor to Germany. In 1950 he was granted the personal title of archbishop and the following year was appointed Papal Nuncio to Germany. In December, 1959, he was created a cardinal priest and elevated to the Roman Curia. Most Rev. Leo F. Dworshak, as auxiliary bishop (1947-1959) administered the affairs of the diocese during the absence of Archbishop Muench whom he succeeded as fourth Bishop of Fargo in 1960. Bishop Dworshak was followed by Most Rev. Justin A. Driscoll — the present Bishop of Fargo.

As we resume our presentation of historical events in the early years of our parish, let us go back to the beginning of March of 1884 shortly after the arrival of Father F. Hamet as pastor of Oakwood. Under his administration the Sacrament of Confirmation was given for the first time in Sacred Heart Parish on July 2, 1884, by the Rt. Rev. M. Marty. Following is the list of the 57 candidates who were confirmed that day: Eleonore Brunelle, Odile Lessard, Christiane Sabourin, Flora Sabourin, Bridget Sabourin, Mathilda Charpentier; Josephine Keegan, Marcelline Demers, Philomene Bolduc, Josephine Bouvet, Marie Bouvet, Rosalie Pape, Elizabeth Marchand, Adeline Charpentier, Hermine Charpentier, Salome Goulet, Rosalie Petit, Josephine Vary, Agnes Duffy, Josiphine Duffy, Bridget Duffy, Josephine O'Connor, Agnes O'Connor, Julia Poole, Kate Poole, Augustine Faille.



Old Sacred Heart Rectory, erected 1886.



The Old Rectory - presently owned by Dayton Kornkven

Sara Desrosiers, Louise LeBlanc, Ellen Kyes, Josephine Donahue, Kate Murphy, Thomas Kelly, Patrick Murphy, Alfred Filteau, Thomas Murphy, Philius Lessard, Joseph Poole, Jules LeBlanc, Joseph French, Octave Collette, Oliver Charpentier, Joseph M. Bolduc, Louis Grandbois, Adelard Corriveau, David LeBlanc, Dieudonne Demers, Louis Gagner, Charles Brunet, Adelard Charpentier, Victor French, Alfred Sevigny, Henry Sevigny, Elzéar Faille, Joseph Lessard, Henri Verreau and Narcisse Goulet. Many of these have descendants in Walsh County and Sacred Heart Parish. Father Hamet remained in Oakwood until January, 1886. He was succeeded by Rev. Father J. C. Barrette who arrived on the 25th of March, 1886. Father Barrette is accredited for the addition of a small structure, added to the chapel, which served as a sacristy. In the spring of the year 1887 he built the first rectory, which was sold in 1912 and moved on a village lot. It has since gone through many hands and is now the property of Dayton and Michelle Kornkven, son-in-law and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Renee French. At the occasion of Christmas, 1887, a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and others were installed in the primitive chapel. These statues were later placed in the Oakwood Convent, St. Aloysius Academy, for its duration until its closing in 1967. During the following spring, in March of 1888, the interior of the chapel was again enhanced when Father Barrette installed the first set of Stations of the Cross. These were made possible through the generosity of Mr. Joseph Deschenes, then a storekeeper at Grafton, North Dakota.

On August 20, 1888, Rev. Father J. L. Hella, having been appointed successor to Father Barrette, arrived in Oakwood on the 23rd day of the same month and administered the parish until November of 1893, when he was called to Fargo by his Bishop the Rt. Rev. J. Shanley, and appointed Vicar General. He in turn was succeeded by Rev. Father Joseph Leonard who remained in the Oakwood parish from November of 1893, until November of 1894. He is credited for dividing the cemetery into family lots,



Father J. O. Barrette



Father Jean L. Hella



Father Joseph Leonard

though, unfortunately, no plat of this work can be found today. He also equipped the parish with its first bell which weighed 130 pounds. After blessing it, the bell was installed in a structure erected in front of the chapel. This structure roughly resembled a church steeple, but was never completed due to Father Leonard leaving the parish before the plan could be carried out. According to a photo of the first chapel, the prospective steeple stood for a long while, a few feet from the front of the chapel.

Succeeding Father Leonard, came Rev. Father Michel Barras, who arrived in Oakwood in November of 1894, and remained until June of 1898. His administration was one that ventured into a tremendous enterprise toward the establishment of an educational structure. However, since this subject and other circumstances surrounding it will be addressed in greater detail in the following chapter, on "The School Era," our reference to it at this time, is for the sake of our being consistent in presenting these historical events in their order of sequence. Rev. Father Barras was succeeded by Rev. Father J. D. Dionne who remained in charge of the parish until November, 1899.



Father J. D. Dionne



Father J. A. Lalande

After the turn of the century, in the spring of 1900, Rev. Father J. A. Lalande, succeeding Rev. Father J. D. Dionne, was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart parish and arrived in Oakwood on April 24, 1900, just a few months after having been ordained to the priesthood by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Shanley on Jan. 27, 1900. Father Lalande was a most devoted pastor to the Oakwood community. However, after only three short years, his devoted career came to an unexpected and tragic end, when on May 19, 1903, he met with a terrible accident which crippled him for the rest of his life. It was the morning of a beautiful spring day that the young pastor was summoned to pay a sick call and administer the last sacraments to two of his parishioners. Anxious to bring the comfort of our holy religion to his dying parishioners, Father Lalande had imposed a rather strenuous effort on his horse in rushing to their home. However, after having completed his sacred duties, he allowed his horse to return at its slow leisurely pace. Taking advantage of this time and the beautiful day, he passed the lines around his shoulders and began reading his breviary. Shortly after crossing the Park River bridge, he was suddenly distracted from his reading by a strange horse running across his path. This sudden encounter so startled his horse, that it became frightened, started on a runaway, and its wild spirited dash could not be checked. As the frenzied steed in fast gallop wheeled the imperilled carriage closer and closer to a sharp turn of the road, the helpless driver quickly sensed the imminent danger and jumped clear of his crazily zigzagging buggy. Though his good judgment and quick action may have saved his life, the impact of his fall against the ground broke both of his legs. After spending the next eighteen months in St. John's Hospital in Fargo, and receiving the best of medical care, he unfortunately remained miserably and painfully crippled for the rest of his priestly life. His indefinite absence from his beloved parish of Oakwood caused the bishop to have him replaced. His faithful parishioners, though saddened by his loss, remained forever thankful for having been blessed with such a devoted shepherd and also cherished his talents as a singer, musician and a highly artistic woodcarver.



**Rev. Fr. J. E. Lee, founder of
St. Aloysius Academy in 1906.**



Father Joseph H. Forbes

During the absence of Father Lalande, the Rev. Father J. E. Louis Lee, just newly ordained to the Holy Priesthood in Fargo on June 2, 1903, was appointed administrator to Sacred Heart Parish and arrived in Oakwood on June 3, 1903. Later, when it became evident that Father Lalande could not return to Oakwood, he was appointed pastor of the parish. He was a strong and energetic young man, and held an optimistic attitude in whatever duty or venture he undertook. After being in the parish for two years, he quickly realized that the primitive structure, the first Sacred Heart Church, had long been inadequate and that it was not worthy of his congregation, then numbering over one hundred families. In 1905 he set the plans in motion for a new church building. An architectural masterpiece, it was a cruciform structure with an overall length of 156 feet, a width of 47 feet with a transept of 60 feet. In his 50th Anniversary Album, Father Bastien describes it in these words: "The building was of Roman style, plastered in artistic manner and equipped with three beautiful altars, fine communion rail and comfortable pews. Its high grade stained glass windows produced upon every one that entered its doors a deep religious impression, an impression of respect and veneration for the Master of this beautiful temple, really present in the Blessed Eucharist preserved in the holy tabernacle." This magnificent edifice was dedicated by Bishop Shanley on May 30, 1906. With the building of a new church, the parish was launched into a new era of progression. Father Lee's next plans were to provide a school for the Catholic education of the children of the parish. Again, as mentioned before, only reference to it is made at this point since all matters pertaining to school and education will be written in greater detail in the following chapter. Even though he is mostly credited for his successful ventures in material improvements of the parish, he must certainly also be remembered for the spiritual growth he brought to the parish. He introduced in the parish the Corpus Christi procession, the First Friday devotions and the holy hour on Thursdays. Each year the patron feasts of the parish and of the school were celebrated in a special manner. He did everything he could to create a love for piety and devotion in the hearts of his people.

Father Lee left Oakwood in 1911 to return to his native Canada where he spent the last years of his sacerdotal life in eastern Canada, from whence he had come to the west. He was an elderly priest when he died, after having left a very happy memory everywhere he labored.

Father Joseph H. Forbes succeeded Father Lee as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish and arrived in Oakwood on August 27, 1911. As its new pastor, he took possession of a well established parish, proud of its fine church and school. Though we may assume that the new pastor may have rejoiced over his inheritance, historical events reveal to us that he, and the entire parish with him, would soon receive a severe shock. On a Monday evening, November 5, 1911, the beautiful and magnificent church edifice, erected by his predecessor, was tragically destroyed by fire. Although there is little information as to how it happened, the hardship caused by a mishap of this magnitude, affects the congregation for several generations, and its occurrence is not easily forgotten.

No matter how discouraging the setback may have seemed, the new pastor would not allow it as an obstacle to prevent him or his people to rise above their loss and began immediately to organize plans to face this situation. They used the public school building for Sunday services, and all through the winter months they held numerous meetings and formed a building committee. After studying many proposed plans and specifications, a final decision was reached from which evolved a plan for the construction of both a new church and rectory. On April 24, 1912, a contract for \$14,425.00 was made for the construction of the church and rectory, with Nollman, Lewis and Brye as contractors. The new church was built on the same site where the former one stood, though much smaller than the destroyed one it replaced; it was designed with much quality. It is to the credit of Father Forbes that this statement can be made. He built well, and with materials of quality; very few frame structures of the same age are today so well preserved. With the church building completed, and all things needed for the divine sacrifice having been secured, services were held for the first time in the new House of God on November 1, 1912, and it was solemnly dedicated on the 28th of the same month, by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. J. A. Lemieux, pastor of St. Michael's Church in Grand Forks, delegated by the Most Rev. James O'Reilly, Bishop of Fargo. During the summer of 1912 the construction of the present rectory was also accomplished. However, since the insurance money received from the church fire was insufficient to cover the cost of the double building project, it became necessary for the parish corporation to obtain a loan of \$6,000.00 from the First National Bank of Grafton, at an interest rate of 7 per cent per annum, to meet the financial needs of the project. This mortgage was liquidated and satisfied several years later on July 26, 1927. During his administration, Father Forbes also improved the church grounds by proper landscaping, planting trees and laying sidewalks leading from the church and rectory and as far as the academy; all of which greatly improved the good appearance of this serene little village.



The present Rectory, 1981, built in 1912.

On the occasion of his silver jubilee, in 1915, Father Forbes blessed the bell which was hoisted to the high tower of his new church. On this large bell may be read the following inscription:



JAMES JOSEPH
 BAPTIZED 1915
 XXV ANNIVERSARY OF PRIESTHOOD
 OF
 FATHER JOSEPH H. FORBES,
 THE PASTOR,
 BENEDICTUS XV POPE,
 RIGHT REVEREND JAMES O'REILLY, D.D.,
 BISHOP OF FARGO, N.D.
 OVIDE COLLET, PATRICK GALLAGHER, TRUSTEES
 WOODROW WILSON, PRESIDENT OF U.S.A.
 REPERCUTING THE ECHOES WITH MY MOST MELODIUS NOTES
 I SHALL REPEAT:
 TO ALMIGHTY GOD, CREATOR!
 WE BELIEVE IN THEE!



Right Rev. James O'Reilly, D.D.
 Bishop of Fargo, N.D.



His Holiness
 Pope Benedict XV



Rev. Joseph H. Forbes
 Rector



Ovide Collet, Trustee



Patrick Gallagher, Trustee



Sacred Heart Church,
 Oakwood, N.D.

This same bell of marvelous tone can still be heard ringing over the countryside calling the faithful to divine services.

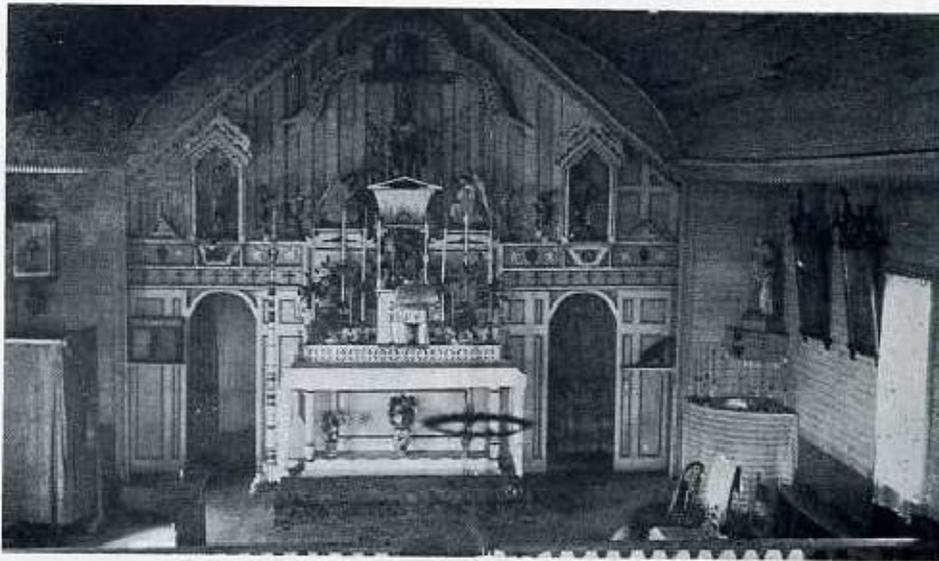
Father Forbes left the Oakwood parish, in August, 1924, to return to his former parish in Neche, N. Dak. Like his predecessor, he had tended well to the spiritual and temporal needs of his people, and with his leaving, we now bring this chapter, "The Founding of a Parish", to a close. From its humble beginnings, with the arrival of Father Bonin, and up to the departure of Father Forbes, the strides made in spiritual and temporal advancements elevated it to the status of a parish of distinction.



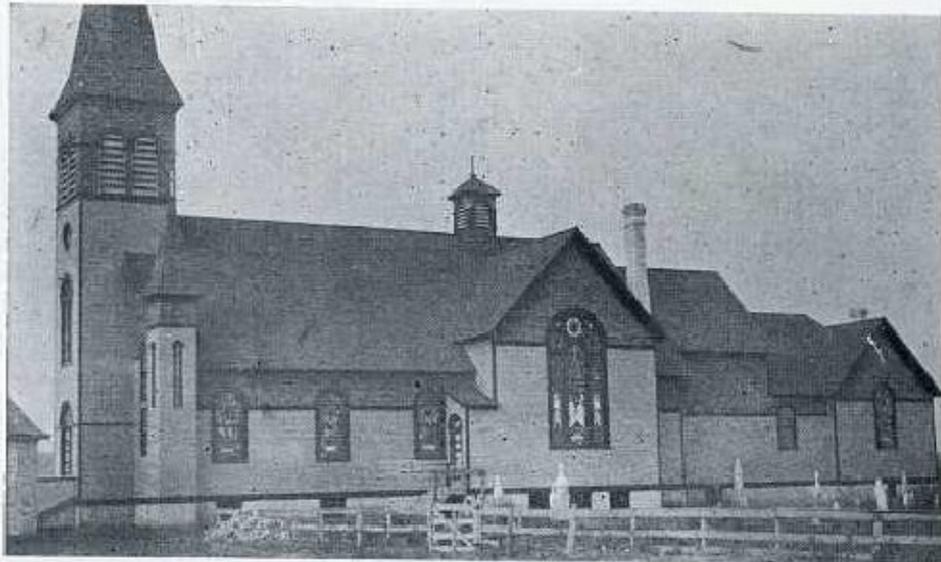
Former dwelling of Mr. Urbain Boutin, in which the First Mass was celebrated in Oakwood, by Father Louis Bonin, on July 11, 1880. It is now used as a granary on the farm of Mrs. Jeanette Gourde.



