

## HISTORY of ST. BONIFACE and SUBLIMITY, OREGON

by Evangeline Ripp, 2004

Prior to 1840 the Sublimity area was a vast forest land, here and there covered by Indian trails and sparkling mountain streams. This was a countryside whose moderate climate and green hillsides soon attracted many settlers from nearby Waldo Hills and the Salem area. The earliest inhabitants thousands of years ago may have been descendents of primitive Asiatic tribes coming by way of Alaska. The Indians living in Oregon during the early periods of time, wandered up and down the country in search of game and fish. Those who lived regularly in the Santiam countryside were mostly of the Calapooia Tribe. Those living nearest to Sublimity on the south were known as the Santiams, and from the north were the Molallas. The Molallas were related to the Cayuse Indians of Eastern Oregon and associated with the Klamaths who lived to the southeast. The Silver Creek Falls area was well known to the Indians as a bartering place, and the Klamath Trail came through the Silverton, Sublimity and Stayton areas. A large Indian burn in the early 1800's cleared the land where the present town now exists. Sublimity had its beginning as an outgrowth of an Indian village or trading post before 1846.

In the mid forties Daniel Waldo settled to the east of Salem in what is still called the "Waldo Hills Country." Following in 1847 brought George W. Hunt and Paul Darst taking up land claims to the north of Sublimity. The Darst Claim was at Whiteaker in the Rocky Point Four Corners area. Also at that time H. Hobson and John Brewer came to the southern part of the Sublimity area. In 1848 Henry Porter took up his claim nearer Aumsville. Then in 1849 Philip Glover, and in 1850 John Morley came. Morley settled to the north of Rocky Point while Philip Glover settled just north of Sublimity. These were the first settlers to make their home in the eastern part of Marion County.

Hadley Hobson took up a claim on Mill Creek, and built a one-room log cabin which sat on the now Henry Miller place. He introduced cattle and sheep into the area, and spent much time building roads so that other settlers might be attracted to this area. Hobson acquired over 1500 acres, or nearly all of the land from Sublimity to the center of Stayton and to the east, over a mile wide. So by 1852 with the roads and mountain trails forming a meeting place, this served as a gathering place for pioneers and was known as Hobson's Corner. By this time other pioneers had moved into the area, among them were the brothers John and James Denny. James Denny's log cabin stood to the west of Center street in the middle of town. He had an addition built to his home and opened the first general store. Since he had been taking the settlers letters to Oregon City once a month while he purchased supplies, it was decided to ask for better mail service from the government. So with that, a name had to be submitted for the locality, and James Denny thought it ought to be called Sublimity on account of the sublime view he had from the low-lying hills to the east. It is the fifth post office in the State, established on September 29, 1852, with James Denny as the first postmaster. James Denny's land claim had comprised much of the heart of the Sublimity town site. He owned and later donated the plot of land for Sublimity College. His brother John had purchased a half section of land to the east in the Coon Hollow District. One of his sons, Samuel, was the teacher in the first log school erected in 1854 on the western edge of town, and organized as a public school district.

At this time there were several stores in Sublimity, first there arose a small drygoods store, built of logs, which sold everything from needles to whiskey. A blacksmith was soon added, then came a gunsmith, and two saloons. A Chinese emigrant established a laundry there which stood across the road from the General Store, later to become Ditter's Store.

In 1857 the United Brethren Church decided to locate their school here in Sublimity. This was on land donated by James Denny located east of the present cemetery. A two-story frame building containing six rooms was constructed. It was a rectangular structure 18 x 35 feet, surmounted by a small tower in which hung the traditional school bell. The outside was finished with good planed boards, brought over muddy roads by team, from a small sawmill near Jefferson. This was a semi-public institution and the faculty was authorized to suspend or expel any student for misconduct and to grant and confer degrees in liberal arts and sciences. They

emphasized the importance of disciplined education and high morals. The first teacher as well as president of the college was Milton Wright. Milton stayed only two years at Sublimity College and in 1859 was recalled to the mother church in Indiana, where he married and became the father of Wilbur and Orville Wright who invented the airplane. The school taught on many levels of education from the primary grades to what we now consider upper level high school courses. The grade schools of those days included some of our present day high school subjects.

When the Civil War broke out Sublimity was an area of about 1500, but many people left the area and returned to their native states to fight for their beliefs, and the town became somewhat deserted. The Sublimity College had closed but by 1865 it was re-opened and by 1871 had 125 pupils. The 1870's were bad economic years so again the school closed with the United Brethren leaving the area.

By 1874 nearly all the abandoned farms around Sublimity were repossessed by new people from the East. Since the trans-continental railway came through Minnesota, many of the new settlers came from German colonies which had previously located in Minnesota. Many of those were also Catholics, and so a new faith was brought to the area and Sublimity grew rapidly. The government sent surveyors to stake all property lines and to make a detailed map of the country around Sublimity. The town was plotted, divided into 20 city blocks, and given street names. The map was printed in San Francisco in 1878. Main Street, which ran from the stores to the school was known as the "race track," because it formerly led to the horse-racing grounds. In the 1860s there was no timber on the school grounds, in fact very little anywhere about town because this was part of a large Indian burn dating back to the beginning of 1800, when the Indians periodically burned certain areas so that they would provide better feeding grounds for deer, which they hunted for food.

Within the city limits at this time in 1878, there stood an old hotel and rooming house on the Anton VanHandel place just south of the Fastop service station on the corner of Center and Starr. On the south corner of that block stood the LaCroix Store. Across the street from the hotel was a vacant building in block 7, corner of Center and Maple, which later was to be used as the first Catholic Church. In the same block on the south corner stood a saloon and to the east was the Paul Frank blacksmith shop. Across the street from the LaCroix Store, was the first store put up by Mr. Hobson in the late 1860s. Later a Mr. Glass operated a general merchandise store nearby. This was then occupied in 1890 by the Ditter's general store for over a century and is now the Ditter Town Square.

There were only about five Catholic families in Sublimity at this time, but they decided to ask Archbishop Francis Norbert Blanchet to send them a missionary. Prior to this services were held by diocesan and Jesuit missionaries, at sporadic times, first in private homes and then in the building newly leased for church services. This was the vacant building in block 7, leased for \$1.00, from August Schellberg, on March 10, 1877, by Mathias Houpert, Henry Glass and Peter Thomas. Rev. Peter J. Stampfl, from Austria and Minnesota, who had come to Albany, Oregon, and for some years took care of the outlying missions in Marion and Linn Counties, came to hold services once a month. These were held in this building, until the roof collapsed under a heavy snowfall in 1880.

Fr. Stampfl then purchased the vacated United Brethren College building, and twenty acres of land for \$400.00. He converted the ground floor into the second church. This building stood just north of the present Rectory and west of the grade school. One acre of ground on the southwest corner of this property was designated as the first Catholic cemetery, called the Cemetery of Holy Angels. Fr. Stampfl, finding the country to his liking, and the land fertile, advertised the area to his former parishioners and friends in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and the Middle West. Thus an influx of German-Catholic settlers came to inhabit the land in and around Sublimity. By December 3rd 1879, St. Boniface, the Apostle of the Germans, was selected as the Patron Saint of the Parish. The first baptism recorded in the parish was Franz Joseph Schmidt on December 14, 1879. He was born on October 31, 1879, of the lawful marriage of Wilhelm Schmidt and Wilhelmina Stoetzel both of the parish. Sponsors were Peter Thomas, farmer, of this parish and his wife Maria (Derville)Thomas. The first burial in the parish was Nicolas Thomas, February 12, 1880, born in Luxembourg, Europe in 1791. The first burial in the Catholic Cemetery was Anna Maria Klinger, April 2, 1880, about 60 years of age. The first communicants were

Joseph and George Buhl on May 3, 1880, the stepsons of George and Ursula (Kepfelbraicker) Neuberd, born in Wisconsin. The first recorded marriage was between Alois Tietze, a Mehama farmer and Katherine Kloetsch on September 2, 1880. Witnesses were Michael Kloetsch and Albert Weidner. Archbishop Charles John Seghers administered the first confirmations on October 10, 1880 upon: George Neuberd, Theresa Frank, Paul Frank, Albert Frank, August Klinger, Mary Klinger, Theresa Sheridan, Margaret Thomas, Mary Kloetsch, Christine Kloetsch, Theresa Weidner, John Giebler, William Giebler, whose sponsors were: Joseph Doerfler and Anna Fischer. Also on Peter Frank, Emil Klinger, Albert Klinger, John Thomas, Nic Thomas, Anna Kloetsch, Margaret Kloetsch, Mary Giebler, Anna Schott, Barbara Schott, Joseph Hauptert, Lina Hauptert, Mary Doerfler, Franz Zuber, whose sponsors were Joseph Doerfler and Mary Fink. By 1881 Fr. Peter J. Stampfl left Sublimity to return to Minnesota.

The year 1881 brings a new phase to our parish; there were two Benedictine priests from Engelberg, Switzerland touring the country looking for a place to start a new monastery. Archbishop Charles John Seghers of Oregon City was interested in establishing the Benedictines in Oregon. While the Swiss Benedictines, Rev. Adelhelm Odermatt and Rev. Nicolas Frei were visiting. They were asked to take care of the church at Fillmore (Mt. Angel) over the weekend. With that they found to their liking the nearby butte as a suitable spot for a monastic site. While residing temporarily in Gervais, these Benedictines were asked by the Archbishop to care for the parishes of Gervais, Fillmore, and Sublimity. So from 1881 to 1884 we have serving our parish the Revs. Adelhelm Odermatt, Nicolas Frei, Barnabas Held, and Anselm Wachter. These trips from Gervais to Sublimity were made by horseback covering some twenty two miles. By 1884 Prior Adelhelm Odermatt sent the Rev. Wernher Ruettimann to be the first resident pastor of St. Boniface.

At this time there was a colony of people newly moved from Minnesota to the Jordan area. These were members of the Precious Blood Society and their families, four brothers; Anton Doll, John Eifert, Joseph Boedigheimer, and Cornelius Boedigheimer. Two sisters; Sister Lucretia Hauck and Sister Afra Ruhl, and aspirants; Theresa Arnold, Anna Mohr, Lydia Mahl, Emma Bleily, Susan Foltz, Mary Foltz, Elizabeth Bender, Anna Bender, Matilda Silbernagel, Mary Silbernagel, Mary Irene Riesterer, Martha Eifert, Catherine Eifert, Aurelia Boedigheimer, and Cherubim Foltz. The family members were Anton and Matilda Weber Bender and six of their seven children; Christof and Anna Hertel Silbernagel and their seven children; Joseph M. and Appolonia Riesterer and their five children, Victor and Matilda Gardner Eifert and their seven children; Charles Foltz, whose wife Mary Ann Doll had recently died, and his nine children; Bruno and Mary Brahaus Boedigheimer and their seven children; Leander and Theresa Foltz Boedigheimer, Ferdinand and Magdalen Foltz Boedigheimer, and Bruno and John Boedigheimer, natural brothers. They soon built a home and school for the Sisters of the Precious Blood and later on a church in their community. Fr. Wernher, as pastor of Sublimity, also had the area south to Scio and Jordan as part of his mission area. There were difficulties and misunderstandings that took place and the trustees of the colony soon wanted no part of Fr. Wernher or any other church authorities. It was then advised by Archbishop William Gross to have the Sisters moved to Fillmore, (Mt. Angel) until a permanent residence could be located for them. With that, some of the other colonists also moved away from the Jordan area, some settling in or near Sublimity.

With the growing congregation in Sublimity, Fr. Wernher looked for a larger building to hold church services. The hotel/rooming house downtown was sold, dismantled and moved to Turner. Nothing else was suitable so he had an addition built onto the college building as an extension to the church. This was a two-story frame structure, lower in height than the original building, with two rows of four windows on each side, with a chimney in the top middle. The front entrance to the church, which then extended from the old building into the new, was now on the opposite end. He also had a cross put on top of the bell tower making it look more like a Roman Catholic Church. Shortly after this time Fr. Wernher suggested the Sisters use the second floors of both sections of this building for their residence. So by August of 1886, the Sisters made plans to move into their own convent. With much cleaning and repair work some done by the two Boedigheimer brothers, Joseph and Cornelius, who were carpenters, they soon had things in order. By September the Sisters were settled into their new home, it was given the name "Maria Zell," named after a Marian shrine in Austria. There is a photograph taken of the Sisters by their new home with Fr. Wernher and Joseph and Cornelius Boedigheimer, this with garlands of flowers with evergreens and fir trees stuck in the ground by the building. The following year on

March 25th 1887, Archbishop Gross was in Sublimity for the profession of vows. Those professing were Sr. Mary Clara, (Barbara Hauck), Sr. Mary Benedict (Theresa Arnold), Sr. Mary Wilhelmina, (Emerentiana Bleily), Sr. Mary Josephine, (Catherine Eifert), Sr. Mary Cecelia, (Aurelia Boedigheimer), Sr. Mary Gertrude, (Mary Silbernagel), Sr. Mary Aloysius, (Anna Bender), Sr. Mary Rose, (Martha Eifert), Sr. Mary Johanna, (Matilda Silbernagel), and Sr. Mary Magdalene, (Mary Giebler). Sr. Mary Wilhelmina was elected Mother Superior. This was the beginning of what was later to become the order of the Sisters of Saint Mary of Oregon. With the coming of the sisters it was then decided to build a new parochial school. The builder was Joseph Spenner with the aid of the men of the parish and the new school was completed by October of 1888. This was a one room frame building with a high pitched roof and steeple with cross, it looked more like a mission church than a school. Inside were two rough-hewn tables with benches, one for boys and one for girls. There was a pot-bellied stove in the middle where the children could warm themselves. It was there the Sisters had their first teaching experience, trained by Sr. M. DeSales, Order of Saint Francis, from Wisconsin.

The first rectory was a small house with two tiny rooms, a front door only, and two windows on each side. A chimney in the middle for stoves in both rooms. This house was just a short distance from the church and convent, the school just a bit farther to the west. It was difficult for Fr. Wernher to go from one to the other because of his shortness of breath. A gift from the east was a bell named "Maria Zell," this was placed in the bell tower and rung on New Year's morning in 1889 for the first time. It was then the sisters and parishioners waited at the church for Mass to begin. When Fr. Wernher did not appear the sisters went to get him but found he had died during the night. The Revs. Anselm Wachter and Eugene Bolla came to serve the St. Boniface parish at this time. Then in 1889 the Rev. Joseph Fessler arrived from Wisconsin as the newly appointed pastor of the parish. He had been acquainted with the Most Precious Blood Sisters when they were living in the east, and was looking for a milder climate in which to live due to ill health.

At some time prior to this there had been a new rectory built, and during the year of 1889 Fr. Joseph Fessler started to build a new church. This church was built of hand-hewn timbers making up the framework, and sawed lumber from I. J. Boedigheimer, and much of the labor and materials supplied by the parishioners. The church is 36 x 72 with a spire of 110 feet in height. There are scissor trusses every two feet apart made of rough 2 x 8's. The steeple has its own foundation and is a floating steeple, not structurally attached to the church. Archbishop William Hickley Gross dedicated the church on October 26th, 1879. This is the third and present St. Boniface church.

Following is an article from the *Catholic Sentinel* of Thursday October 30th 1890. (The New Catholic Church at Sublimity) — On Sunday last the beautiful new church at Sublimity, Ore., solemnly dedicated by His Grace Most Rev. Archbishop Gross, assisted by Very Rev. J.F. Fierens, V.G., Very Rev. Prior Adelhelm, OSB, and Frater Otemeyer, of Mt. Angel, and the pastor, