

CHURCH OF ST. JOSEPH

BEULAH



Faith was one of the Beulah area settlers' most important characteristics, as that was often what enabled them to get through the harsh winters and other hardships they faced every day. By 1879, Catholic immigrants, mostly Germans from Russia, began to arrive, but they brought no priests. The shortage of priests, along with hazardous travel conditions, made the development of the church slow. During these horse and buggy days, Benedictine priests from Bismarck and Richardton served Beulah as a mission of Halliday.

The first priest to arrive in the vicinity was Father Bonaventure Goebel, O.S.B. He served the area from 1914 to 1916. Mass was seldom celebrated more than once a month.

In 1915, Pearl S. Chaffee donated \$500 and a tract of land to establish a Catholic church. A grant by the Catholic Extension Society

and substantial donations from parishioners saw the completion of a small frame church. The bishop approved the church on July 18, 1916, and it was dedicated to St. Joseph. Following World War I, Bishop Wehrle asked the Precious Blood Community of Ohio to staff the Mandan to Killdeer rail route with priests, so the German-speaking people would not lose touch with the Church.

The congregation increased beyond capacity early in the 1930s. Times were tough, but the Altar Society held many fund-raisers until finally, with another Extension Society grant and a loan from the bishop's aid fund, there was enough money to begin building a new structure. The new church was completed in 1938.

After World War II, the Catholic population warranted a resident priest. Father Ray Gulliozet, C.P.P.S., became pastor in 1948. With the building of the Garrison Dam in 1952, Father Rupert Landoll, C.P.P.S., was pastor from 1955-1963. Father Harold Roth, (1970-1984) secured a plan, and a building committee supervised the completion of a brick-front building with a seating capacity of 500 in 1977. The first Mass in the new church was celebrated April 16, 1978. Father Joseph Hajdich shared pastoral duties with Father Roth from 1981 to 1984. The Precious Blood priests were withdrawn in 1984 after 63 years of service, and the parish was reassigned to the Bismarck Diocese with Father Edwin Volk as pastor.

St. Joseph's is under the spiritual direction of Father Johnson Kuriappilly. There are 270 parish families and various organizations to meet the many challenges faced by the Catholic community.



CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN, HAZEN

(SERVED BY ST. JOSEPH, BEULAH)

After the Keeley Opera House was built in the new town of Hazen, Catholic services were held there the first Sunday of every month. Father Goebel came from Bismarck and was pastor until 1919. The original Catholic Church was dedicated on May 2, 1915. It stood on a property donated by Michael and Alice Keeley, and on which the present church also stands. All of the priests who served until 1921 lived in Bismarck.

In 1921, the Precious Blood Fathers began serving Hazen, Linton and Killdeer. The first full-time Hazen priest was Father Evaristus Olberding. Father Charles Bauer came in 1927. Priests during this time gave a sermon in both English and German each Sunday. The left side of the church was often referred to as the German side of the church and the right side English.

Father Herman Schweitzer served from 1937 to 1941 when Father Henry Wibbels arrived. Up until this time Beulah was a mission church. The priest lived in Hazen, but the two Sunday Masses alternated between the two towns. After Beulah had a resident priest, Father Raymond Guillozet, Hazen, had two Masses at their church each Sunday. Father Edmund Guillozet arrived in 1949, and with the help of his brother, built the present parish house. Other priests during this time were Father Henry Barge and Father Theodore Rath.

Work on the present church started in 1962. It was completed in August of 1963. Father Robert Wurst was pastor from 1963 to 1974, at which time Father Henry Hess arrived. After the bills were paid, Father Hess selected February 29, 1976, as a day on which the parish would celebrate its freedom from debt. The event was marred by the death of Father Hess one month earlier. Other priests who have served the parish included Fathers Victor Kreinbrink, Anthony Ley, Eugene Wehner, James Reardon and Charles Zins. All had been Precious Blood priests except the last three, who were diocesan priests.

In 2000, work started on building a new addition, which includes extra seating for Mass, a new fellowship hall and kitchen, restrooms and handicapped accessibility.