The first Sacred Heart Church (1881) and Rectory (1886).



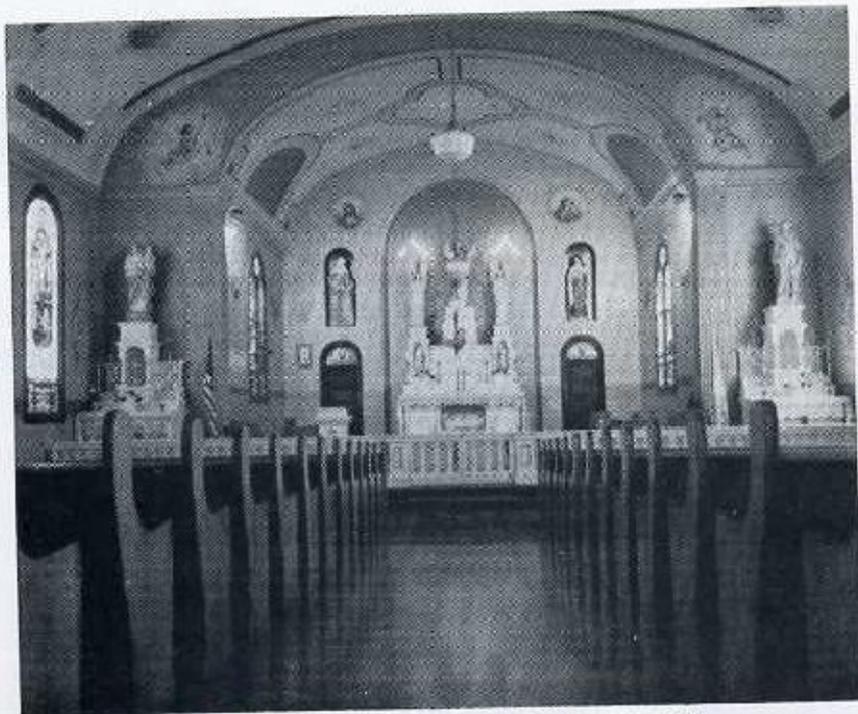
Interior of the first Sacred Heart Chapel erected in 1881.



Second Sacred Heart Church building erected in 1906.
This church burned in November, 1911.



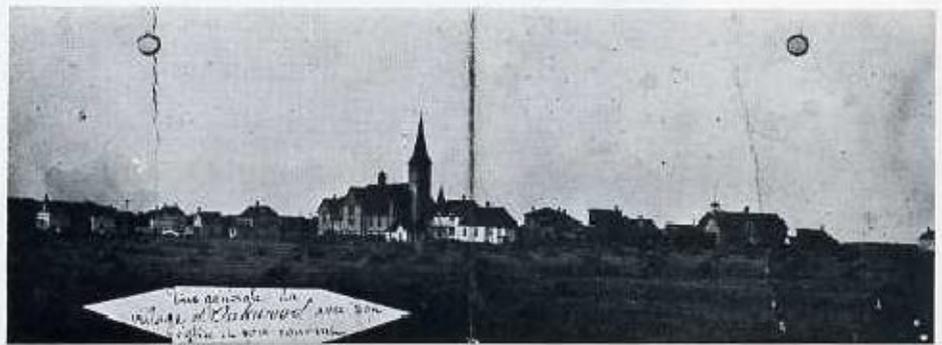
**Interior of the second Sacred Heart Church building.
Picture taken April 17, 1906.**



Interior of Sacred Heart Church, decorated in 1938.



The present interior of Sacred Heart Church of Oakwood.



General view of the Oakwood village in 1907.



The present Sacred Heart Church, taken Aug. 3, 1980.



Aerial photo of Oakwood, 1981.

Church Trustees

Sacred Heart Church of Oakwood was founded in 1881 by Father Louis Bonin and was incorporated under the laws of the state of North Dakota, October 31, 1895.

According to the articles of incorporation the Board of Directors consists of five members, three of them enter into office ex-officio viz; the Most Rev. Bishop of Fargo, as president; the Vicar-General and the Rev. Pastor of Sacred Heart Church of Oakwood as vice president. The other two are laymen, members in good standing of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart parish. They are either appointed by the Pastor on or before the first of the New Year or elected after such a time. They must be duly approved by the Most Rev. Bishop of Fargo before they can assume the duties of their office. From 1881 to 1883 there were four advisors to the Pastor.

LAY DIRECTORS

Stanislas LaRoche, Joseph Brunelle, and Edouard LaBerge, 1881.

Edouard LaBerge, Stanislas LaRoche, Francois Desautels, and Henry McClermon, 1881-1882.

John Lacey, Charles French, Jean Baptiste Trudeau, and Alphonse Sabourin, 1882-1883.

Joseph Brunelle, Jr., and Patrick Conlon, 1883-1884.

Patrick Conlon and Moise Vary, 1884-1886.

John Lacey and Eugene Baillargeon, 1886-1888.

Edouard LaBerge and Jean Baptiste LaBerge, 1888-1894.

Eugene Baillargeon and Charles French, 1894-1895.

Alphonse Sabourin and Leonce Couture, 1895-1900.

Charles Baillargeon and John Lacey, 1900-1902.

Charles Baillargeon and Joseph Campbell, 1902-1903.

Hermas Chales and Joseph Campbell, 1903-1904.

Pierre LaCoste and H. Sevigny, 1904-1905.

John Sullivan and Alfred Sevigny, 1905-1907.

Joseph French and Octave Collette, 1907-1908.

Joseph C. Deschenes and Joseph French, 1908-1909.

Lawrence Altendorf and J. C. Deschenes, 1909-1910.

Eugene Rheume and Joseph Pageotte, 1910-1911.

Farigal Gallagher and Joseph LaBerge, 1911-1913.

Joseph LaBerge and Patrick Gallagher, 1913-1915.

Ovide Collette and Patrick Gallagher, 1915-1916.

Alfred Sevigny and Patrick Gallagher, 1916-1917.

Alfred Sevigny and Oliver Pilon, 1917-1918.

D. Demers and Patrick Gallagher, 1918-1921.

Alfred Sevigny and Patrick Gallagher, 1921-1923.

James Sabourin and William Collette, 1923-1924.

Eugene Rheume and Alcide French, 1924-1926.

Eugene Rheume and James Sabourin, 1926-1928.

James Sabourin and Arthur Collette, 1928-1929.

Arthur Collette and Oscar Pilon, 1929-1930.

Oscar Pilon and John Schumann, 1930-1931.

John Schumann and A. A. Normand, 1931-1933.

A. A. Normand and Albert Durand, 1933-1934.

Albert Durand and William Campbell, 1934-1935.

William Campbell and Andrew French, 1935-1936.

Andrew French and Edward Sevigny, 1936-1938.

Edward Sevigny and Thomas Samson, 1938-1939.

Thomas Samson and Elzear Garant, 1939-1941.

John P. Gallagher and Victor Lessard, 1941-1946.

Joseph A. French and Alcide Collette, 1946-1951.

Edmund J. Doland and Edmond E. Demers, 1951-1957.

Farigal J. Gallagher and Edward E. Demers 1957-1963.

Raymond Dolan and Edward A. Leclerc, 1963-1970.

Raymond Rocksvold and Edmond Campbell, 1970-197

Hiladore Osowski and Edmond Campbell, 1973-1974.

Donald Demers and Hiladore Osowski, 1974-1977.

Alan Collette and Donald Demers, 1977-1979.

John B. Sevigny and Alan Collette, 1979-1981.

John B. Sevigny and Donald Dolan, 1981-

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

Part I

Page

- 8 - Founding of the Parish
- 19 - Church Trustees

Part II

- 20 - Age of Progression
- 21 - Doctors, Post Office, Town
- 23 - Early Settlers

Part III

- 39 - Second Era Generation
- 48 - The School Era

Part IV

- 57 - Vocations to Religious Life
- 61 - Pastors
- 62 - Parish Surviving
- 70 - Present Day Generation

Compliments of Dick Bernard

www.chez-nous.net/fc.html

Son of Henry Bernard and Esther Busch

Grandson of Josephine Collette (p. 27) and Henry Bernard

Great Grandson of Octave Collette and Clotilde Blondeau (p. 27)



Dick Bernard

6905 Romeo Road

Woodbury, MN 55125-2421

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www.chez-nous.net

www.peacesites.org

www.outsidethewalls.org/blog

www.AMillionCopies.info

Individually and together, we can!

The Age of Progression

The following list is the result of information received from the old settlers of the community who have given us the full benefit of their reminiscences but cannot certify to its perfect accuracy as no record of this kind has been kept by any one of them. The list includes the names of all Catholic settlers from far and near who attended the religious services in the Sacred Heart chapel of the Park River mission during the first twenty years of the existence of the settlement.

- 1878 Joseph Charpentier, John Brunelle, William Brunelle, Joseph Brunelle, Thomas Barnabe, Octave Collette, Philippe Collette, Ovide Collette, Jean Baptiste Trudeau, Pierre Lachapelle, Theodore Huard, Benoni Brunelle, Ferdinand LaRoche, Antoine Girard, Honore Savard, George Barnabe, Albert Barnabe, Theodules Collette, Joseph Deschenes.
- 1879 Edouard LaBerge, Dosithee LaBerge, Joseph LaBerge, Jean Baptiste LaBerge, Etienne Lessard, Philias Lessard, Louis Lessard, Joseph Lessard, John Sullivan, Sr., John Sullivan, Jr., Mark Sullivan, Urbain Boutin, Alfred Boutin, John Boutin, Francois Boutin, Arcadius Collette, Stanislas Lachapelle, Moise Vary, Domina Vary, Philias Vary, Moise Labonte, Joseph Collette, Alfred Collette, Cyrille Patenaude, Emile French, Victor French, Leon Surprenant, Joseph Parent, Joseph Pellant, Raymond Pellant, Thomas Poole, Joseph Poole, Francois Desautels, D. Desautels, Guillaume Boivin, Marjorique Goulet, John Donnelly, Bernard Donnelly, Jean Baptiste Bourcier, Henry McLernan, Michel Charponneau.
- 1880 Stanislas LaRoche, Pierre Lacoste, Achille Garant, Emile Garant, Benoni Bolduc, Joseph Campbell, Arsene Campbell, Oswald Campbell, Leonce Couture, Alphonse Sabourin, Alfred Parent, Ernest Soucy, Pierre Fortier, Alexis LaMarre, Alfred Sevigny, Bernard Faille, Pierre Faille, Francois Xavier Demers, Dieudonne Demers, Cornelius Daley, James Bradford, Louis Bradford, John Bolduc, Basile Bellegrade, James Daley.
- 1881 Dr. A. Loranger, Charles French, Antoine Filteau, Alfred Filteau, Patrick Conlon, Thomas Conlon, Thomas Walsh, Joseph J. Huard, Calixte Laframboise, Theodore Carriere, Joseph Demers, Eugene Baillargeon, Henri Sevigny, Cyrille Dumontet, John Lacey, John McCullum, George Myers, Regis Boucher, George Cochrane, J. MacDonald, John Kelly, John Murphy, P. J. Murphy, Alexis Gagner, John Smith.
- 1882 Eustache French, Cyprien French, Joseph French, Andre French, Alcide French, Wilfred Campbell, Moise Giroux, Michael Burke, Joseph Samson, Honore LeBlanc, Jules LeBlanc, David LeBlanc, Michael Keegan, Richard Verreau, Auguste Huard, Oliver Pilon.
- 1883 Hermas Chales, Narcisse Duquette, Oliver Allard, Francois Samson, J. Desrosiers, Michael Hickey, Levy Gagnon.
- 1884 Auguste Corriveau, William Collette, Hugh Kelly, Gabriel Raymond, Emile Guerin, Thomas Kyes, Benjamin Bouvet.
- 1885 John Altendorf, Xavier Chouinard, Remi Gelinis, Nicholas Welter, John Kennedy.
- 1886 Dr. P. U. LaBerge, Emmanuel Lefebvre, Severe LaMarre, Francois LaMarre, Wilfred LaMarre, Antoine Chales, Moise Boutiller, John Krier, Joseph Moreau, D. Cahil, Pacific Perras, Remi Lacourse, Owen Duffy, Raymond Bouvet, Auguste Normand.
- 1887 Alexandre Kerouack, John Schumann, Patrick Hollenger, Jeremie Gelinis, Jerome Rousseau, Joseph Maurice, Jacob Wentz, Thomas McKenzie, Abraham Pilon, Julien Pelletier, Andrew Harrington, John Poole, Basille Yelle, Louis Grandbois, Alderic Dumontet.
- 1888 Alexandre Pageotte, Joseph Pageotte, Alphonse Pageotte, Louis Pageotte, Joseph Gourde, Sr., Joseph Gourde, Jr., Domicile Gourde, Alphonse Gourde, Georges Samson, Thomas Samson, Theotime Gagnon, Idola Vary, Georges Goulet, Emile Ethier, Charles Bessette, Joseph Bernard, Eugene Rheume.
- 1889 Georges Delisle, Amabel Hebert, Philip Jacob, Mederic Lefebvre.
- 1890 Louis Lacoste, Simon Trudeau, Narcisse LeBlanc, Joseph Montpetit.
- 1891 J. C. Deschenes, Joseph Bouchard, Louis Bilodeau.
- 1892 Patrick Gallagher, Farigal Gallagher, Alfred LeClerc, Benoni Garant, Wilfred Laframboise.
- 1893 George Lamontagne, Simon Belanger, Louis Trost, H. Brosius, Hubert Hebert, M. Martin, Louis Lecompte, Carolus Bastien, Gustave Bastien, Honore Bastien, Peter Brosius, Nelson LeBlanc, Alfred Champagne, Victor Dumontet.
- 1896 William Durand, Stephen Kiley, Joseph McAuliffe, John Dolan.
- 1897 Edouard Lafreniere.



The Doctors

In the early days the Oakwood community had the great privilege of possessing men of medical knowledge. Dr. Hamilton, who for a time resided at Acton on the Red River, answered the sick calls of the early settlers of the Oakwood community. In 1881, Dr. A. Loranger, originally from the Province of Quebec, Canada, made his residence at Oakwood until the winter of 1883. Dr. P. U. La Berge from Ste-Martine, Province of Quebec, is the second doctor who made his residence in Oakwood and he stayed from 1886 to 1891. In 1900, Dr. Barrette made his residence in Cashel, a village situated within the limits of Sacred Heart Parish four miles north of Oakwood. In 1901, Dr. S. Dulude came to stay in Oakwood. He was born at St. Urbain, Canada, and studied at Ste. Therese College near Monreal. Dr. Galland is the last medical man who lived in Oakwood, during the year 1904. From that time to this day, sick calls from the Oakwood community have been answered by the Grafton doctors.



Dr. R. Loranger



Dr. P. U. La Berge



Dr. S. Dulude



The Post Office

Since it was the center of activity for a wide area, on November 4, 1895, a post office was established in Oakwood, with Alex Gagner as postmaster. The post office was discontinued April 30, 1924, in favor of a star route service from Grafton.



After the erection of the second church building, this first chapel was turned into a store in 1906, it was



destroyed by fire April 10, 1926. The post office was located inside the store.



Old picture of Oakwood Meat Market and big barn and Mrs. Chale's house, now Mrs. Marie Pilon's. The barn was used as a livery stable for horses while the parishioners attended church.



Mr. and Mrs. Alex Gagner (Obeline Collette) and family. Mr. Gagner was the first postmaster.



Mr. Moise Labonte
Former business partner of Wm. Brunelle, said to have been the first store keeper of Oakwood.



Former Oakwood Meat Market being remodeled by the Albert Gourdes in 1949.



Albert Gourde's home which was formerly the Oakwood Meat Market. It belonged to Charles Baillargeon to begin with. It was purchased by Stanley Bessette and moved to a site across the road, south and west of its original site. It was enlarged and remodeled by the Albert Gourdes. (1980)



Grading part of the Oakwood road. The grading was done by neighbors - Eugene Rheaume, Joe Gourde, and Joe E. Lessard. Others are not identified. Taken in the late 1920's.

