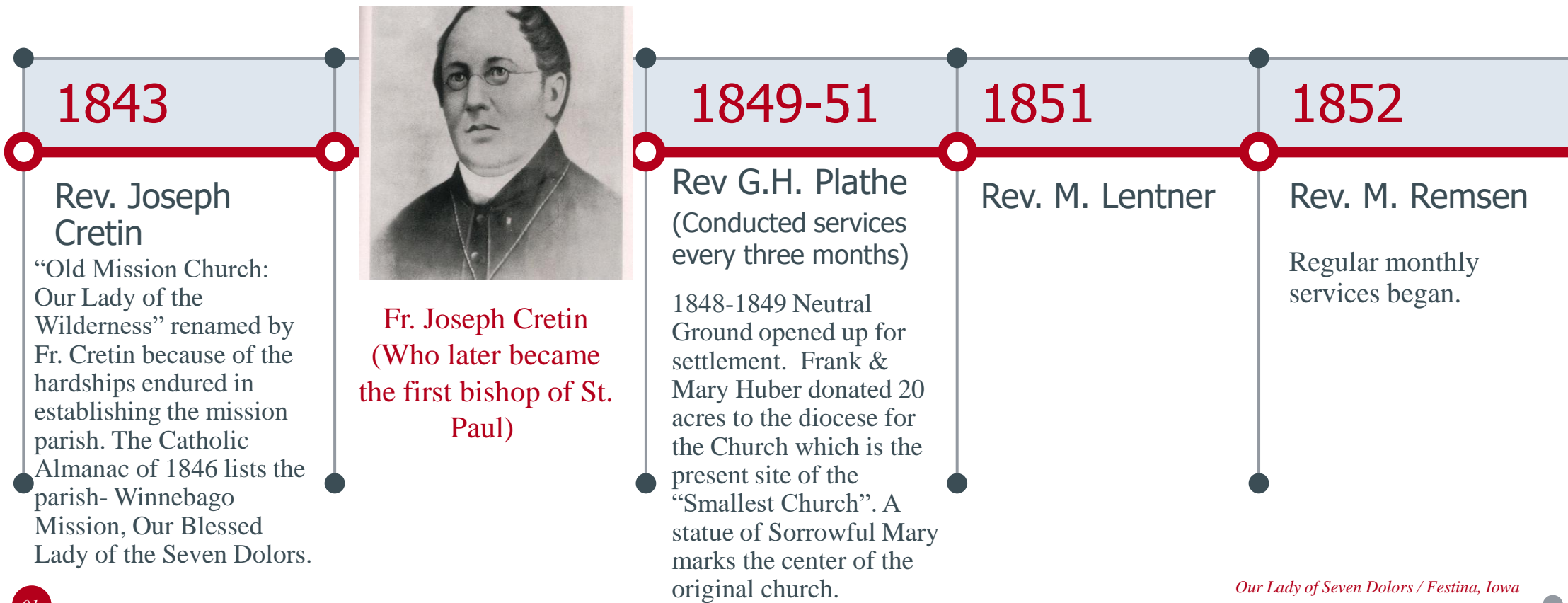


- 1833 St. Raphael's in Dubuque founded and in 1847 it became the Cathedral
- 1846 Iowa became the 29th State
- 1863 Homestead Act brought many settlers to the "Neutral Ground"

