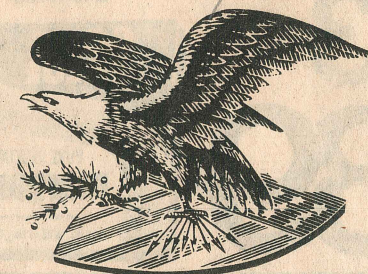


BICENTENNIAL

1776-1976



"Rememberances of Days Gone By"

History of St. Malachy's Catholic Church

St. Malachy's Catholic Church in Madrid dates back to 1885 when a Father Smith offered Mass in a room over a saloon, when there were only two Catholics comprising the parish. From that time thereafter, until 1923, Mass was held in various homes and in public meeting halls.

It wasn't until 1923 that the parish was officially begun and in the years between 1885 and 1923, the missionary zeal of priests like Father A. J. Nuel of Ogden and Father Ligutti of Granger kept the religious spirit alive. Father Nuel made plans for the first church which was built in 1923. The building seated 130 people and met the needs of the parishoners for many years. It was 30 x 50 feet with an attached garage.

The Catholic Church Extension Service of Chicago furnished a \$1,000 donation to help start the parish. A stipulation with the gift was the promise that it should have a say in the naming of the new church. The

Chicago Society made it a point to call on the people and suggest that instead of erecting costly, but useless, monuments to the memory of their deceased, they give and use the money towards the erection of the building in some needy place and thus provide a useful monument to their memory. A carpenter by the name of Mason did the lining up of the church but the actual building and digging of the basement and other physical work was done by the Burke Bros., Croatian miners, and one Irishman by the name of L. S. (Pat) Burke.

Where the wood for the first building came from is somewhat in doubt. It is said that it came from the Catholic Parish in Boone, but many others say that it came from an old schoolhouse in Ogden.

The parish grew in number from the original church with some new additions throughout the years, but up to 1960 the worship and religious education was carried on in the original church.



This is the original St. Malachy's Church which dates back to 1923. The first Mass said in this building was on December 16, 1923. Father Nuel was the pastor.

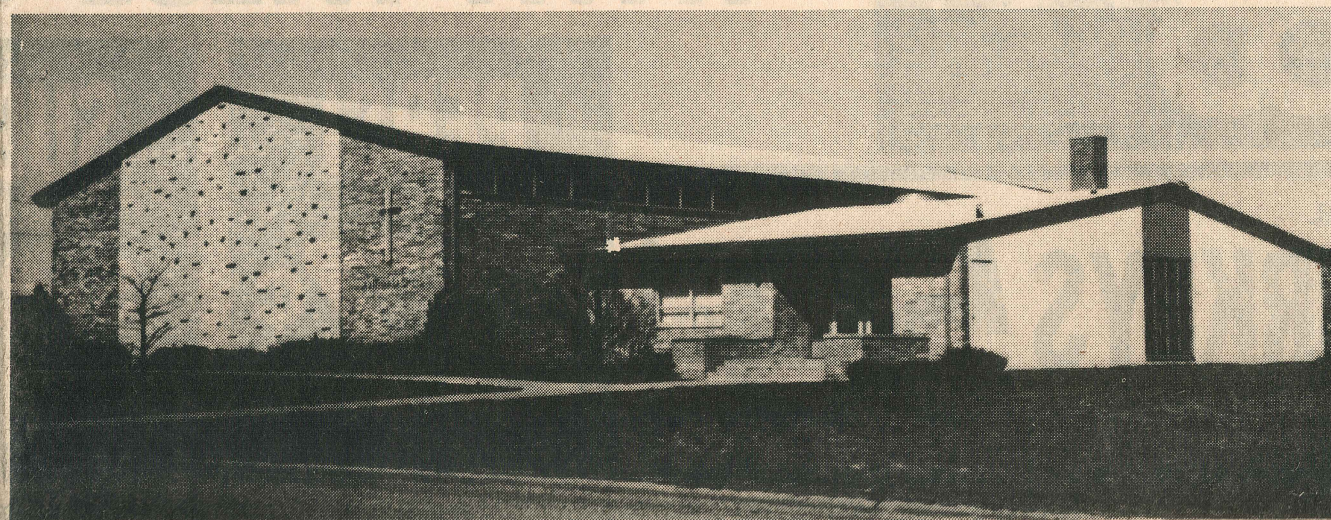
The first Mass in the new building was said on December 16, 1923, on an altar in the basement, which was a gift of Father Nuel's home parish in LeMars.

Father Nuel continued to serve the Parish until 1927 when St. Malachy's advanced from the status of a "mission" parish to permanent with the appointment of Father Newman J. Flanagan as permanent pastor. Father Flanagan went on to become a monsignour and

has recently passed away.

During his pastorate, a rectory was acquired and an addition to the church was built, enlarging the sanctuary and providing a suitable sacristy.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Finnan were very helpful religious education teachers in the early history of the Church in Madrid, having opened their home to allow children to come for instruction.



This photo of St. Malachy's Catholic Church was taken on its golden anniversary in 1973. Construction on this building began in 1960 and was completed the following year. Father Karl P. Hansen was pastor at the time.

It was in 1961 that a new parish center was built on property on the north end of town. The new rectory was built later in that same year and the old church and rectory were sold.

As mentioned earlier, Father Newman Flanagan was the first resident pastor of the parish. He has been followed by Father Arthur Poeckes, Father Louis J. Lynch, Father A. J. Huewe, Father Fames A. Kane, Father John Doherty, Father Karl P. Hansen, and Father John Cain, the present pastor. He was appointed by Most Reverend Joseph M. Mueller on December 12, 1969, to become pastor of St. Malachy's Parish as well as St. John of God Parish at the Woodward State Hospital-School.

It was during the time of Father Kane that the apostolate was expanded to residents of the Woodward State Hospital-School. He conducted a volunteer program teaching religion to residents and providing them the opportunity for worship and reception of all the Sacraments. This program continues along with many other services and programs for treatment, training and care of the mentally retarded at the Hospital-School.

Father Kane also began the fund drive for a much needed building program for the church during the seven years he was in Madrid from 1950-1957. His successor, Father John Doherty, continued the drive for funds and made the first step toward the building program by purchasing ten acres in the northeast section of town.

Father Karl P. Hansen, the new pastor officiated at the ground breaking ceremonies for the new church in the Spring of 1960. It was on Palm Sunday in 1961 that the Most Reverend Joseph M. Mueller, Bishop of Sioux City blessed and dedicated the new church which was used the next Sunday by the congregation.

According to records, the Sisters of the Presentation have been teaching Religious Vacation School classes

in Madrid since 1956. Most years, over one hundred children participated. A further development in religious education took place in 1970 when workshops were arranged and conducted for training religious education teachers for the parish and the volunteers for teaching religion at the State Hospital-School.

The first child baptized was Dorothy Martin and the first communion class met in the Martin home.

Sisters from St. Malachy's Church have been Sister Mary Hornick who entered the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration at St. Rose Convent in LaCrosse, Wisc. She obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Education in 1963.

Sister Timothy O'Deay joined the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi in Milwaukee, Wisc. in August of 1946. She went on to receive her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Special Education in May of 1967 and has been working toward her Masters Degree in Special Education.

Sister Rosemary Ladurini joined the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of the Order of St. Francis in Rock Island, Ill. in 1959. She graduated from St. Anthony School of Nursing in Rock Island becoming a Registered Nurse in 1964. She also has earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmacy from Creighton University in 1969.

L. S. Pat Burke served the parish as lay director for well over 50 years beginning in this position before it was even an established parish. Rolland Bimbi became lay director during the time of Father Kane and has served in this capacity for over 15 years. Mr. Bimbi was also instrumental in helping to build the St. Malachy's Ball Park, used not only by parishoners but by local civic organizations as well.

Recent undertakings by the local parish has been the sponsoring of a Vietnamese family, Tung Dang Nguyen and their six children, since their arrival in Madrid in July.