The Early Settlers

Every one of the early settlers of the Oakwood Catholic Community deserves a special mention in this book. All of them contributed their share to the foundation and development of the community. A detailed study of each of these pioneers would surely be of interest to the present and future generations. However, this isn't possible in this booklet.

One pioneer more than all the others does deserve special mention here. He was the first resident settler and donated the property for Sacred Heart Church and the St. Aloysius Academy. That man was Joseph Charpentier, who had come with his family in April 1878. His remains lie in the Sacred Heart Cemetery. Upon his grave can be seen a memorial with a marble plate bearing this inscription "IN MEMORY OF JOSEPH CHARPENTIER BORN MAY 1, 1838 DIED AUGUST 20, 1926. DONATED SACRED HEART CHURCH PROPERTY MARCH 30, 1881. R.I.P."



Charles Baillargeon family, standing, Bernadette Sevigney, Lydia, Anoise, Mae; front row, Charles Baillargeon with Alice on lap, Rose Sevigny, Charlotte, Mrs. Florence Baillargeon and Marie.



Peter and Maryann (Ensch) Brosius Family: left to right, Harry, Peter (father), John, Mrs. William (Barbara) Shultz, Mrs. Victor (Theresa) French, Maryann (mother), and seated in front is Mrs. William (Minnie) DeSautel.



Nick Brosius Family: left to right are Katie (Mrs. Albert Rocksvold), Mary (Mrs. Ed Kinney), Barbara (Mrs. Reese Lowe), Paul, Theresa (Mrs. Joe Bisek), Lena (Mrs. Al Skiff) seated on father's knee, and Nick (father). Mrs. Brosius was deceased.



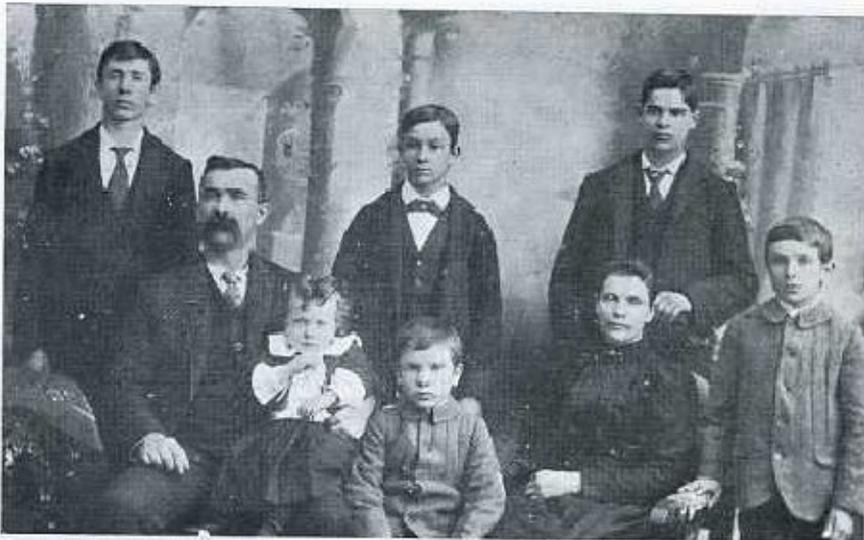
Joseph and Alphonsine (Harel) Campbell Children: left to right, Roch, Mrs. Homer (Clarinda) French, Mrs. Arthur (Louisa) Collette, Wilbrod, and seated is Arsen, and Oswald, Sr. (Taken in 1970).



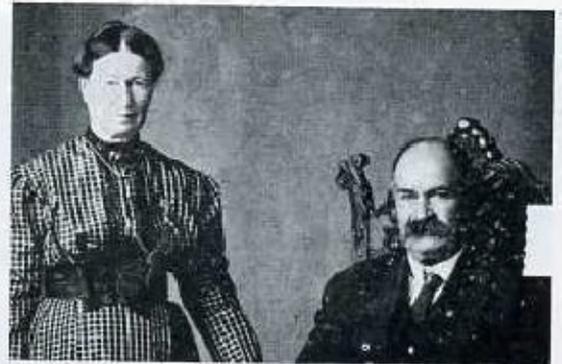
Mr. and Mrs. Benonie Brunelle (M. Bilodeau) and family.



Mr. and Mrs. John Brunella (Julia Montreil), in whose home the first school was held in June, July and August, 1880. Photo taken at Belcourt, N. Dak., May 2, 1929, on their golden wedding anniversary.



Mr. William Brunelle and his first wife (Marie Bolduc) and family.



Mr. Joseph Brunelle and his first wife (Mathilda Trudeau).



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Campbell (Alphonsine Harel) and family.



Mr. Antoine Filteau



Mr. and Mrs. Hermas Chales (Odile Lessard) and family.



Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Collette (Celina Deschenes) and family.



Mr. and Mrs. Edouard LaBerge (Josephite Surprenant) and one of their children.



Arcadius Collette Family: back row, left to right, Alvida, Alexander, Albert, Pamela, Joseph; front row, left to right, Mrs. Arcadius (Zoe Pamerlsau) Collette, Wilfred, Bernadette, Delphine (young girl seated), Blanche, and Arcadius Collette.



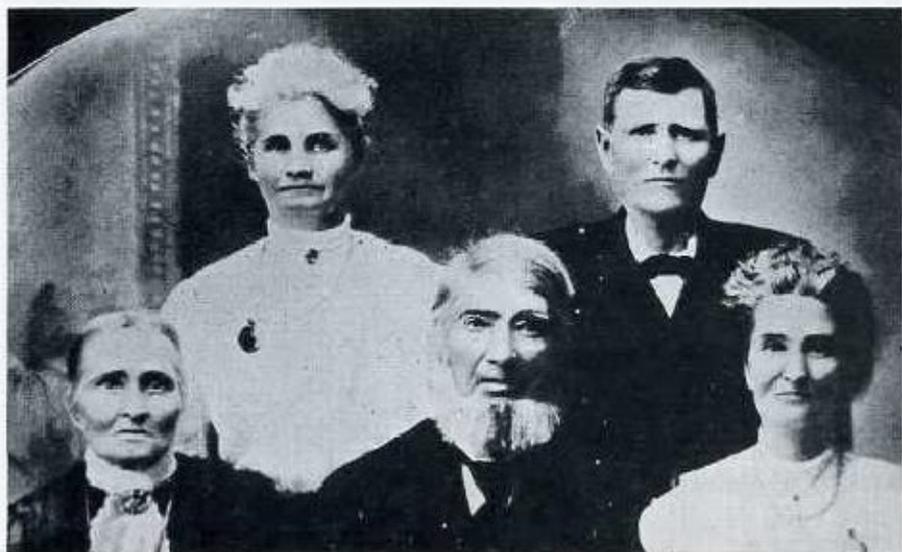
Mr. and Mrs. Arcadius Collette (Zoe Promerleau) and a grandchild.



Denis Collette Family: seated, left to right, Philip, Denis, William, and Father Barrette, pastor at Oakwood; standing, Ovide, Arcadius, Octave, Alfred, Theodules and Joseph.



Mr. and Mrs. Ovide Collette (Oveline LaBerge) and family.



Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Conlon and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Conlon and Mr. P. Conlon's daughter.



Alma Collette, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ovide Collette, whose family is pictured above.



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Collette (Dezilda Huard) wedding picture in 1889.



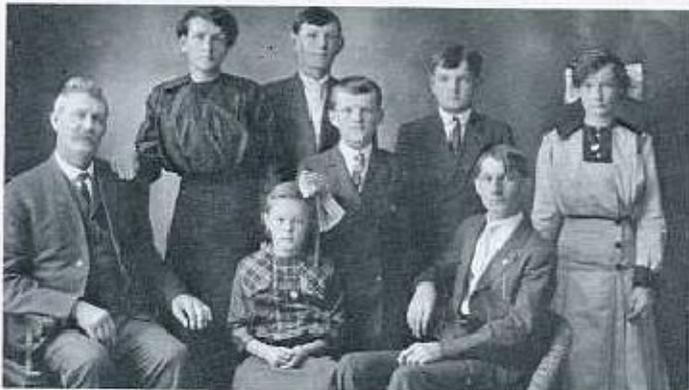
Mr. and Mrs. Theodules Collette (Augustine Duquette) and their daughter.



Octave Collette, son of Denis Collette, married Clothide (Blonide): left to right, standing, Alere, Mrs. Wentz (Elsie) Arcidas, Mrs. Henry (Josephine) Bernard; Paul and Alcide seated with Octave and Clothide (parents) in front. Came in 1878.



William Collette, son of Denis Collette and Mathilde (Vermette) Collette, and Naomi Patnaude, daughter of Cyril and Celina (Trudeau) Patnaude: left to right, top row, Homer, Napoleon, Mrs. Amay (Delphine) Pilon, Almond, Elzear; bottom, Mrs. Dan (Anna) Plaisance, Mrs. Collette, James, Mrs. Victor (Angeline) Lessard, Mr. Collette and Bertha. Mr. and Mrs. Collette, Homer, Elzear, and Bertha are all deceased.



William Durand came to this territory in 1896. Pictured are William and Eugenie (Gourde) Durand, (who was a sister of Joseph and Domicile Gourde) and children - Albert, Joe, Ovila or Oliver, Josephine (Mrs. Oscar Pilon), Amanda (Mrs. Albert Demers), and Wilfred.



Joseph C. and Annie (Sabourin) DesChenes - Joseph Charles DesChenes was born in Canada, lived around Dayton, Minn., and came to Grafton in 1891. Joseph worked at Reyleck's as a clerk then he opened his own store in Cashel, N. Dak. In 1897 Joseph married Mary Anne Sabourin, daughter of Alphonse and Bridget (Madden) Sabourin. He was postmaster at Cashel for 35 years, as well as township clerk and served as trustee of the Sacred Heart Church of Oakwood for many years. They had eleven children - Rose, Herbert, Charles (Taft), (Evelyn) Mrs. Ira Sweeney, Omer Joseph (Joe), Philip Wilmer (Pickles), (Helena) Mrs. Jerome Votava, (Agnes) Mrs. Lloyd Syrup, and (Mary) Mrs. Ralph Hatlelid. Lucille and Frances both died in infancy. Only four are living - Joe, Pickles, Helena and Mary.



Victor Campbell, son of Joseph Campbell and Alphonsine (Harel) Campbell, married Philomena (Minnie) Collette, daughter of Alfred Collette and Celina (DesChenes) Campbell. They had three children - Mrs. Frederick (Clarabell) Demers, Harold, (deceased), and Mrs. Lawrence (Odell) McCarthy, (deceased).



Daniel Demers, son of Exevier Demers, and Marcelline (Surprenant) Demers, married Albina Primeau, daughter of Louis Primeau and Salome (Gagne) Primeau, Oct. 12, 1892. They had fourteen children, eight of whom are still living at this writing, all in the Grafton area. Pictured left to right, top row, Edmond, Wilfred (deceased), Simeon, Edward, Albert, Ovila and Frederick, both deceased, Dan and Victor (deceased); seated, Mrs. Demers, who died Apr. 9, 1973, Mrs. Edward (Emma) Sevigny, Mrs. Wilfred (Arbella) Durand, Mrs. Simeon (Clara) Sevigny, Mrs. Alfred E. (Alvina) Lessard (deceased), Mrs. Elzear (Aurore) Collette (deceased) in 1938, and Mr. Daniel Demers, who died Dec. 21, 1969.



Andrew French, son of an early pioneer Eustache French and Philomene (LaLonde) French, and Aurore, daughter of Dosithee and Delima (Lessard) LaBerge. They lived on the farm now occupied by the Oliver Pilon family. They had four daughters and eight sons; pictured left to right, standing, Edward (deceased) Leonard, Renee, Richard, Lorenzo, Arthur, Armand, Frederick (deceased); seated, Mrs. (Aurore) French (deceased), Mrs. Joe (Marie Ann) Pilon, Mrs. Elvert (Virginia) Owing, Mrs. James (Beatrice) Patterson (deceased), Mrs. Ovila (Irene) Demers and Andrew French (deceased).



Alcide French, son of Eustache and Philomene (LaLonde) French, and Delima, daughter of George Sampson and Emelie (Goulet) Sampson: left to right, top row, Damas, Irene Demers, Raymond (deceased), Albert, Henry, Marie Hedwidge, Sweet, George; front, Angeline Lafreniere, Philomene Sand, Mrs. French (Delima Sampson), Theresa Brown, Alcide, Amanda Remillard, Emelia Trenblay. Both Mr. and Mrs. French are deceased.



Eustache French was one of the early pioneers of this area having come here in the late 1880's. Eustache married Philomene LaLonde. They had ten children: standing from left to right, Joseph, Mrs. Alcidas (Clara) Collette, Andrew, Alcide and Cyprien; seated, Amada, Mrs. Henry (Liontine) Sampson or Samson, Mrs. Joseph (Louise) Rheume, Mrs. Domicile (Irene) Gourde, and Osias. These are all deceased and buried in the Sacred Heart Cemetery.



Charles Z. and Louisa French Family: seated far left, Homer French, Bernadette French, and standing, Mrs. Silvio (Maria) Collette, and Oscar, far right, all are deceased.



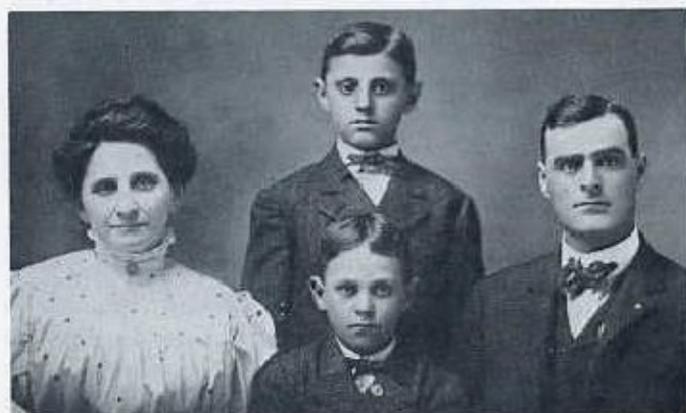
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Z. French. Charles, son of Caliste French and Narcisse (LaLonde) French, married Louisa Pilon, daughter of Oliver Pilon and Elizabeth (Fouteau) Pilon.



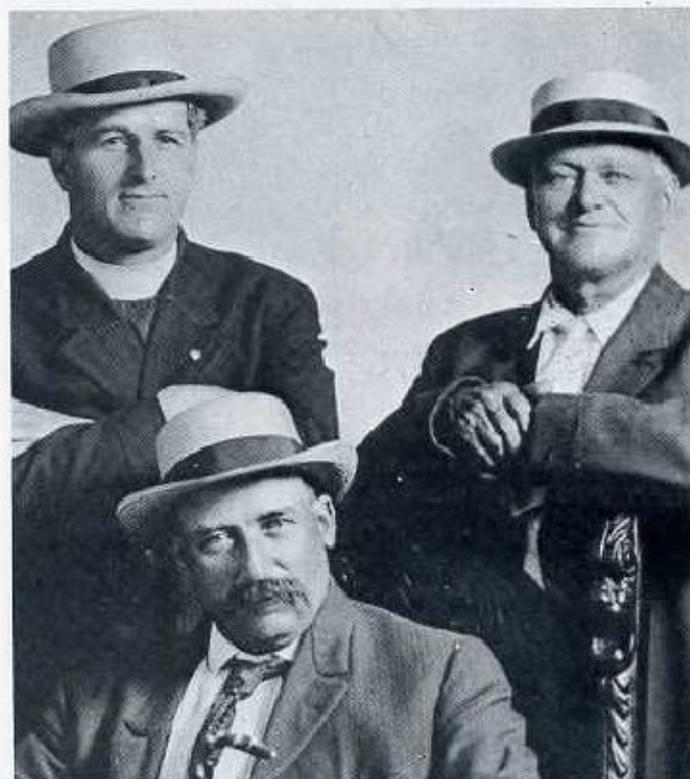
In center, Mrs. Emil French (Delima Donnie); top left, daughter, Mrs. Joe (Alphonsine French) Brosseau; lower left, Mary Brosseau; upper right, daughter, Mrs. Henry (Emma French) Savard; and lower right, Ethel Savard (Mrs. Fred A. Maid) who is still living in Chicago and is 89 years old.