Our Lady of Seven Dolors

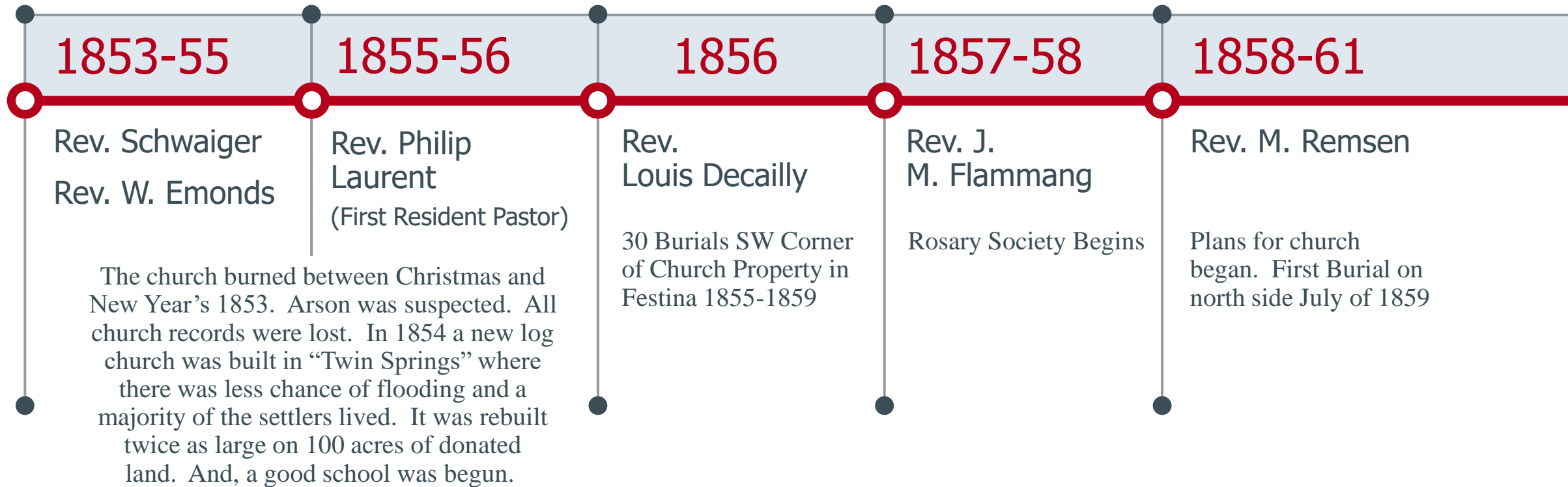
The Beginning



Catholicism grew so rapidly that in 1855 four log churches were erected in the neighborhood: St. Clement south of Spillville, St. Lucas built St. Luke (first service October 1855), St. Terence in Fayette County and St. Rose in Chickasaw County. Rev. Laurent was the first resident pastor in Festina. Since Fr. Laurent was the only priest serving the wide area, “Our Lady” became the “mother church.”

Our Lady of Seven Dolors

1853-1861



“Twin Springs” changed its name to “Festina”

Latin derivative from Catholic Vesper

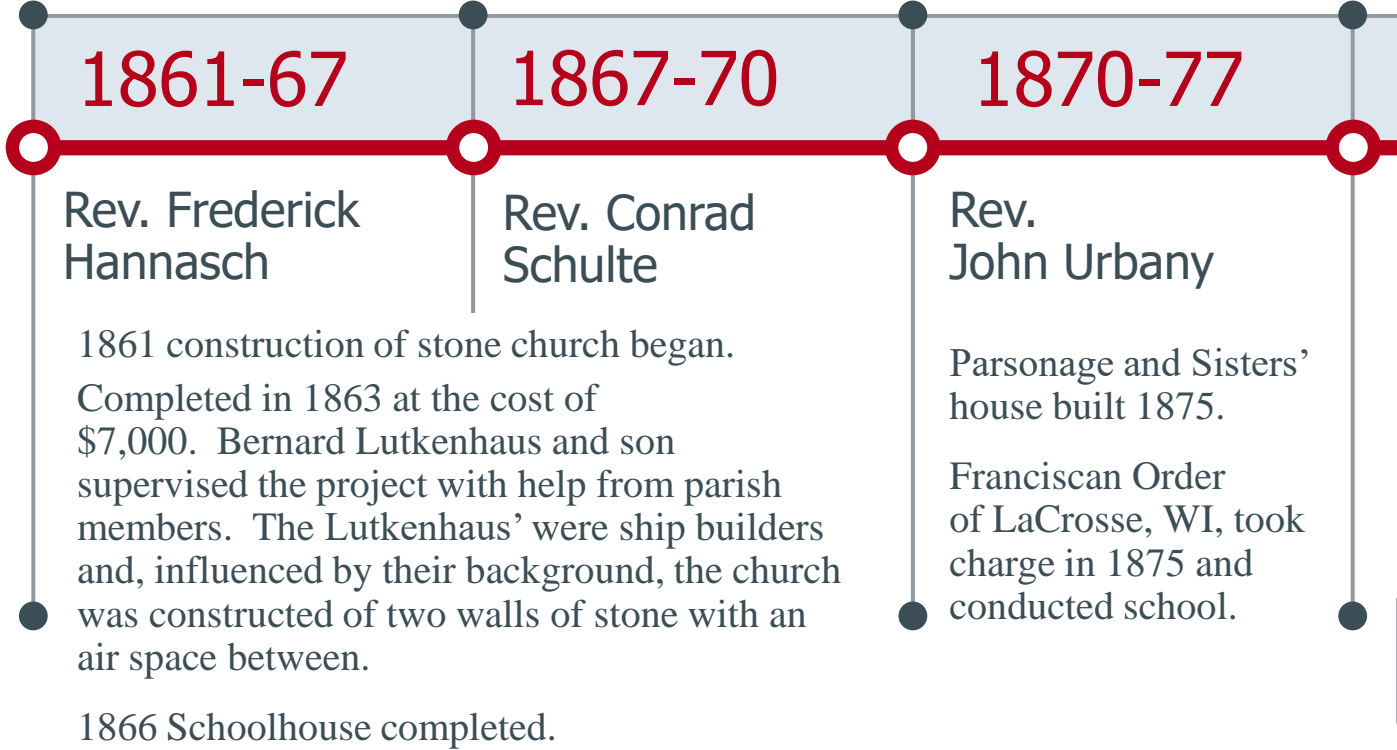
“Deus, in adiutorium meum intende R Domine, adjuvandum me

FESTINA. (*Festina – make haste slowly*)

This Post Office was established in 1863.

Our Lady of Seven Dolors

1861-1877



Our Lady of Seven Dolors Stone Church 1863 and Priest House 1875



Our Lady of Seven Dolors

1877-1905

Our Lady of Seven Dolors 1904 –
Celebrated 50 Years of Festina Location

1877-1905

Rev. Augustine Sauter, Pastor

Assistants:

Rev. J. Anler

Rev. J. Racke

Rev. B. Schleuter

Rev. H. Gehling

Ref. J.P. Hoffman

Rev. B. Forkenbrock

Rev. B. Haubrich

Rev. G. Ehl

Rev. J.H. Friedman

Rev. Winneke

- 1877 Church Renovated: Sanctuary enlarged and three new altars installed
- 1878 School House was enlarged
- 1879 Church tower remodeled and clock placed within
- 1880 Stations of the Cross in cemetery
Ten decorated glass windows installed
Two church bells installed (3 total)
- 1885 West Wing: dedicated to Mother of Perpetual Help – picture obtained from Rome in 1883
- 1888 Construction of new school house
- 1890 East Wing: dedicated to the Poor Souls in Purgatory
Parsonage enlarged and remodeled
- 1893 Steeple added to the church tower
10 Stain glass windows (presently in church) installed
- 1893 Sacred Heart Chapel in cemetery donated by Fr. Sauter on his 25 ordination anniversary
Grotto to Our Lady of Lourdes in cemetery
- 1900 Parsonage expanded and renovated
- 1901 New residence for Sister's erected
Warm air heating plant installed in church basement
New pews in church

Our Lady of Seven Dolors / Festina, Iowa

Our Lady of Seven Dolors

1905-1960

1905-46

Rev. Andrew J. Rubly
(Died in 1950 and is buried by
the Sacred Heart Chapel)

- 1911 School expanded to 8th grade (High German was the official language of the church and school until the onset of World War I)
- 1932 Fr. Rubly's dream of "Fire-proof" school realized
- New brick school built to include high school, Chapel and Parish Hall

1946-51

Rev. Henry
Nosbisch

High School grades 9-
10: Grade 11 was only
for one year

1951-57

Rev. Albert H.
Nees

1950-51 Restrooms
installed in St. Mary
School

1958-60

Rev. John P. Smith

(Left for mission in South
America)

New Hammond organ in church
School hot lunch program started
Parent-Teacher Conferences
initiated
Audio Visual equipment
purchased
Kitchens in school modernized

