

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH HISTORY

Graettinger, Iowa

- ❖ Immaculate Conception Parish was a mission of Emmetsburg in its earliest days.
- ❖ 1891: Father John Kelly was assigned to Estherville and also began serving the people of the Graettinger area.
- ❖ The first Mass in Graettinger was celebrated in a one-room school. Eventually a larger space was needed and then Mass was offered in the business of John B. Lambe.
- ❖ 1892: J.A. Spies donated the land to build a church in Graettinger. Mr. Spies also donated the property for Saint Jacob's Cemetery.
- ❖ The congregation grew so fast that a new section was added to the west of the church and the whole structure was brick veneered in 1912-1913.
- ❖ 1939: Father Kelly celebrated his Golden Jubilee in June of that year. He served as Pastor of Graettinger until his death, on February 13, 1941.
- ❖ Father Edward Maynard was installed as the new pastor in August 1951.
- ❖ In 1959, Father Albert Conlon became Pastor. He served for two months.
- ❖ Father Clem Flannery became Pastor in 1959, serving until 1962. He resigned due to ill health.
- ❖ Father Vince Beacom became Pastor in June of 1962. In 1964 he announced a building project for a new Parish Center. \$194,208.00 was pledged and/or given to this campaign. In March of 1967 bids were let for a new rectory. Father Beacom retired in 1984.
- ❖ Father Clair Boes became Pastor in 1984. Under his leadership a new church was begun. Because of the leadership of Father Beacom, the Parish treasury had enough money to build a church with no campaign needed.

PRIESTS WHO HAVE SERVED IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IN GRAETTINGER

Father John Kelly	-	1891 – 1941
Father Denis Hurley	-	1941 – 1951
Father Edward S. Maynard	-	1951 – 1959
Father Albert Conlon	-	1959 (2 months)
Father Clement Flannery	-	1959 – 1962
Father Vincent Beacom	-	1962 – 1984
Father Clair Boes	-	1984 – 1988
Father Paul Kelly	-	1988 – 1993
Msgr. Thomas Donahue	-	1993 – 2002
Father Thomas Geelan	-	2002 – 2007
Msgr. Michael Sernett	-	2007 – 2014
Father Merlin Schrad	-	2014 – 2017
Father Clement Currans	-	2017 – 2018
Father William Schreiber	-	2018 –

**NATIVE SONS ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD FROM IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION**

Father Edward J. Sullivan - 1944 (Ordained for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles,
California)

Father Clement Currans - 1974

**WOMEN FROM IMMACUALTE CONCEPTION WHO HAVE PROFESSED
THEIR VOWS IN A RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY**

Agnes O'Conner - Sister Mary Rosalie

Martha O'Conner - Sister Mary Paulette

Mary Diran - Sister Mary Gertrude

Frances Hendricks - Sister Mary Mechtilda

Lois Spear - Sister Mary Jude

Sister Elizabeth Mahan

PRIEST'S BURIED IN SAINT JACOB CEMETERY

Father John Kelly

Father Dennis K. Hurley

Father Edward S. Maynard