Homer French, son of Charles Z. and Louisa (Pilon) French, married Clarinda Campbell, daughter of Joseph and Alphonsine (Harel) Campbell, on Nov. 26, 1912. They were the first couple to be married in the presnet church by Father J. H. Forbes. They were attended by Louisa (Campbell) Mrs. Arthur Collette, Mr. Oscar French, his brother. Mrs. French is the only one living at this time, Homer passed away in September, 1967.



Gustave Bastien Family. Pictured are Gustave and Elizabeth (Pilon) Bastien with their sons, Wilfrid, seated, and Omer. Elizabeth was a sister of Oliver Pilon and Mrs. Charles (Louisa) French.



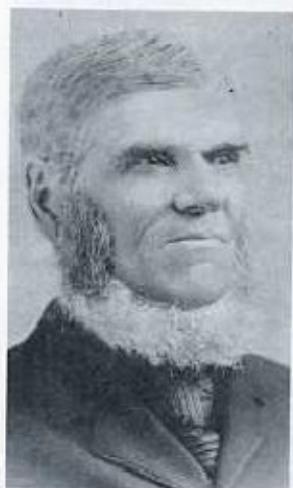
Picture taken between 1900 and 1903: standing, left, is Father J. A. Lalande and Charles Z. French; sitting is Charles' brother, Eustache French. The Frenches are early settlers.



Emil French, son of Calixte or Caliste French and Narcisse (LaLonde) French, married Delima (Donnie) French. They came to this territory in 1879. They had five children - Mrs. Joe (Alphonsine) Brosseau, Mrs. Henry (Emma) Savard, Victor French, Delina French, who died at 18, and Joseph Nelson French who died at 39.



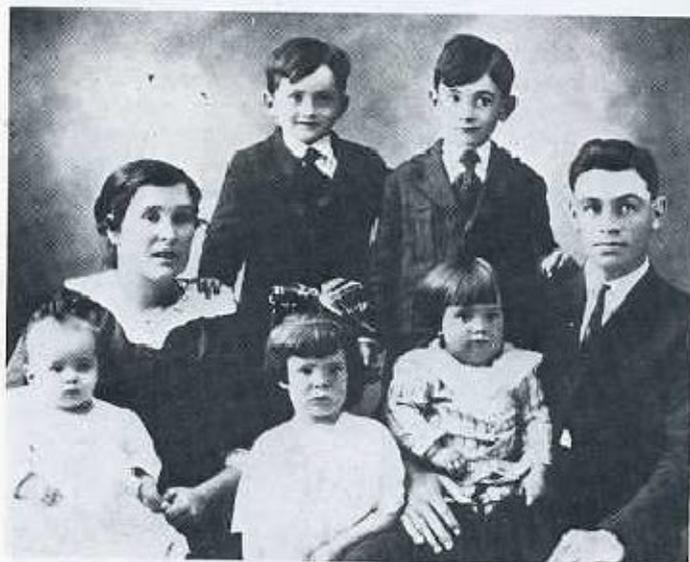
Victor French, son of Emil and Delima (Donnie) French, and Theresa (Brosius) French, daughter of Peter and Maryann (Ensch) Brosius. All are deceased.



Caliste or Calixte French was born in Canada and married Narcisse LaLonde there. They had nine children, Eustache, Emil, Mrs. Henry (Celina) LeBlanc, Charles Z., Mrs. Theodore (Olivine) Carriere, Mrs. Angeline (or Maggie) (Oldham) Callier, Damas, Joseph and Mrs. Oliver (Agnes) Pilon. His wife died in Canada and he came to this territory with his daughter, Agnes, in 1881. He passed away at the age of 96 and is buried in the Sacred Heart Cemetery.



Patrick Gallagher Family, early parishioners of Oakwood: front row, left to right, B. Anne, Mrs. Albert Samson (Katherine), Patrick, Mrs. Patrick Gallagher (Mary Sullivan), Mrs. Charles Coffey (Margaret) and Sister Mary Patrick (Theresa); back row, Mark, Bernard, John P., Farigal and James.



Mr. and Mrs. Arthur (Rose Parent) Gourde. Arthur, son of Joseph and Philamen (Pageotte) Gourde, Sr., and Rose, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred (Brunelle) Parent. Children are left to right, Robert, Irene and Lawrence. (Top) are left, Wilfrod, and right, David.



Mr. and Mrs. Farigal (Mary Feeley) Gallagher. They had four children - Thomas, Farigal, Hugh and Margaret. Farigal was one of the lay directors when our church was built.



Mr. and Mrs. Leon Surprenant (Elmire Sevigny).



Mr. and Mrs. Joe (Alphonsina Campbell) Gourde, Jr., Family: back row, left to right, Louis, Mrs. Gourde, Victor, Albert; front, Jeffrey, Mrs. Frank Byzewski (Marie), Mrs. Henry Bolek (Agnes) and Mr. Gourde (insert).



Mr. and Mrs. Emile Garant (Marie Anne Lulcie Moreau) and family.



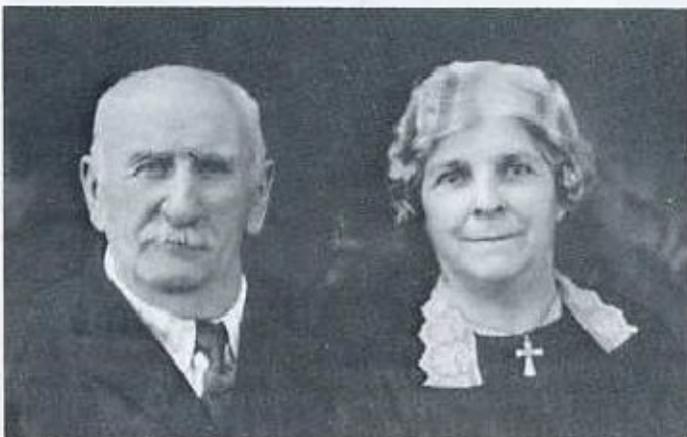
Mrs. Pierre Garant



Domicile Gourde, son of Joseph, Sr., and Philomene (Pageotte) Gourde, married Irene French, daughter of Eustache and Philomene (LaLonde) French. They had ten children with only one still living in this area, Mrs. Dan (Theresa) Demers. Pictured left to right, front row, Mrs. Napoleon (Amanda) Lessard (deceased), Mrs. Demers, Mrs. George (Esther) Thompson, Alphonse, Father Leo (Thomas), and Mr. Gourde, these last three are deceased; back row, Richard, Jan (deceased), Andrew, Leon (deceased) and Albert. Mrs. Gourde was deceased when this picture was taken. (She died in 1930.)



Domicile and Irene (French) Gourde.



John and Katherine Krier



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph (Philomene Pageotte) Gourde, Sr., Family: top row, Mrs. Narcisse (Elmire) Goulet, Mrs. Wm. (Eugenie) Durand, Mrs. Emilian (Leontine) Champagne, Alphonse Gourde, Mrs. Joseph (Dezilda) Bernard, Joseph Gourde, Jr.; bottom row, Joseph Gourde, Sr., Arthur, Mrs. Eugene (Delvina) Rheaume, Manda (died young), and Philomene (Pageotte) Gourde.



Mr. and Mrs. Edouard Lafreniere
(Bridget Sabourin) and family.



Mr. and Mrs. Jean Bte. LaBerge (Jane Logan) and family.



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph LaBerge (Georgiana Boutiller) and family.



Mr. and Mrs. Jean Bte. Trudeau
(Josephine Labonte) and family.



Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinard LaRoche (Marguerite Brunelle) and family.



Louis Lessard, son of Etienne Lessard and Sophronie (Collette) Lessard, married Exilia Primeau. Children pictured are Rosanna, Malvina, Emma, Louisa, Marie, Joseph, Albert, Alphonse, Arthur, Homer, Wilbrod and Moses.



A four generation picture, left to right, Louis LaCoste, Roseanne (LaCoste) Garant, Pierre LaCoste, and Desanges or Dee (Garant) Johnson, daughter of Roseanne.



Family of Mrs. Severe (Sara) LaMarre: standing, left to right, Jim, Roy, Pete, Lorenzo, Wilbur, and Al; seated, Mrs. Neil (Clara) Foley, Mrs. Edmond (Bertha) LaBerge, Mrs. O. R. (Marie) LaBerge, and Mrs. A. E. (Ernestine) Carlson. Mrs. LaMarre and her husband came to this country in 1886 with seven children, and bought the land where Edmond Campbell now resides. Mr. Emmanuel LeFebvre, a hired hand, came with them. All the LaMarres are now deceased with Bertha LaBerge passing away Feb. 28, 1981.



Mrs. Celanire (Parent) LaCoste, wife of Pierre LaCoste and her sister to the left, Mrs. Leonce (Marie Parent) Couture, who once lived around the Cashel area, and attended Sacred Heart Church of Oakwood.



Mrs. Severe (Sara Anne) (Faille) LaMarre and her granddaughter, Jackie LaBerge, daughter of O. R. LaBerge and Marie (LaMarre) LaBerge.



Mr. and Mrs. Dosithee LaBerge (Delima Lessard). First couple married in Sacred Heart Church Chapel in 1881. (Renee French's grandparents).



Emmanuel LeFebvre Family



Alfred LeClerc who came to Oakwood from St. Anne Des Plaine, Province of Quebec, married in 1901 to Marie Louise Trudeau, daughter of Narcise Trudeau and Denise Brisson of Oakwood. Four children were born - Alfred died at 12-years-old; Lawrence of Fargo; Alex died in 1964; and Marie (Mrs. Henry Deprost), Grafton. Alfred's wife, Marie, died in 1907.



Henry LeBlanc married Celina French, daughter of Calixte French. He died in June, 1917. Pictured, left to right, David, Alphonse, Joe, Arthur, and Nels and Mr. LeBlanc in front.



Alfred LeClerc married his second wife, Amanda Paquette at St. Eustache, Province of Quebec, in 1909. They had five children. Two are living - Elizabeth (Mrs. Steve Silewski), Grafton and Edward, who farms east of Oakwood. Amanda passed away in 1941 and Alfred in 1949.



Etienne and Sophronie (Collette) Lessard Family: back row, left to right, Joseph Lessard, married Bertha Campbell; Odile Lessard, married Hermas Chale; Edward Lessard, married Rosanna LaCoste; Louis Lessard, married Exilia Primeau; Delima Lessard, married Dosithee LaBerge; Alfred Lessard, single; second row, Philius Lessard, married Zelia Pagote; Etienne, father; Mathilde Lessard, married Bernard Pellant; *Sophronie (Collette) Lessard, mother; Zelire Lessard, married Frank Huard; sitting in front, Marie Lessard, married Dan Suprenant; and Elima Lessard, married Moses Brunelle.

*George married Rachel Pilon



Mr. Philius Lessard and his first wife (Zelia Pageotte) and three of their children.



Philius Lessard Children: back row, left to right, Edmond, Josephine, Leocadia, and Clara; front row, Maria, Lawrence and Loretta, twins Napoleon and Eugenie, and Sidulie.



Mr. Alfred Parent and his second wife (Eleonore Brunelle) and family. First parties married in "Park River" Mission March 27, 1881.



Alexandre Pageotte married Rose Delima (Morell) Pagote in Quebec, Canada, and came to this Oakwood area as early settlers. They are pictured with their children, left to right, top row, Alphonse, Joseph or Joe, Florida (Mrs. Charles Baillargeon), Eugenie (Mrs. Arthur Corriveau), Cleopha (Mrs. George Lamontagne), Exilla (Mrs. Philias Lessard); seated, Delima (Mrs. Louis Billodeau), Louis, Mr. Pagote and Mrs. Pagote.



Eugene Rheume, born in Canada, was the son of Antoine Rheume and Genevieve (Croteau) Rheume. Eugene married Delvina Gourde, daughter of Joseph Gourde, Sr., and Philamene (Pageotte) Gourde, Sr. They had nineteen children, four died in infancy. Pictured from left to right, top row, Urban, Josephine (Sister Delvina), John, Albert, Ernest, Joseph, Clara



Joseph Pageotte was one of eight children of Alexandre Pageotte and Rose Delima (Morell). He was an early settler of the area, married Lucy Fortier Nov. 13, 1893. They had four children - Mrs. Roch (Lydia) Campbell, Josephine, who died at eight years, Edmond, and Mrs. Les (Marie) Remington. The only ones living now are Ed. and Marie. Joseph and his wife, Lucy, are both buried in Salem, Ore.



Alzor Augustin Normand, the youngest child of Augustin and Catherine (LeBourdois) Normand was born in 1890 and lived in St. Andrews Township. In 1921 he married Eva Burke, daughter of Anton Gryor Borkowski (Burke) who was born in Danzig, Germany in 1867. Anton changed his last name to Burke after coming to North Dakota as it was easier to pronounce and spell. Her mother was Anna (Rostine) Burke. They had eleven children and all are living. Pictured from left to right, bottom row, Dee, Mrs. Normand (Eva), Mrs. William (Ione) Kirby, and Allen; back row, Mrs. James (Inez) Kamrowski, Donald, Mrs. Gordon (Lilia) McLean, Mrs. H. Joseph (Lois) Breniser, Mrs. Jack (Thea) Dolan, Charles, Kenneth, Raymond and Alzor (father-insert). Alzor died in 1956, Eva resides at St. Anne's Guest Home in Grand Forks, N. Dak.

(Mrs. Edmond Collette) and Napoleon; front row, Lucy (Mrs. Stanley LaBerge), Mrs. Rheume, standing center, Eva (Sister Bernice), Mrs. Rheume, Mary, Amanda (Sister Eugene), next to Mr. Rheume is Edward, Bernice and center seated is Richard. All of these are deceased at this writing except Sister Eugene.



John, (J. C.) Rasmussen and Josephine (DesChenes) Rasmussen and their family taken on their wedding anniversary. They lived in Sacred Heart Parish for many years and later moved to Drayton, both are deceased.



Joseph Sabourin, the second son and the eighth child of Alphonsus Sabourin and Bridget (Madden) Sabourin. Joseph was born Jan. 13, 1883, in Walsh County, Martin Township. When his parents came here they had six daughters, James was born in 1881. Joseph attended school in Oakwood and the college known as Mary College. He then went back to Canada during his college years where his father also had gone to college and there he met and married Alma Major, daughter of Napoleon and Mary Louise (Sabourin) Jan. 23, 1906 (no relation). They came back to North Dakota and settled on his father's farm. They had four children — Lucien, who died in infancy, Jeanette (Mrs. Damas French of Escondido, Calif., Orell (deceased), and Renee, of Grafton.



Joseph Rheume, son of Eugene Rheume and Delvina (Gourde) Rheume, and Louise, daughter of Eustache French and Philomene (LaLonde) French. They had four children — Mrs. Pierre (Emelda) LeBlanc, Mrs. Farent (Lydia) Patnaude, Mrs. Art (Leona) Pearson, and Andrew.



John Schumann and his wife, Mary Ann (Lenz), were both born in Luxemburg and first settled in Wisconsin before coming here. Pictured, left to right, Katherine (Trost) Evens, Mary Schumann who resides at the Lutheran Sunset Home, Mrs. Matt (Josephine Trost) Brandenburger, the mother of these two girls. Mrs. Ludwig (Katherine) Trost died when these girls were very young and they were brought up by the Schumanns, their grandparents. Mr. Schumann is holding a great-grandson, Raymond Brandenburger, in the center is John Schumann and right of him is Mrs. Schumann (Mary Ann Lenz).



Mr. and Mrs. Mark Sullivan (Euphemia Keegan).



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Samson (Mary Ann LaBerge) and family: left to right, daughters are Mrs. Harold (Bertha) Campbell (deceased, Mrs. Bernard (Alma) Gallagher, Mrs. Edmond (Amanda) Demars and Mrs. Ernest (Mary) Lefevre. The sons are Wilbrod, David (deceased), Thomas (deceased) and Albert.



George Samson Family — early settlers of the Oakwood Community: front row, left to right, Mrs. Nelson Leblanc (Marie), George, Emelie (Goulet) and Mrs. Alcide French (Delina); back row, Henry, Stanley, Nazare, Peter, Joseph and Thomas.



Mr. and Mrs. Toussaint Trudeau (Octavie Mothee) and family.



Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sevigny (Eudoxie Laberge) and family.



Couple pictured at left are Cyprian French and wife, Ida; center couple, Wilfred Parent and wife, Aurore; and couple at right, Joe Parent and wife, Josephine.



Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Sabourin (Bridget Madden) with three of their children, James, Annie and Joseph.

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

Part I

Page

8 - Founding of the Parish

19 - Church Trustees

Part II

20 - Age of Progression

21 - Doctors, Post Office, Town

23 - Early Settlers

Part III

39 - Second Era Generation

48 - The School Era

Part IV

57 - Vocations to Religious Life

61 - Pastors

62 - Parish Surviving

70 - Present Day Generation

Compliments of Dick Bernard

www.chez-nous.net/fc.html

Son of Henry Bernard and Esther Busch

Grandson of Josephine Collette (p. 27) and Henry Bernard

Great Grandson of Octave Collette and Clotilde Blondeau (p. 27)



Dick Bernard

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www.outsidethewalls.org/blog

www.AMillionCopies.info

Individually and together, we can!



The Oakwood Band with Professor Cote in 1909.



Oakwood Ball Team - 1910: back row, left to right, Wilfrid Parent, John Pellant, Pit Billadeau, Alex Gagnier, Albert St. Antoine, Arthur Pellant, Wilfried Goulet; middle, Alcide Collette, O. R. LaBerge, Alfred Lessard, Wilfred Collette, Ernest LeFevre, Joe LeBlanc; front, Joe Collette, Silvio Goulet, Pete Faille, George Lessard and Bernard Pellant.

Second Era Generation



Harry and Lillie Brosius family (1949): left to right, bottom, Bill, Lawrence and Cyril; top row, Edward, Lucine, Lillie (mother), Harry (father), Donna and Joe.



John Brosius and Rose Ann Currie on their wedding day, April 9, 1918.



Arsen Campbell, son of Joseph Campbell and Alphonsine (Harel) Campbell, and Flora, daughter of Joseph and Apollina (Lanctout) Campbell. They had four children - Antoinette and Oswald who are pictured, and Rene, who died in 1925, and Paul Ivan, who died in 1916.



Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. (Marietta Peterka) Campbell. Paul, son of William and Amanda (Laberge) Campbell and Marietta, daughter of W. S. and Josephine (Burianek) Peterka: front row, left to right, Nancy, Paul E., Jeannie, Marietta and Mrs. Greg (Carol) Gardner; back row, Bill, Tom, Mrs. Robert (Diane) Mihulka and Greg.



Mr. and Mrs. Harold Campbell and family. Harold was the son of Victor and Philomina (Collette) Campbell. Bertha was the daughter of Joseph and Mary Ann (Laberge) Samson. (Both are now deceased.) Their family, left to right, front row, Mrs. Arnold (Judy) Lizakowski, Mrs. Duane (Susan) Carpenter and Mrs. Patrick (Patricia) Buckley; back row, Robert (Joe), Roger, Michael and John (Butch).



Mr. and Mrs. Frank (Marie Gourde) Byzewski. Frank, son of John Byzewski and Polly Stigar. Marie, daughter of Joe Gourde, Jr., and Alphonsina Campbell. Sons are (left) Jeffrey and James (right).



Almond Collette, born and raised in the Oakwood area, married Diana (Primeau) of St. John, N. Dak., in 1926. They farmed in Acton Township. They had nine children - Merlyn of Grafton; Mrs. Melvin (Doris) Benson of Detroit Lakes, Minn.; Ronald of Longview, Wash.; Leroy of Cloverdale, Oregon; Mrs. Curtis (Iris Ann) Holten of Longview, Wash.; Alan of Grafton; Mrs. Bill (Diane) Hanson of Longmont, Colorado; Mrs. Richard (Mary) McCool of Longview, Wash.; and Philip, Longview, Wash., who was killed in a truck accident in 1978.



Arthur Collette, son of Ovide and Olivine (Labege) Collette, married Louise, daughter of Joseph and Alphonsine (Harel) Campbell, in 1916. Children are - Romeo, Mrs. Frederick (Juliette) Lessard, Mrs. Maurice (Agnes) Lessard, Mrs. Simeon (Margaret) Demers, Maurice, Kenneth, Roland, Mrs. Roman (Joyce) Lessard, Mrs. Leonard (Frances) Schuster, and Mrs. Richard (Carol) Narlock.



William, son of Joseph and Alphonsine (Harel) Campbell, and Amanda, daughter of Joseph LaBerge and Georgiana (Boutiller) LaBerge. Amanda and William have been members of Sacred Heart Church all their life until two years ago, when Amanda became a resident of the Lutheran Sunset Home and William resides with his son, Paul, and family. They had seven children, Annette, who died at the age of four. Pictured from left to right, back row, Father Joseph Campbell, Paul, Mrs. Frank (Helen Jane) Osowski, and Edmond; seated, Mrs. Stanley (Alice) Danielski, Amanda, William and Mrs. John (Marie Blanche) Osowski. They have been married 61½ years.



Mr. and Mrs. Elzear Garant: Elzear Garant, son of Emile and Marie (Moreau) Garant, and Eugenie, daughter of Alfred and Eudoxie (Labege) Sevigny. Both are deceased.



Alcide Collette, son of Octave Collette and Clothide (Blonide) Collette, married Beatrice DeSautel, daughter of David and Celina (Robillard) DeSautel, April 17, 1917. They have two children - Mrs. Truman (Evelyn) McCarty of Grand Forks, and Maurice D. Collette of Oakwood. Beatrice passed away in 1967, and Alcide is a resident of Valley Memorial Home, Grand Forks, N. Dak.



Edmond Collette, son of Ovide and Olivine (Laberge) Collette, and Clara, daughter of Eugene and Delvina (Gourde) Rheaume. Pictured from left to right, standing, Mrs. Charles (Theresa) McWilliam, Mrs. Mike (Rose Marie) Emery, Mrs. Robert (Mary) Maisano and Renee; seated, Edmond and Clara Collette.



Mr. and Mrs. William Deloria. Pamela (Collette), (Sabourin) Deloria was the daughter of Arcadus Collette.



Silvio Collette, son of Ovide and Olivine (Laberge) Collette, and Maria, daughter of Charles Z. and Louisa (Pilon) French; left to right, Gerard, David, Dominic, Antonio, Daniel, Bruno, Lionel, Louis; front row, Alice, Silvio, Maria, Mrs. James (Bernadette) Gallagher, and Mrs. Steve (Germaine) Perkerewicz.



Edmund J. Dolan and Mary (McBride) Dolan Family - 1943: Edmund J. Dolan (deceased), son of Alfred T. Dolan and Catherine (Fitzgerald) Dolan, and Mary, daughter of Francis McBride and Sara (Drain) McBride. They came from Iowa in 1919. Pictured back row, left to right, Eugene, Mrs. Norbert (Kathleen) Corriveau, John J., Raymond; front row, Donald, Mrs. Dolan, Dorothy Dolan Kelsh, Mr. Dolan, and Mrs. Hilary (Jeanette) Osowski.



Alcidas Corriveau, son of August Corriveau and Emilie (Sanfacon) Corriveau, married Margaret Krier, daughter of John and Katie (Stuchen) Krier, in 1912. They have two children - Norbert of Crookston, Minn., and Mrs. Maurice D. (Isabel) Collette of Grafton. They farmed in Acton Township until retiring in the Oakwood Village. Alcidas is deceased and Margaret resides at the St. Anne's Guest Home, Grand Forks, N. Dak.



Cypriene French, son of Eustache French and Philomene (LaLonde French), and Ida, daughter of Alfred Parent: left to right, standing, Ernest, Arbella (Mrs. Louis Gourde), and Joseph. Deceased at the time were Ernestine and Eva.



Damas French, son of Alcide and Delima (Sampson) French, and Jennette Sabourin, daughter of Joseph and Alma (Major) Sabourin. Pictured from left to right, standing, Wesley, Duane, Darryl, Mrs. William (Beverly) Garster, and Ordean; seated, Jennette, Mrs. Douglas (Janice) Loos, and Damas. Not pictured is Mrs. Lorne (Shirley) Van Camp of Omaha, Nebraska.



Leo French, son of Oscar and Dora (Sabourin) French (both are deceased), and Emilia, daughter of Max and Laura (Misialek) Schuster of Grafton. Pictured left to right, standing, Mrs. Gary (Jackie) Emter, Karen (deceased), and Robert; seated, Emilia and Leo.



Homer and Clarinda French Family - parents of five children: standing, left to right, Mrs. Leonard (Cecilia) Sass, Charles, Mrs. George (Therese) Samson, Murphy, Anthony, and Mrs. Richard (Agnes Marie) Stewart.



Oscar French, son of Charles Z. French and Louisa (Pilon) French, and Dora Sabourin, daughter of Modeste Sabourin and Malo Sabourin. They had two children - Leo French and Mrs. Reo (Rita) Riopelle, both of Grafton.



Joe French, Sr., Family - Joe (father), son of Cyprian and Ida (Parent) French, and Alma (mother), daughter of Edward and Bridget (Sabourin) Lafreniere. Children right to left, front row, Mrs. Rodney (Marie) Glennen, Mrs. Clarian (Adel) Hudacko, Mrs. Ray (Joan) Irani; second row, Joe, Jr., Gerald, Hector, Lowell, Bennett, and Eugene.



Raymond French (deceased), son of Alcide and Delima (Sampson) French, and Jeanette, daughter of Alfred E. Lessard and Alvina (Demers) Lessard. They had four sons. Pictured left to right, seated, Raymond, Jeanette, Roger (on mother's lap), Donald, Ronald and Gary (lower front) Jeanette French is now Mrs. Earl (Jeanette) Lizakowski of Grafton.



Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Gallagher (Alma Samson) and son, Terry.



Regan and Jan (Morgan) Gourde. Regan is the son of Jeffrey and Margaret (Sevigny) Gourde. Jan is the daughter of John and Dorothy (Danielski) Morgan.



Louis Gourde, son of Joseph and Alphonsina (Campbell) Gourde, and Arbella, daughter of Cyprien and Ida (Parent) French, and daughter, Eileen.



Mr. and Mrs. Victor (Jeanette Lafreniere) Gourde Family - Victor, son of Joseph Gourde, Jr., and Alphonsina (Campbell) Gourde, and Jeanette, daughter of Edward Lafreniere and Bridget (Sabourin): left to right, front row, Mrs. Randy Hanavold (Mary Lynn), Mrs. Jeanette Gourde, Victor (insert), and Mrs. Gary (Judy) Smith; top row, Gene, Ronald, Edward, Joseph, Raymond.



Sons in the John Currie family were, left to right, back row, John and Ambrose; front, Lawrence, Jack Bruski and John Brosius.



In the John Currie family were five girls, left to right, Lilia (Mrs. Jack Bruski); Beula (Mrs. Fred Nelson); Mary (Mrs. Jim Kiley); Minnie (deceased at age 16), and Rose Ann (Mrs. John Brosius).



L. P. (Pete) LaCoste, son of Pierre LaCoste and Celanire (Parent) LaCoste, and Mary, daughter of Edward Lafreniere and Bridget (Sabourin) Lafreniere. They had five children - Adolore (killed in action in World War II), Mrs. Joe (Clarice) Turcotte, Mrs. Amie (Elaine) Turcotte, Delina (Sister Angelita), a Carmalite nun, and Albert LaCoste.



Edmond, son of Eugene Lafreniere and Angeline (French), and Marie Louise, daughter of Philorum Sevigny and Laura (Proulx) Sevigny. Children are Paulette (Lauren Roseno), Clifford, Gerilyn, Michael, Katherine (Dean Kirkeby).



Eugene, son of Edward Lafreniere and Bridget (Sabourin) Lafreniere, and Angeline, daughter of Alcide French and Delima (Sampson) French. Children are front row, Theresa (Bender), Arlene (Liles), Anita (O'Hanlon), Mary (Breck), and Joyce (Brown); back row, Edmond, Edgar, Albert, Leo, and George.



Alfred E. Lessard, son of Edward Lessard and Rosanna (LaCoste) Lessard, married Alvina Demers, daughter of Daniel Demers, Sr., and Albina (Primeau) Demers (they are all deceased). They had four children - Blanche died in infancy, pictured are Jeanette (Mrs. Raymond French) and now Mrs. Earl Lizakowski, Maurice, and Frederick of Grafton.



Joseph LaHaise, Jr., son of Joe LaHaise, Sr., and Roseanna (Lessard) LaHaise, and Edith Silewski, daughter of John and Rosy (Gradzieleski) Silewski of rural Drayton, were married in 1936 at Grafton. They moved to a farm 1½ miles northwest of Cashel and lived there for 38 years until the sudden death of Joe, Jan. 12, 1975. They had two daughters who died in infancy and have five surviving sons namely, Duane, Jerry, Robert, William and Richard.



George, son of Etienne Lessard and Sophronie (Collette) Lessard, and Rachel, daughter of Oliver Pilon and Agnes (French) Pilon of the Cashel area, were married in 1922 and lived in their home in the Oakwood village until 1978 when they moved to Grafton. They have always been members of the Sacred Heart Church. They are the parents of (left) Roman, the youngest, Mrs. Harold (Agnes) Kamrowski, the oldest, and Daniel. The boys both live in this area and Agnes is now of Lake George, Minn. George passed away in 1980.

Joseph LeGault, the son of Joseph LeGault, Sr., and Leontine (Baillargeon) LeGault



lived in this area all his life. He had one brother, Eugene (deceased), and two sisters, Ann, killed in an accident when young, and Louise (LeGault) Barkman living in California. Joe passed away in 1979.



Joseph Lessard, son of Etienne Lessard and Sophronie (Collette) Lessard, and Bertha (Campbell) Lessard. Pictured are Arsene, Philomena, Roland, Sr. Theresa, Victor, Marcel, Sr. Bertha (Blanche), William, Ernestine and Francis.



Joseph E. Lessard, son of Louis Lessard and Exilia (Primeau) Lessard. Their children pictured are Verna, Vernetta, Beatrice, Rita, Anna, Annette and Richard.



Richard Lessard (deceased), son of Joseph E. Lessard and Alphonsine (LeFebvre) Lessard, and Florence, daughter of Stanley Kowalczyk and Stella (Gonsorowski) Kowalczyk, both are now deceased. Pictured left to right, top row, Mrs. Maynard (Lucille) Reiger, Ricky, Florence (mother); second row, Mrs. Charles (Rosemary) Johnson, Roger, and Mrs. Tom (Mary) Caverly; and seated in front is Richard (father).



Victor, son of Joseph Lessard and Bertha (Campbell) Lessard, and Angeline, daughter of William Collette and Naomi (Patnaude) Collette. They had two children - Bishop Raymond Lessard of Savannah, Georgia, and Mrs. Charles (Evelyn) Smith of Longview, Wash.



Emay Pilon, son of Oliver and Agnes (French) Pilon, married Delphine Collette, daughter of William and Naomi (Patnaude) Collette. Pictured from left to right, Emay, Oliver, Frank, Regina (Munter), Mrs. Marvin Pederson, Jerome, and Delphine.



Joseph Pilon, son of Oliver and Agnes (French) Pilon, married Marie Ann (French), daughter of Andrew French and Aurore (LaBerge) French, in 1925. They lived and farmed in the Cashel area until 1955 then moved to the Oakwood village. Joe passed away in 1970 and his wife still lives in Oakwood. They have two sons, Adalore, East Grand Forks, Minn., and Marvin, Yakima, Wash.



Andrew and Mary (Marie) (Curtin) Rheaume. Andrew, son of Joseph and Louise (French) Rheaume and Mary (Marie), daughter of John and Anna (Galenski) Curtin. Children are Mary Louise and Mrs. Robert (Sharon) Burns.



George Seeba, son of George Seeba, Sr., and Catherine (Hinke) Seeba. George lived in Acton Township all of his life and married Barbara Krier, daughter of John and Katherine (Stuchen) Krier, at the Sacred Heart Church of Oakwood Feb. 15, 1916. George died Jan. 31, 1949 and Catherine died Dec. 17, 1974. Both are buried in the church cemetery. They were the parents of two sons, Leslie the oldest (left), and Cyril (right). Leslie passed away Jan. 3, 1978.



Rene Sabourin, son of Joseph and Alma (Major) Sabourin, and Evelyn, daughter of Joseph and Agnes (Langowski) Dauksavage of Warsaw. They had five children, left to right, Mrs. Edgar (Betty) Fillion, Mrs. John (Lyndis) Lewco, Marcel Sabourin, Mrs. Wally (Susan) Rodgers, Mrs. Mark (Bonnie) Lindsay, Evelyn and Rene.



Simeon Sevigny Family: left to right, sitting, Clara (mother), Agnes, Sister Rose Therese, Simeon (father); standing, Donald, Lola, Fabien, Doloria, Ida, Shirley and Wilfred. Peter Sevigny (insert) died in 1950.



Edward Sevigny (deceased), son of Alfred and Eudoxie (LaBerge) Sevigny, and Emma (Demers) Sevigny. They had seven children: pictured left to right, top row, Mrs. Louis (Alma) Collette, Eugene, Emma, Edward, Victorien and Mrs. Roland (Rosalie) Lessard (deceased); bottom row, Mrs. Oliver (Flora) Pilon, Daniel, and Orell.





Leon E. Sevigny, son of Alfred Sevigny and Eudoxie (LaBerge) Sevigny, and Clara F. Dumas, daughter of Oliver Dumas and Jennie (Verville) Sevigny. Pictured left to right, back row, Wilmer, Mrs. Alwin (Irene) Altendorf, Raymond, Alfred (deceased), Mrs. Al (Olivine) Houdek, Mrs. Ted (Helena) Suda; front row, Mrs. Conrad (Edith) Gierszewski, Mrs. Leon Sevigny, Mr. Leon Sevigny, and Eva Mae Sevigny. Not pictured is another son, Rene, who was deceased at the time of this picture.



Ulric Sevigny, son of Alfred and Eudoxie (LaBerge) Sevigny, and Rose, daughter of Charles and Florida (Pagote) Baillargeon. Ulric passed away in 1930. From left to right, James (youngest), Albert, Francis, Camille; seated, Rose (mother), Mrs. Frank (Martha) Votava, Mrs. Peter (Jeanette) Gourde, and Mrs. Harold (Rose) Roetker.



Ronald, son of Frederick and Clarabell (Campbell) Demers, and Cyrilla, daughter of William and Angela (Dusek) Suda of Grafton. Ronald is now rural mail carrier out of Fordville. They moved there in 1980. Pictured, left to right, back row, Beverly, Robert and Denise, both girls are students at U.N.D.; second row, Mark, Marvin, and Roger; front row, Ronald, Thomas, and Cyrilla.



Oakwood Baseball Team - 1948, taken at the Minto Park: top row, left to right, Simeon Demers (p) (s s), Earl Fee (ex Warsaw catcher), Val Anderson (l b) (p) (c), Gene Dolan (outfielder), Edward Demers (outfielder), Louis Collette (umpire); bottom row, Richard Lessard (outfielder), Fabien Sevigny (l b), Wilfred (Fritz) Demers (p), Gene Sevigny (3 b), Johnny Sevigny (outfielder), Paul Campbell (2 b), and Raymond Dolan (catcher).

“The School Era”

Progression of Education

In connection with school facilities at Oakwood, it is interesting to note that a college once existed in the community. Father Michel Barras, with zeal for the education of youth, undertook the establishment of a private college. According to records the college building was erected in 1896 on the Octave Collette farm, now operated by his grandson, Maurice David, about one half mile west of the Oakwood Village. This college called St. Mary's College of Oakwood was a substantial building, equipped with the best accommodations of the time. It produced a favorable impression upon every visitor that entered its doors. The college, intended to have boarders and day pupils as well, opened in the fall of 1897, with the enrollment of eighty-five students. There were five instructors on the staff. One of the professors, P. J. Murphy, was already acquainted in the Oakwood Community at that time as he had charge of the Oakwood public school from 1893-1897.



P. J. Murphy



Saint Aloysius Academy in 1906.

Father Barras left the parish of Oakwood in June 1898. Perhaps the loss of his initiative in promoting higher education was a factor in the closing of the institution after two years in operation.

Father J. D. Dionne inherited both the college and the parish from Father Barras, but by the end of the year 1899 he left Oakwood after having closed the college for lack of interest, students and support.

A picture of that short lived college would certainly be an item of interest to the present generation. Unfortunately in spite of much effort none has been found. But at least one person, Sr. Mary Edward Lafreniere, reported that she recalled seeing the college but not entering it. She remembered it as being light gray in color and resembling the second addition of St. Aloysius Academy — somewhat. She also said that her uncle, Joseph (Josie) Sabourin, a past parishioner of Oakwood attended the college. Sr. M. Edward was the daughter of Edward and Bridget (Sabourin) Lafreniere, early settlers of the Oakwood community. Unfortunately, Sr. Mary Edward just recently passed away during the writing of this book.



Ordained to the holy priesthood in Fargo, June 2, 1903, Father J. E. Lee was appointed at once as administrator of the Sacred Heart Church of Oakwood and arrived in the parish June 3. Father Lee would be considered as one who deserved much gratitude from the Oakwood community. When he came to Oakwood he was young, strong and full of energy and ambition. Not satisfied with the planning, supervising and financing a beautiful new church, he was also most anxious to provide the opportunity of religious training for the children of the parish. However, he would not make the same mistake of Father Barras of the previous decade. He would not attempt to provide a college education where Catholic educational training of any kind was yet unknown. He would begin at the lowest level and provide the first need, an elementary school.

Foundresses of St. Aloysius Academy, 1906. The date indicated is the day each of the sisters first arrived in Oakwood.

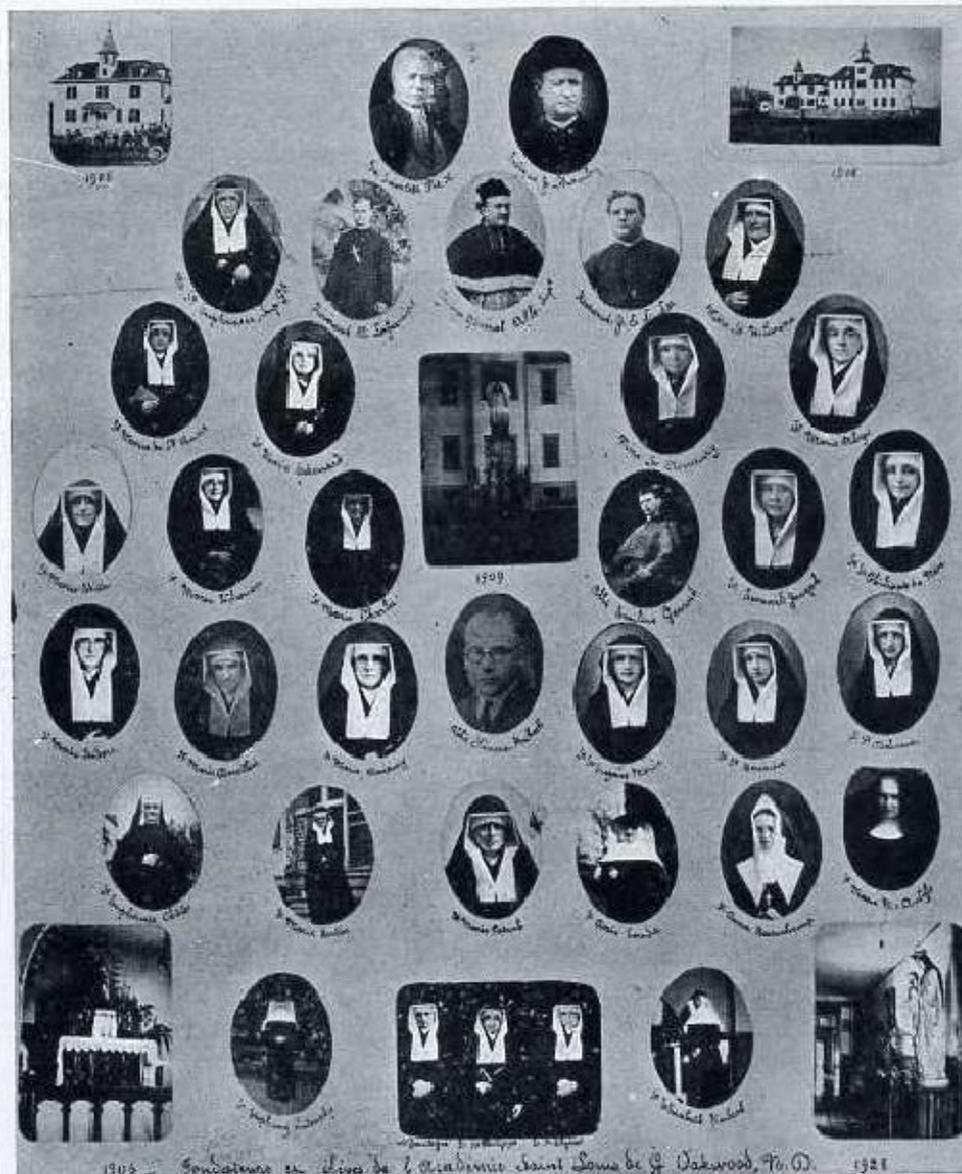
Father Lee with the help of his faithful parishioners erected a convent on the church property which had been donated to the parish by Joseph Charpentier (Carpenter). This building was located north of the newly built church on the banks of the Park River. The people of that particular era in the history of our parish deserve much credit for the sacrifices made to build a school as well as a church. However, the task was not as enormous as it might seem, for while Father Lee engineered the construction of a Catholic school, it was established not as a parochial school but as a private school, financed, owned and operated by the sisters.

The school was put under the protection of St. Aloysius of Gonzaga, a special saint of youth and patron saint of the pastor, Father Lee.

The school to be known as St. Aloysius Academy was to be under the administration and educational faculty provided by the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation, whose motherhouse was Broon Cotes de Nord, France. The Oakwood community had taken advantage of the unfortunate situation in France where so many religious orders were forced to seek refuge in other countries due to religious persecutions. A group of nuns of the order of the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation had, in 1903, entered the diocese of Fargo and opened a Catholic school at Wild Rice, N. Dak.

Hearing of the good work the devoted nuns were doing in Wild Rice during the previous three years, Father Lee asked them to take charge of his school. The sisters quickly accepted the invitation to come to Oakwood.

So to this newly built school, on August 25, 1906, Sr. Amaury arrived as the institution's first superior. She came from Wild Rice, where she had been teaching for three years. She was accompanied to Oakwood by Sr. Adeline. A few days later Sr. Adeline was transferred to Notre Dame Academy at Willow City, N. Dak., another new school then opening its doors for the first



Founders of Saint Aloysius Academy and some pupils who became members of religious orders, from 1906 to 1928.

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Rev. J. F. MALO, Vice-President.
Prof. P. MURPHY, Rev. J. O'NEIL.
Rev. G. GAGNON, Rev. J. RUEL.

From the Grafton Record
dated Sept. 14, 1898.

time. On August 30, Sr. Mary Patrick, Sr. M. Benoit and Sr. Gisele arrived. Sr. M. Gustave came to replace Sr. Adeline. The five sisters composed the first religious community of Oakwood.

The great joy of the people of the Oakwood parish and the gratitude of its pastor were expressed by Father Lee the first Sunday the sisters were in the parish. The following is a part of his message that has been reproduced in several accounts of the school's beginning. "We have today the privilege of possessing at last the Reverend Sisters of St. Mary of the Presentation, who came here to spend their life in prayer and in the education of your children. They have left their country, their home, their relatives and above all their own will to consecrate themselves entirely to the service of God. Henceforth, they will live in this parish, giving us the example of Christian virtues. You will see them rise at five o'clock every morning, to offer to God the very first moments of the day. You will see them approach the altar to partake of the Eucharistic banquet where they will strengthen their faith and renew their courage and zeal. You will see them every day spend six long hours teaching your children to be perfect citizens, perfect Christians. Then, the day's work being done, you will see them read their divine office, say their beads and commend to God, their soul and the souls of those committed to their care. This they will do not only one day, but all the days of their life, till the Lord may be pleased to call them to their reward. May they be blessed of God. May they spend among us long years of labor, of self denial, of merit."

When the sisters arrived, the carpenters were still working in the convent and the building was neither cleaned nor furnished. Within the next week the furniture arrived. Some generous ladies volunteered to help the sisters scrub and the whole structure was ready for the students. On Sept. 3, 1906, the doors of St. Aloysius Academy opened for the beginning of the first school year. There were thirty-six pupils enrolled, eight of them as boarders. It is now difficult to realize the inconveniences and hardships the sisters had to undergo during the first years, not the least being the lack of water. Their only source at that time was a well of salty water owned by Mr. Emile Garant about a thousand feet away. But their courage, their spirit of self sacrifice, aided by the grace of God enabled them to overcome any difficulty.

On Sept. 18, 1906, the school was solemnly dedicated by Rt. Rev. John Shanley, Bishop of Fargo. Before the closing of the ceremony of the blessing of the convent, the Rt. Rev. Bishop in a short address told the Oakwood parishioners how happy he felt to be with them. He congratulated them for all they had done for the support of religion in their parish. "For several years," said His Lordship, "I used to worry over your parish, and I often wondered if it would ever be organized according to the desire of the church. But today, I am satisfied with my Oakwood people. You have now a large and beautiful church, your children are brought up like Christians. I am therefore pleased with you. If



St. Aloysius Academy of Oakwood.

you ask me which of the two institutions you now possess, it is better to support the church or the school, I answer without hesitation; support your school first and the church next: for wherever there is a Catholic school, the church becomes a necessity; but if there is no school the church will not last long."

The good work achieved in the St. Aloysius convent was appreciated, not only by the people of the Oakwood Community, but also by those of the neighboring parishes. Thus, the increasing number of students registering for academic instruction and the enthusiasm of parents for the sisters and their spiritual work necessitated the expansion of the school facilities. Consequently, two years later in 1908, a second structure larger than the first was built. It was south of the original building and they could now accommodate some sixty boarders from outlying parishes and all the day pupils of the vicinity. In the first year of operation it gave education to sixty-two boarders and sixty-eight day pupils. To the teaching staff was added Sr. Luc, Sr. Sylvia, Sr. M. Timothee and Sr. Cecilia. This new construction was dedicated Oct. 6, 1908 by Bishop Shanley.

In 1909, Father J. E. Louis Lee donated a statue of St. Aloysius, which was placed on a pedestal on the front lawn of the convent. The pedestal was a gift of Mr. R. Jeffrey of Grand Forks. The ceremony of the dedication took place June 21, 1909, the patronal feast of the school. This statue is now located north of the Shrine of our Blessed Lady, which is across the road from the original site of the Academy.

Eight years of elementary education only had been offered until 1910, when four years of high school was added to the curriculum. The first high school graduating class was in 1914 and consisted of one pupil, Amanda Laberge (now Mrs. William Campbell), a member of our parish at the writing of this book. The first eighth grade graduates in 1910 were Marie Garant and Anaise Baillargeon.

In 1914 County Supt. Erickson moved to close the Oakwood District Public School simply because there were only three pupils in attendance; all the others attended the academy. A request was made to the school board by the Supt. to the State Board of Education to close the public school and grant to the sisters the school taxes of the district. The request was approved by the State Supt. of Public Instruction, and a very fortunate arrangement for the sisters. Although the academy remained a private school, the sisters became the teachers of the public school.

This arrangement prevailed until the passing of the anti-garb measure in 1948. Thereafter, the sisters were deprived of tax money for their salaries and means to operate their school. Father J. L. Bastien was pastor at Oakwood at that time. His contributions to the school were many and had great significance. One of his last, undoubtedly the most difficult, proved to be a most practical arrangement.

With the passing of the anti-garb measure, it became his lot to devise a plan to provide the necessary revenue to keep the academy open. He studied the situation diligently and called his people together. He quickly made them understand, with or without children of school age, the situation called for annual sacrifices in every home of the parish to maintain the school in operation. All land owners in the Oakwood district would contribute \$45.00 per quarter of land and parishioners outside the Oakwood district \$20.00 per quarter. There would be no tuition at the school for the children of the parish. The goal was to raise some \$4,000 each year for the academy.



The Oakwood Hockey Team and Coach, Edward LeClerc. Top row, left to right: David Demers, Marcel French, Alan Collette, Terry Gallagher, Joseph French, coach Edward LeClerc. Bottom row: Francis

Bessette, Donald Sevigny, Myron Demers, Donald Dolan, Richard LeClerc, Delbert French, Ronald Gourde.

At that meeting, a Catholic School Board was formed. The pastor became ex-officio president of the board. Those chosen to serve on the board were Victor Gourde, Bernard Gallagher, Leon Sevigny, Francis Altendorf, Edmund Dolan, and William Campbell. Others who served on the board in later years were Ovila Demers, Renee French, Donald Demers, Hilary Osowski, Oliver Pilon, Francis Pilon, Ray Campbell, Frederick Lessard, Jeffrey Gourde, Louis Collette and Maurice D. Collette.

Thanks to the wise plan of support for the school, the sisters were able to accept the necessary transition from tax to strictly private existence without suffering any financial difficulty. They continued to operate under this plan relatively well until the closing of their school in 1967.

Father A. J. Richard was always interested in the welfare and education, both academic and religious, of the youngsters of his parish. He always worked zealously for the advancement of the school. He very rarely missed a weekly visit to every classroom in the school. He was also very interested in all extra curricular activities, especially sports. In the 1950's and early 1960's, the high school boys had a hockey team coached by Edward LeClerc in the winter. They had a baseball team coached by Ray Dolan in the summer. While they had few boys with which to participate in organized sports, they did very well.



The Oakwood Hockey Team of 1957. From left to right, back row: Fr. Antonio Richard, David Demers, Eldon Anderson (deceased), Don Sevigny, Richard LeClerc, Maynard Barta, Jerry LaHaise, James

Byzewski, and coach Edward LeClerc. Front row: Myron Demers, Jim Schanilec, Donald Dolan, Alan Collette and Joe French.

During the same period of time in the 1950's and early 1960's the high school had a Catholic Youth Organization. The C.Y.O. was under the direction and supervision of the sisters and pastor, Father Richard. There can never be enough said about the value of the C.Y.O. Its spiritual, social and educational benefits were immeasurable.

Knowing how he felt about the school, it would probably be safe to assume that one of Father Richard's saddest hours during his pastorate at Sacred Heart Church at Oakwood was the day he was informed by Mother Helen that they planned to close the school at the end of the school term of 1967. The high school had already been terminated in 1965. Father Richard had anticipated this possible closing due to the condition of the building. He had already been collecting and setting aside some money to build a new school. But after serving us faithfully for sixty-one years, it became financially not feasible for the nuns to continue operating their convent.

The closing of the school was looked upon with much sadness and a sense of great loss by every one. It was an especially frustrating time for the sisters who were at the school during that last year. Upon their shoulders fell the unexpected responsibility

of disposing of their possessions. Many of the school records were placed on file at the Walsh County Court House with the County Supt. of Schools in Grafton, N. Dak. Some of the students' records were taken to the Grafton Public School with the transference of the children. Some of their furnishings were either given away or sold. Their most valued possessions were taken to Maryvale at Valley City, N. Dak., or transferred to one of their other convents still in operation.

During that last year of school in 1966-67, there were only three sisters at Oakwood. The enrollment was approximately seventy-five pupils. Sr. Patricia Ann was the superior and taught grades six, seven and eight, Sr. Irene Marie taught third, fourth and fifth grades, and a lay teacher, Mrs. Alma Gallagher, taught first and second grades. Sister Gaetan did the cooking and generally took care of everyone.



The staff at the Academy the last year in operation (1966-67). Left to right: Sr. Patricia Ann, Sr. Irene Marie, Sr. Gaetan and Alma Gallagher.



The last high school graduates (1965). Left to right: Doris LeClerc, Mary Margaret French, Jeannie Campbell, Father Richard, Paul Gourde, Alan Gallagher and William Demars.

The last eighth grade graduating class consisted of Daryl Campbell, Bonnie Collette, Rodney Demers, Paul Dolan, Karen French (now deceased), Nancy French, Lowell Gallagher, Patricia Gallagher, Regan Gourde, Earl Lessard and Myron Seeba.

The last high school graduates (1965) were Jean Campbell, William Demars, Mary Margaret French, Alan Gallagher, Paul Gourde and Doris LeClerc.

The Migrant Summer School program really had its start at St. Aloysius Academy prior to being taken over by the Grafton Public School. The Migrant School was in operation at the academy in the summer of 1966 and the summer of 1967. Father Gerald McCarthy was the director of the program with both sisters and lay people working.

The Sisters sold their property to Melvin Durand and Wilmer Collette. They subsequently demolished the convent and have built new homes and now reside on the location where the convent had been situated. They are using the original driveways of the school. The flagpole is also in its original place.



These homes occupy the site of the former St. Aloysius Academy. The Wilmer Collette home is on the left, and the Melvin Durand home on the right.

They both use the original school driveways. The flagpole in the Durand yard is the same one that was in the school yard.

The following is a brief resume of the Sisters who at some time were assigned to Oakwood during the sixty-one years of operation. Mother Amaury was superior from 1906-1929. She is now deceased and buried at Spring Valley, Ill. Mother Marguerite Marie held this position from 1929 until 1938 and again from 1942 until 1946. During Sr. Maxime's reign as superior from 1938-1942, Sr. Marguerite remained as a full time instructor at the high school level. Mother Marguerite died at Broons, France. She had been a native of Belgium. She was succeeded by Mother Marie de la Sallette whose untimely death occurred a year later in Oct. 1947. She is buried in the Oakwood cemetery. Mother Marie de St. Jean was in charge from 1948 until 1954. She is buried at Spring Valley, Ill. Mother Agnes Marie was superior from 1954 until 1960, when Sr. Alphonse Marie was promoted to mother superior. She remained in charge until the closing of the high school in 1965. She had been at Oakwood for thirty-two years. Sr. Carmelita was in charge in 1965-66. Sr. Patricia Ann took over as superior during the last year.



Mother St. Amaury



Mother Ste. Maxime



**Mother Marie
De St. Jean**



**Sister
Alphonse Marie**



**Mother Marie
de la Sallette**



**Mother
Marguerite Marie**



Mother Agnes Marie



Sister Mary Dorothy



**Sister
Bernadette Marie**



Sister Rachel Marie



Sister Elizabeth Marie



Sister Mary Onesime



Sister Pauline Marie

Besides the mother superiors, some of the other sisters who served at the Academy were Sr. M. Benoit, Sr. M. Patrick, Sr. M. Gustave, Sr. Gisele, Sr. St. Helier, Sr. M. Timothee, Sr. M. Auxilatrice, Sr. St. Luc, Sr. St. Jean de Dieu, Sr. Sylvie, Sr. M. Claire, Sr. Sylvester, Sr. Imelda, Sr. Zachary, Sr. Joseph of the Sacred Heart, Sr. Michael, Sr. M. de St. Remi, Sr. Philippe de Neri, Sr. M. Dorothy, Sr. Benoit, Sr. M. Onesime, Sr. Perpetua, Sr. Bernadette Maire, Sr. M. Cecelia, Sr. Charles Joseph (Anna), Sr. Elizabeth Marie, Sr. Rachel Marie, Sr. Elizabeth Rose, Sr. St. Nicephore, Sr. M. Ferdinand, Sr. St. Jean d'Avila, Sr. Loretta, Sr. Leonard Joseph, Sr. Paula Marie, Sr. Catherine Ann, Sr. Mary Ann, Sr. Pauline Marie, Sr. M. Eva, Sr. Julia M., Sr. Alexandra, Sr. James Marie, Sr. Berard, Sr. Yolanda, Sr. Frances M., Sr. Gaetan, Sr. Mary Jane, Sr. Irene Marie, Sr. M. Joseph, Sr. M. Severin, Sr. Kathleen Amaury, Sr. M. Patrick Gallagher, Sr. M. Gertrude and Sr. Zita.



The above picture was taken on Aug. 22, 1971. On that occasion the people of the Oakwood parish paid tribute to area women who have given their lives to the service of God in the religious life. Former teachers and others who served at St. Aloysius Academy in Oakwood were also honored at this recognition event. Front row, left to right, are Sister Elizabeth Rose, F.S.M.; Sr. Eugene Marie F.S.M. (Amanda Rheaume); Sr. Leonard Joseph, F.S.M.; Sr. Mary Edward, F.S.M. (Virginia Lafreniere, now deceased); Sr. Elzear, F.S.M. (Elzire Garant); Sr. Victoria Marie, grey nurse (Victoria Corriveau); Sr. M. Hermas, Order of Jesus and Mary (Anna Chale); Sr. M. Odile des Anges, Order of Jesus and Mary (Euphemie Chale). Second row: Sr. Gaetan, F.S.M.; Sr. Paula Marie, F.S.M.; Sr. Delvina, F.S.M. (Josephine Rheaume, now deceased); Sr. Marlys, F.S.M.; Sr. Francis Marie, F.S.M.; Sr. Mary Theresa, F.S.M. (Theresa Lessard); Sr. Alphonse Marie, F.S.M.; Sr. Mary Patrick, F.S.M. (Theresa Gallagher); Sr. Mary Aloyse, F.S.M. (Rebecca Corriveau); Sr. Mary Dorothy, F.S.M.; Sr. Rose Therese, F.S.M. (Clarabel Sevigny); Sr. Anna, F.S.M.; and Sr. Mary Severin, F.S.M.

The sisters who served as choir leaders were Sr. Philippe de Neri, Sr. Marguerite Marie, Sr. M. Eva, Sr. M. Maxime, Sr. Elizabeth Rose, Sr. Loretta, Sr. Elizabeth Marie and Sr. M. Joseph.

The people of the Oakwood parish, past and present, will be forever grateful for having had their lives touched by the presence of the sisters in their midst for so many years. Their good influence along with the religious education is still in evidence among the children of this parish because the majority of the parents had the advantage of a good sound Catholic education.

Without a Catholic school, the teaching of religion to the children of the parish which had always been done by the sisters suddenly became the people's concern and responsibility. The majority of the children were taken into the Grafton Public School system. The Grafton schools had release time for religion. It was decided by the Oakwood parish council to take advantage of their offer, and let these children attend religion classes at St. John's parish at Grafton. A small number of children (about 25) belonged to the Drayton School District. No release time was available there. Monsignor Thomas Hendrikson and the resourceful mothers of these children started the first CCD classes at Oakwood for the Drayton District children.



CCD teachers and substitutes. Left to right, top to bottom: Mary Ann French, Jeanette Osowski, Roger Mattson, Pauline Osowski, Elaine Collette, Edmond Campbell, Alice Demers, JoAnn Mattson,

Verna Gourde, Alma Gallagher, Joyce Lessard, Fr. Pat, Pat Durand, Renee Kringstad. Absent: Ramona Demers, Judy Dolan.

After three years, it became apparent that it was imperative that CCD classes had to be implemented for all the children of the Oakwood parish at Oakwood. A group of concerned men and women of the parish with the leadership of Father Anthony Milne set up a CCD program that has since been in operation. With a much larger number of children (about 115) that would now be involved, their biggest difficulty was the shortage of classrooms. But with the kind offer of the use of some homes in the Oakwood village, the basement of the church and some classes at the rectory the problem was solved. Presently there are only about 70 students in the program. Even if many feel that it doesn't take the place of the Catholic school, under the guidance of Father Patrick O'Connell and some very dedicated teachers, it is a relatively effective program.

The history of a very important part of the parish had to be related very briefly. More could have been written. Nevertheless, a few of the things of significance to the people should be mentioned.

The beautiful chapel in the Academy has to be included in the advantages of a Catholic School. Its use helped the children understand, appreciate and practice their faith. The number of times the students gathered together in the chapel for various reasons was endless. There were the weekly masses for the students, innumerable rosaries recited, the making of the way of the cross, countless confessions were heard and an occasional retreat for the older boys and girls. It was not uncommon to see an older student or even a small child sneak into the chapel to say a little prayer or just to kneel there maybe.

St. Aloysius Academy was a source of togetherness for the parish. Any school event was always an occasion for a large gathering. A Christmas program was presented every year in the lower auditorium of the church. Every student participated, giving a reason for all parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles to attend, filling the place to capacity. A yearly junior-senior play, graduation, senior banquet and prom were all events that were attended and enjoyed by everyone.



Chapel in the St. Aloysius Academy, Oakwood, N.D., 1924.



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

Part I

Page

8 - Founding of the Parish

19 - Church Trustees

Part II

20 - Age of Progression

21 - Doctors, Post Office, Town

23 - Early Settlers

Part III

39 - Second Era Generation

48 - The School Era

Part IV

57 - Vocations to Religious Life

61 - Pastors

62 - Parish Surviving

70 - Present Day Generation

Compliments of Dick Bernard

www.chez-nous.net/fc.html

Son of Henry Bernard and Esther Busch

Grandson of Josephine Collette (p. 27) and Henry Bernard

Great Grandson of Octave Collette and Clotilde Blondeau (p. 27)



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Vocations to the Religious Life

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

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

THE PARISH LIST

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

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

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



Fr. Campbell

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

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

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



Sr. St. Louis de France

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

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

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

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



Bro. Michael and Bro. Paul

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

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

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

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



In the summer of 1967, Father Ken Gallagher came back to North Dakota. His assignments as a priest

Fr. Gallagher are the following.

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

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

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



Rev. Garant

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



Fr. Gourde

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

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

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

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



Sr. Mary Angelita



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

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



Bishop Lessard

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

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

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

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

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

working at the Vatican.

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

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

Rev. Albert Lafreniere, son of Edward and Bridget (Sabourin) Lafreniere, was born on May 17, 1894, in Chebovan, Michigan. The family later lived in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, for three years. In March, 1898, they came to North Dakota, where they lived on a farm in Acton Township.



Rev. Lafreniere

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

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

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

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

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

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



Rev. Pilon

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

Father Daniel Pilon's assignments were the following.

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

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

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



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



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



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



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



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



Sister Eugene Marie



Sister Bernice Rheau (deceased).



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

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

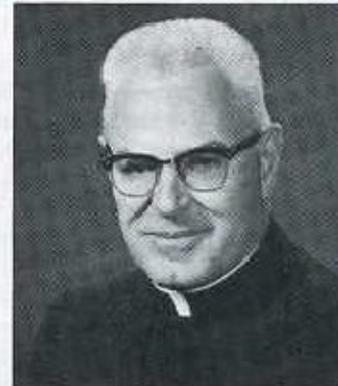
Pastors Who Have Served The Parish

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



Fr. Milne

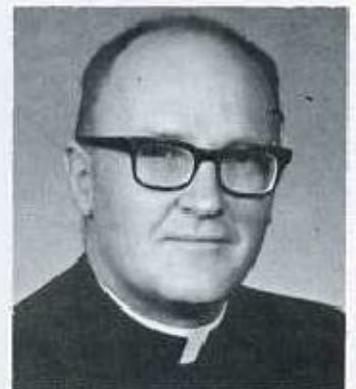
St. Martin's College, Olympia, Wash., June, 1941; was professor at the Abbey, 1941-43; temporary pastor at Crown Butte, Aug. 20, 1943 to June 26, 1944; assigned at Odense from June 26, 1944 to Oct. 12, 1944; was administrator at Starkweather, Oct. 12, 1944 to Oct. 14, 1945; assistant at Huff, Oct. 15,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



Monsignor
Thomas Hendrickson
July 1967-Aug. 1968



Father Schuster
July 1968-July 1969



Father Dickinson
Jan. 1971-Aug. 1972

The Parish Surviving

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

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



Father J. L. Bastien

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

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

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

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

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

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



Father A. J. Richard

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

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

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

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

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

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



The Shrine, summer of 1980.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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



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



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

Happy Birthday Father!

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

GLEANINGS FROM THE PARISH FILES

Statistics

Baptisms: 2,091
 Marriages: 417
 Funerals: 606

First Communions: 1,170
 Confirmations: 1,133
 Number of Parishioners: 310

Priests since Father Richard

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

The War Years

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

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

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

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

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



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



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



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



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

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



The Baptismal Font and Paschal candle holder.



David Collette, the organist.



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

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



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



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



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

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



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



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



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

Present Day Generation



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



Mrs. Elzear Collette (Leona), second wife.



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



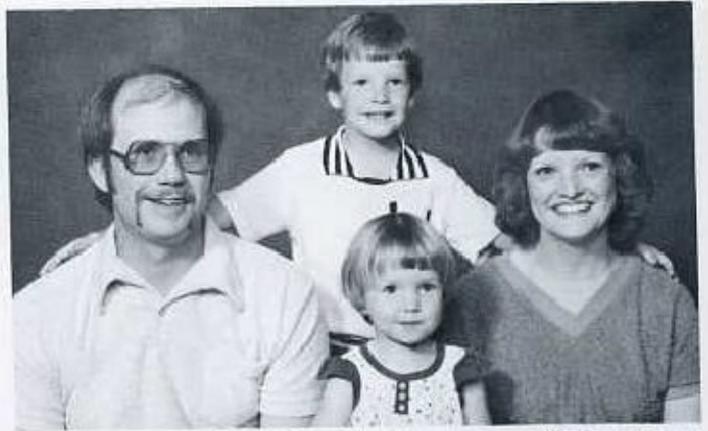
Duane Demers Family. Duane, son of Ovilla and Irene (French) Demers, married Mary Ann Suda, daughter of Frank A. and Antoinette (Karnik) Suda of Veseleyville. They live in the village and are the parents of six children – left to right, standing, Steve, Cathy, Brian, Mike; seated, Mary Ann, Connie, Laurie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



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



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



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



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



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

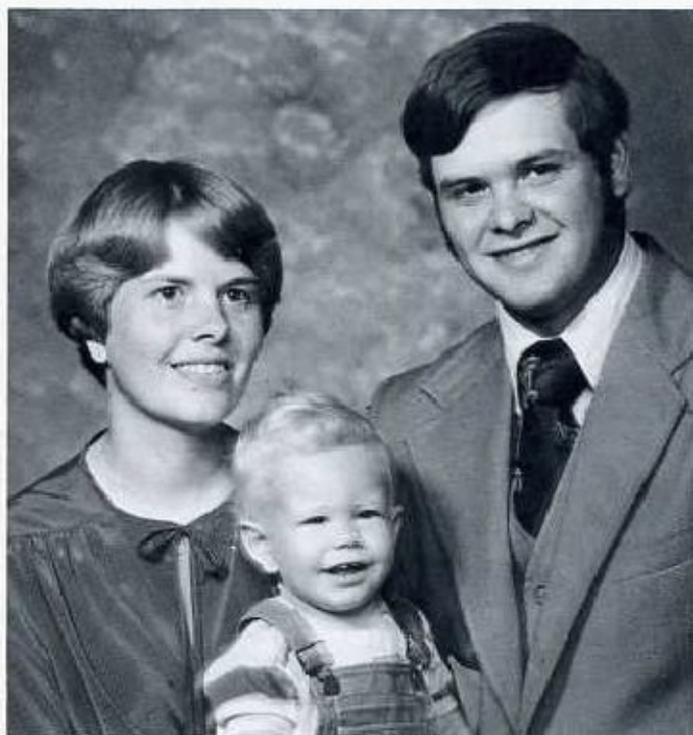
Irene French, born Nov. 14, 1912, daughter of Andrew and Aurore (LaBerge) French, married Ovila Demers, son of Daniel and (Albina Primeau) Demers, on Nov. 13, 1933. They have always lived in the Oakwood village where Ovila owned his own auto repair shop. Ovila died on June 3, 1962. Irene is a member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



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



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



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



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



Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Dolan



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



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



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



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



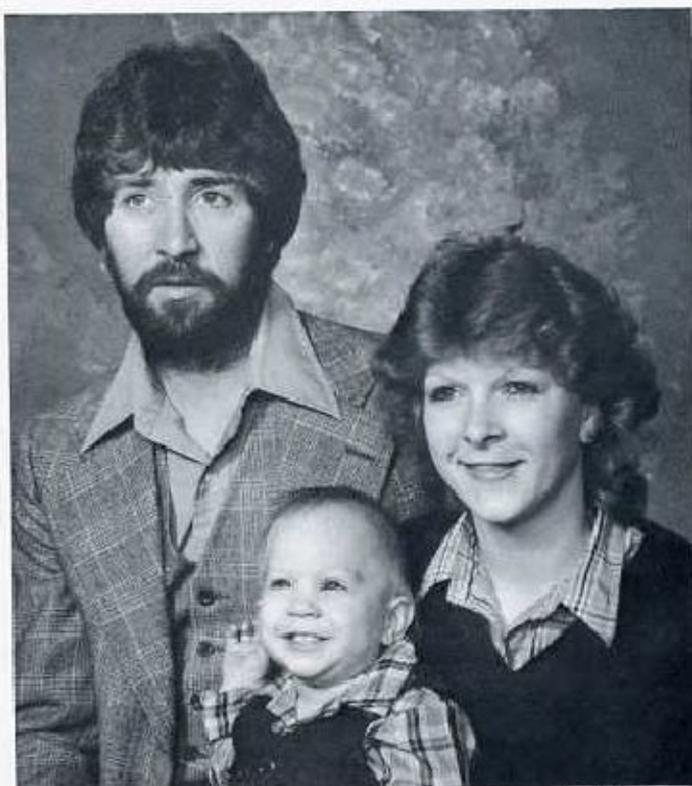
Gary Fisher Family. Gary, son of Herman William and Mary (Kennelly) Fisher, married Rosemary Bolek, daughter of Henry and Agnes (Gourde) Bolek, Aug. 3, 1966. They have three children — Chad, Kim, seated by Gary, and Jaime, seated by Rosemary.



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



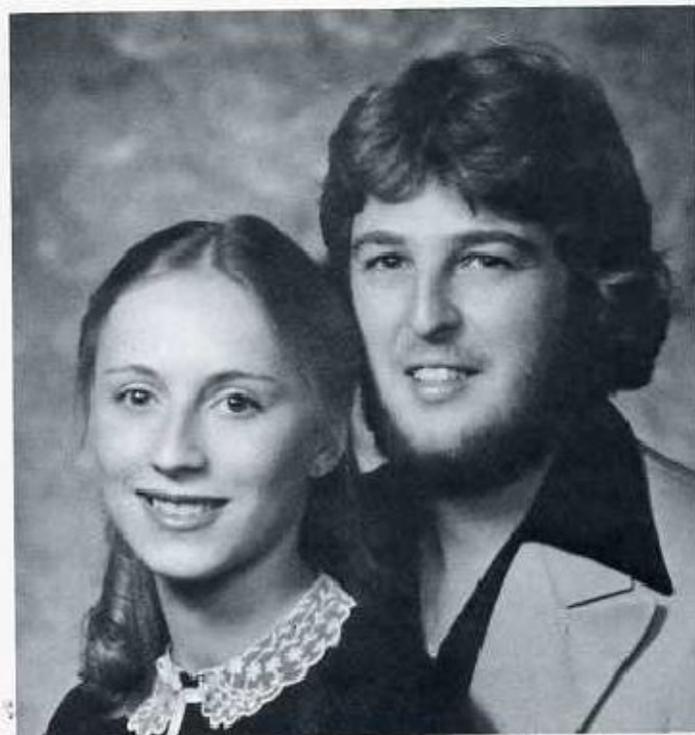
Edgar Lafreniere Family. Edgar, son of Eugene and Angeline (French) Lafreniere, married Lucille Collette, daughter of Elzear and Aurore (Demers) Collette. Front row are daughters, Charlene and Tammy; back row, left to right, Terry, Bruce and Wesley.



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



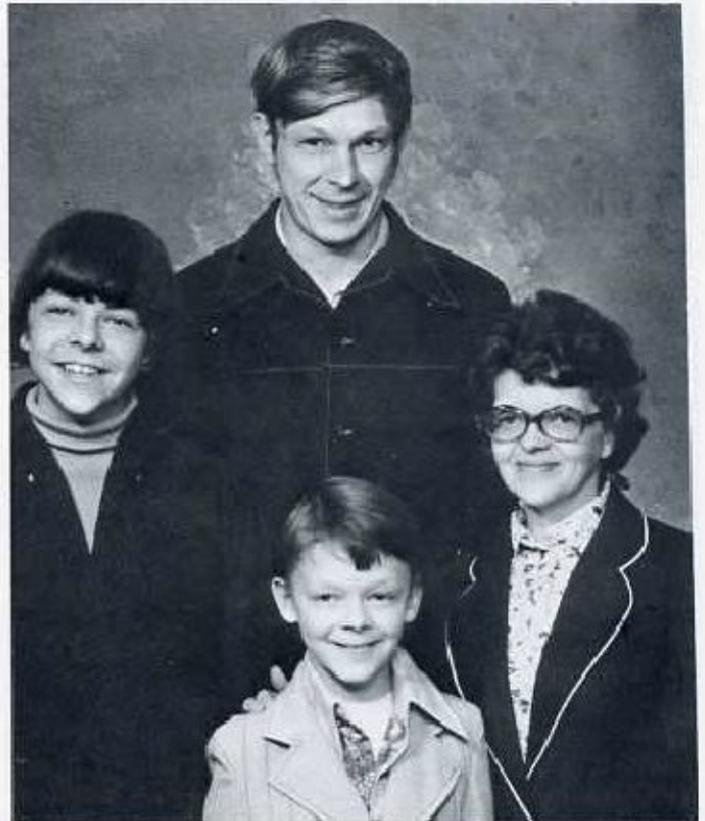
Hiladore Osowski Family. Hiladore, son of Frank (deceased) and Helen Osowski, married Pauline Brosius, daughter of John and Rose Ann (Currie) Brosius. Pictured left to right, standing, Terry, Paul, Veann, Rande, Hiladore, Bobby; sitting, Pauline.



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



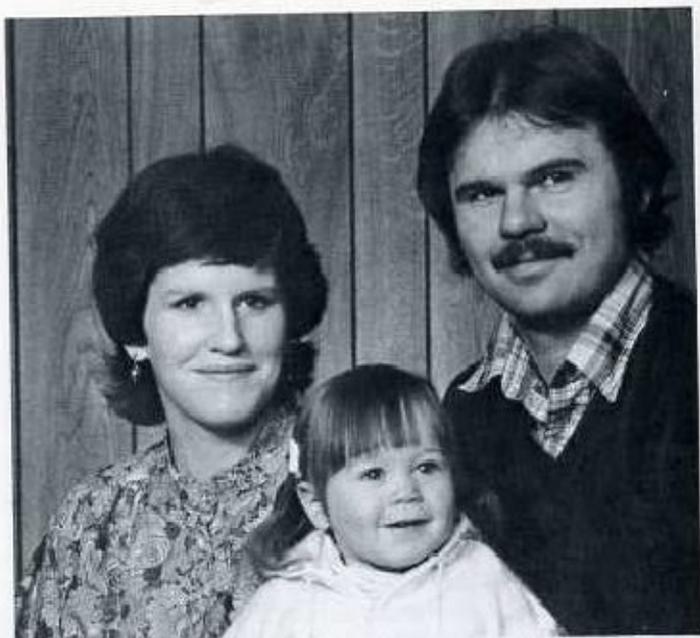
Hilary Osowski Family. Hilary, son of Frank (deceased) and Helen Osowski, married Jeanette Dolan, daughter of Edmond (deceased) and Mary (McBride) Dolan, in 1950. They are the parents of six sons who all live in the Grafton area. Alan Osowski married Gail Prondzinski, daughter of Chester and Bernice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



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



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



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



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



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



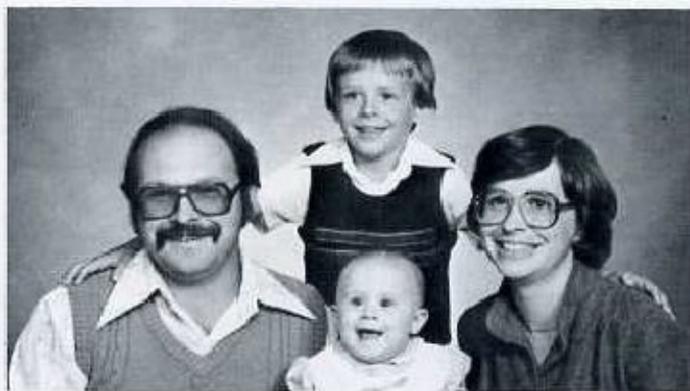
Cecilia Sass, daughter of Homer (deceased) and Clarinda (Campbell) French, married Leonard Sass, son of John and Kathrine (Prondzinski) Sass, at Oakwood. They had four daughters — Mrs. Wilbert (Patricia) Graf; Mrs. John A. (Mary Jane) Olson; Mrs. Dan (Carol) Schluchter; and Mrs. Dean (Susan) Berry.



Leslie Seeba family on their 25th anniversary.



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



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



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



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



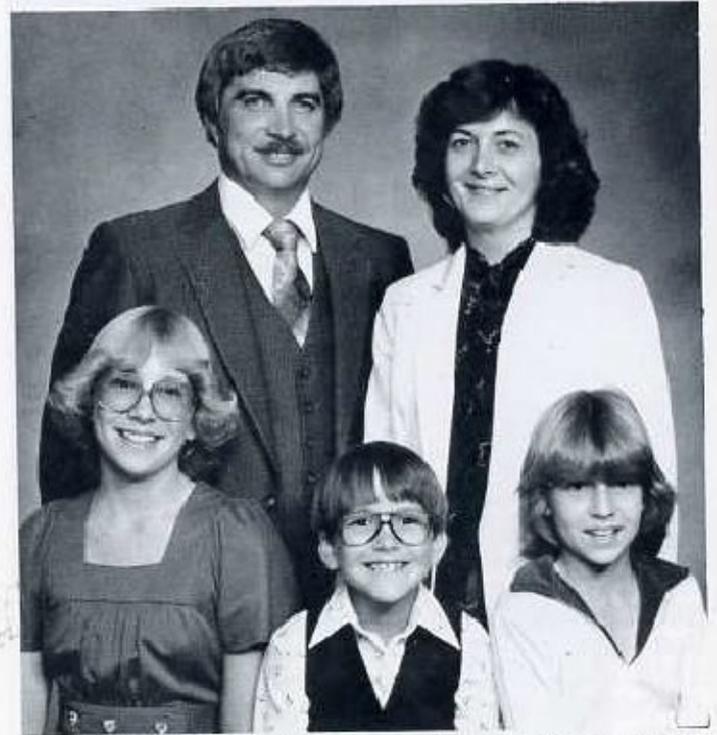
John Sevigny Family. John, son of Philorum and Laura (Proulx) Sevigny, married Alice Grabanski, daughter of Anton and Frances (Slominski) Grabanski. They have three children, standing, left to right, LaVonne Storhaug, Cynthea Holt, and Rita Havis. Seated, John and Alice.



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



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



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



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

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

THE PRIEST

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

James J. Metcalfe



Conclusion

By Father O'Connell

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Congratulations Oakwood!

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Congratulations Oakwood

On Your

Centennial Anniversary



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

Dan Lessard

Dan Lessard
President

We're glad to be involved!



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