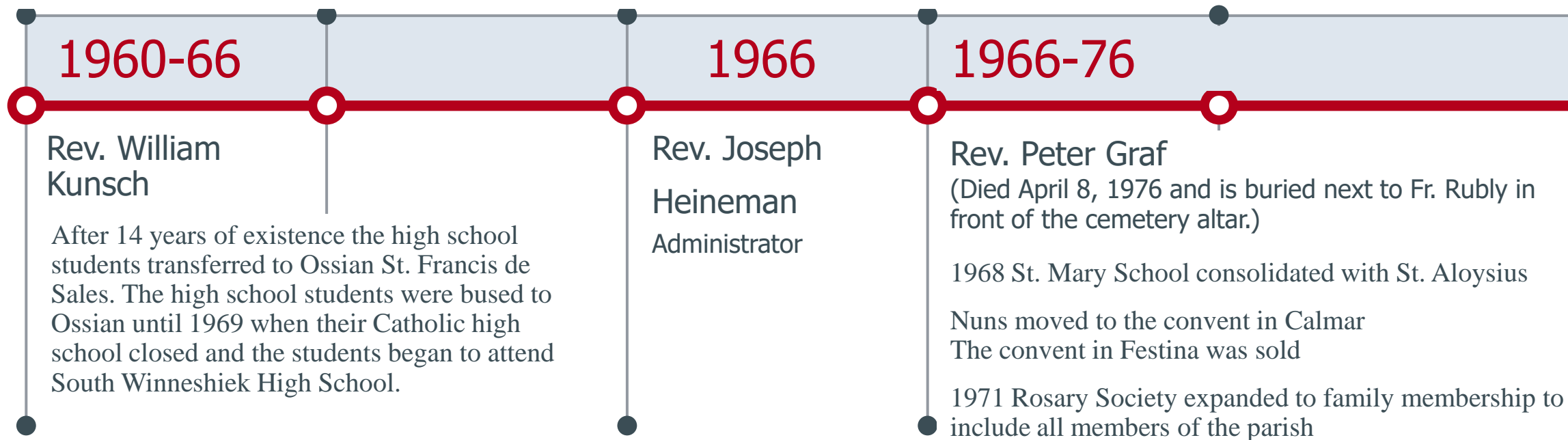
1965-66: Second Major Renovation of the Church

The sanctuary was opened, cupola in the center of the ceiling removed and new lower ceiling installed. All of the altars were taken out and the Last Supper Sculpture from the main altar was incorporated into a new low mahogany altar placed so Mass could be offered facing the congregation. A new side altar in the west wing as part of the Shrine to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Statues, Stations of the Cross and The Mission Cross were all redone. The pews were removed and the ladies of the parish refinished them. After re-plastering, the entire Church was painted and carpeted.

During the renovation, Mass was held in the school chapel.

Our Lady of Seven Dolors

1960-76



1979 - 125th year of
Our Lady of Seven Dolors
celebrated in Festina.

A comprehensive history of the Parish
was published

Our Lady of Seven Dolors

1976-1987

1976-77

Rev. Leo Roethig

(Left the priesthood in
June of 1977)

Director of Christian
Family School of
Religion (CFSR)

Administrator for the Our
Lady of Seven Dolors
Parish

1977-80

Rev. Patrick Geary

1977 Repairs to rectory

Introduction of “new sacrament of penance
and the option of receiving communion in
hand”

1979 Formation of Eucharistic Ministers

CFS began: Grades 1-2 in Festina; grades 3-
5 in Spillville and 6-8 in Calmar

1980-85

Rev. Lloyd P.
Ouderkirk

1980 Memorial Grotto of
Blessed Virgin in
Cemetery

1984 Donation of new
glass doors for church
entrance

1985 Centennial Mass for
St. Anthony of Padua
Chapel

1985-87

Rev. Marvin Salz

1986 School repainted,
new drapes and fire
alarms

CFS Schools use 4
classrooms and library

First pictorial Parish
Directory published

1993 Our Lady of Seven Dolores Celebrated
150 Year Anniversary as a Parish. A Pictorial Directory
and Parish History were published.

The interior of the church was repainted and carpeted.
The church steeple was illuminated and a new organ was
obtained. The 150th Anniversary Mass was concelebrated
by Archbishop Daniel Kucera, O.S.B., Msgr Heinemann
and others on June 13th

Our Lady of Seven Dolores

1987-1996

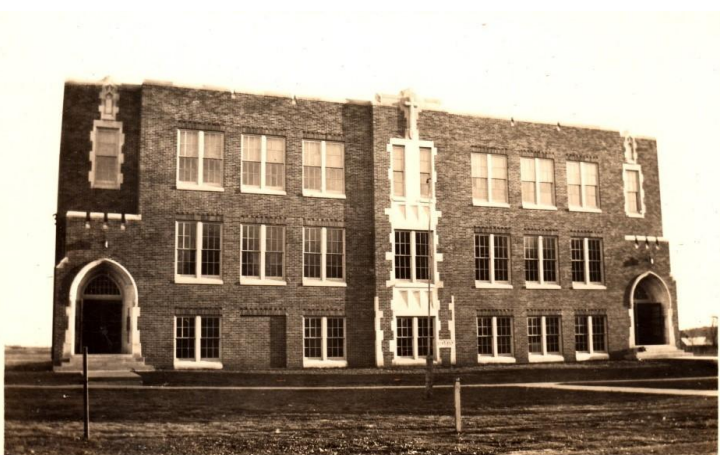
1987-96

Msgr. Donald Heineman

1987 After only a few interruptions in over 130 years, OLSD was not assigned a permanent priest. Msgr. Heineman lived in Ft. Atkinson, serving both St. John's and Our Lady of Seven Dolores

- 1987 Lay ministers took communion to shut-ins Parish Council responsible for daily operations
- 1987-88 Steeple base clocks removed, rebuilt with treated lumber and resided plus renovation and plastic shingles on church steeple
- 1989 Altar in cemetery received new base, picture of the Last Supper and fresh paint
New wider sidewalks in the cemetery
- 1989 Rectory (east of church) dismantled by parish members. Contents and salvaged materials auctioned off. Brick and foundation hauled to Frank Hageman's farm for a dike in a ravine. Wiltgen Construction hauled dirt to fill in the basement.
- 1990-91 School maintenance and improvements: new sinks in restrooms, counter tops and sinks installed in secondary kitchen. Computers and filing cabinets purchased
- 1991 Two dormers removed from church roof, wood and asphalt shingles removed, new plywood and shingles installed
- 1992 The last students left the halls of St. Mary School. Decision made to save money for CFS Schools. Grades 1-4 went to Spillville while Grades 5-8 were at the Calmar Attendance Center.
- 1992 Directory in front of church installed
- 1996 Msgr. Heineman's retirement mass and celebration was held at Ft. Atkinson

Our Lady of Seven Dolores / Festina, Iowa



Our Lady of Seven Dolors

1996-99

St. Mary School built in 1932
by Fr. Rubly

1996-97

Rev. Jacob Roth

- 1996 Harvested lumber from church timber
- 1996 New stove at St. Mary School
- 1996 Building which was formerly the convent burned
- 1997 Flag poles installed in St. Mary Cemetery in conjunction with Calmar American Legion
- 1997-98 Storm damage of the church steeple, repaired by Riehle Construction

1997-99

Rev. Richard Kuhn

- 1997 Our Lady of Seven Dolors affiliation changed to St. Francis de Sales in Ossian
- 1997-98 Future plans for St. Mary School site and Parish needs discussion began. Ceiling fans installed in church. Coffee pots and refrigerator bought for Parish Hall. CFS Prekindergarten and Kindergarten began in Calmar
- 1999 Permission from Archdiocese to build a single level handicap accessible building was granted. February through March the interior of the school was dismantled. St. Mary School was razed in April

1999

St. Mary School site was cleared in May. The footings for the new 70 x 120 foot building were poured and the steel structure erected in June and July. Parishioners used wheel barrels to haul cement from the front entry to pour the floor the last week of July. Salvaged wood from the convent and school were used in the interior. The building was partially completed and used for a picnic style Fall Festival in September

Deanery meetings to address priest shortages and formation of parish linkages took place in 2015. Upon the retirement of Msgr. Hawes and his brother, Rev. Donald Hawes, a linkage was formed from the four parishes they served. Rev. G. Robert Gross became the first priest in the newly formed CFOS Linkage of Calmar, Festina, Ossian and Spillville in July of 2016.

The centrally located rectory in Calmar was designated to be used. The CFOS Linkage offices were established in the Calmar Neumann Center.

Our Lady of Seven Dolors

2000-2015

2000-2015

Msgr. Cletus Hawes

- 2000 Festina Parish Center dedicated in September
- 2001 Archdiocese addressing priest shortages
- 2002 Tuck pointing of church
Tile put in around church from eaves and downspouts for drainage to ditch east of church
- 2002 Msgr. Hawes' Golden Anniversary of Ordination
- 2003 Landscape around church
Carpet front steps of church, Extend cemetery sidewalks, Dishwasher, 2 Ranges and Exhaust Fans installed in Festina Parish Center kitchen, Playground equipment installed as Eagle Scout Project

- 2004 Krause Construction installs aluminum shingles on the church steeple, Crucifixion Altar in cemetery illuminated, Water hydrant installed in cemetery, Parking lot extended and graveled
- 2005 Industrial tile installed in Parish Center, walls painted and decorative covering of canopy entrance, Paving of parking lot and trees planted at Parish Center, Pictorial Parish Family Album published
- 2006 Picnic Shelter/Concession stand built, Ball field and playground improvements
- 2006 Festina Parish Center construction debt retired, Cemetery Directory installed
- 2007 Our Lady of Grace memorial NE corner of church
- 2007-08 CFS attendance centers changed to K-3 in Spillville, Grades 4-8 in Calmar and Prekindergarten in Neumann Center, Calmar

- 2011 Our Lady of Seven Sorrows wood carvings in the Narthex (entry) of the church were purchased
- 2013 Air conditioning installed in church
- 2015 Deanery meetings for discussion regarding formation of linkage between Calmar, Festina, Ossian, and Spillville (CFOS)
- 2015 Msgr. Hawes' retirement celebration in July
Basketball Court Installed
Electronic Church Chimes installed as an Eagle Scout Project

September 15, 2017

Feast Day of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows

Seven Sorrows Rosaries were distributed to all parish members. This rosary prayed before weekly mass for the year prior to the 175th celebration of the beginning of the parish.

Our Lady of Seven Dolors

2015-Present

2015-Present

Rev. G. Robert Gross
Permanent Deacon Dan O'Brien

- 2016 Parish Center walk-in cooler insulated and access doors installed behind bar.
- 2016 Church roof replaced with steel shingles
- 2016 On-demand water heater in Parish Center
- 2017 Corpus Christi Chapels reroofed as Eagle Scout Project
- 2017 Water pipe leak and condensation ruined the ceiling in the Parish Center. Ceiling was replaced and the interior repainted. New black folding chairs purchased.

- 2017 New water pump in the Parish Center
- 2017 Two separate storms severely damaged the tower and steeple of the church, destroyed the Lourdes Grotto and fell many trees in the cemetery and church property.
- Glory & Praise Books initiated for entire CFOS
- 2018 Repairs to church steeple and tower completed by Krause Construction.
- Lourdes Grotto relocated from northwest corner to west end of sidewalk. Expanded to include prayer and memorial garden.
- Chapel of the Sacred Heart tuck pointed, roof shingled, steeple repaired, storm windows replaced, Interior of church repainted, New carpet installed interior of church, New railings and carpet on church steps, Storm windows for all church windows

- 2018 First CFOS Linkage Pictorial Directory published
- 2018 First Permanent Deacon CFOS
- 2018 Electronic Keyboard for church obtained through Depot Outlet Grant
- 2018 Memorial marker installed to commemorate cemetery location 1853-59 on the southwest corner of church property
- 2018 Endowment Fund for Our Lady of Seven Dolors established



Msgr. Donald Heineman (1922-2016)

Msgr. Donald Heineman passed away on July 21, 2016.

Proceeds from Monsignor's estate were generously bequeathed to several schools and parishes. Our Lady of Seven Dolors was informed that a sum of \$262,000 was left to the parish. Parts of the funds were used for the 2018 upgrades to the church and cemetery. After careful consideration by Fr. Gross and the Parish Council, it was decided Monsignor's generosity would provide the seed money to establish an endowment fund. Monsignor Heineman's gift has provided a means to ensure a degree of financial stability as the torch of faith is handed to future generations.

Our Lady of Seven Dolors – Parish Vocations

PRIESTS FROM OUR PARISH

July 16, 1884 Rev. Henry Gehling
Dec. 20, 1895 Rev. Clement Thuente O.P.
July 26, 1901 Rev. William Cremer
July 26, 1910 Rev. Henry Holthaus
June 30, 1915, Rev. Philip J. Wagner
May 9, 1929 Rev. Alphonse Elsbernd S.V.D.
June 9, 1929 Rev. Urban Bucheit
June 9, 1930 Rev. Herman Schmitz O.S.C.
June 10, 1933 Rev. Owen (Linus) Tekippe O.S.B.
June 15, 1935 Rev. Joseph Vollmecke
1938 Rev. Adelard (Walter) Thuente
Jan. 9, 1965 Rev. Elmer J. Elsbernd S.V.D.

BROTHERS

1921 Brother Benedict (Matthias) Vollmecke S.V.D.
1936 Brother Damian (Jerome) Bockman S.V.D.
Brother Bernard Gerleman (Franciscan)

DOMINICAN SISTERS

1872 Caroline Meyer – Sr. Constantia
1903 Marie Schmitz – Sr. Edmunda
1903 Katie Thuente – Sr. Emiliana
1918 Annie Thuente – Sr. Mary Rose
1922 Mary Vollmecke – Sr. Corona
1923 Teckla Wenthold – Sr. Albertona
1925 Verena Hageman – Sr. Lutgardis
1930 Loretta Lechtenberg – Sr. Charitas
1931 Margaret Vollmecke – Sr. Bennetta
1931 Christina Vollmecke – Sr. Verona

SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF THE HOLY FAMILY

1883 Agnes Thuente – Sr. Eustachia
1884 Katie Broiher – Sr. Clotilda
1895 Christine Thuente – Sr. Edmunda
1899 Mary Broiher – Sr. Eugenia
1900 Mary Leichtnam – Sr. Ladislaus
1913 Barbara Leichtnam – Sr. Flavia
1929 Marie Lutkenhaus – Sr. Antoinette
1929 Sophia Lutkenhaus – Sr. Myron
1934 Rose Kuennen – Sr. Cecelia
1936 Julia Lutkenhaus – Sr. Julia
1945 Ruth Elsbernd – Sr. Bernette
1959 Karleen Thuente – left
1961 DiRosa Meinert – left

ORDER OF ST. BENEDICT

1929 Seraphine Tekippe – Sr. Ildephonse

FRANCISCAN SISTERS

1877 Annie Urbany – Sr. Dominica
1877 Mary Gerleman – Sr. Edmunda
1877 Maggie Urbany - Sr. Kunigunda
1877 Mary Cremer – Sr. Sanctia
1878 Katherine Kleisart – Sr. Veronica
1880 Katherine Doerr – Sr. Columba
1881 Joshephine Dessel – Sr. Letitia
1881 Mary Hageman – Sr. Thaddea
1882 Annie Doerr – Sr. Sebastiana
1882 Sophia Kleisart – Sr. Evangelista

FRANCISCAN SISTERS

1882 Caroline Scheidmental – Sr. Ambrose
1882 Carrie Meyer – Sr. Fidelia
1885 Amilia Meyer – Sr. Irene
1890 Margaret Feierfiel – Sr. Norberta +
1891 Christina Holthaus – Sr. Anacleto
1893 Mary Timp – Sr. Fridoline
1898 Annie Funke – Sr. Avita
1903 Barbara Funk – Sr. Chrysanta
1904 Annie Bucheit – Sr. Mechtilde
1910 Johanna Hageman – Sr. Bonfilia
1911 Annie Huber – Sr. DePadua
1911 Lena Bucheit – Sr. Marcia (returned)
1914 Mary Scholbrock – Sr. Rosalinda (returned)
1916 Rosie Holthaus – Sr. Anthusa
1922 Adella Smith – Sr. Stella
1922 Anna Hageman – Sr. Thaddelia
1932 Catherine Schmitz – Sr. Rosalia
1936 Marcella Bockman - Sr. Mary Vianney
1942 Marcella Hackman – Sr. Anice
1942 Walburga Buchheit – Sr. Teresa
1946 Agatha Hackman – Sr. Phyllis Ann
1954 Maryann Massman – Sr. Carmelia
1954 Martha Gossling – Sr. Mariam
1954 Helen Elsbernd – Sr. Mary Mark
1954 Joan Hageman – Sr. Vernamae
1959 Sr. Mary Benedict Vollemecke (returned)
1965 Sr. Mary Jo Bockman
1963 Sr. Rosemary Elsbernd
Frances Cremer died as a postulant+
Irma Smith died as a postulant+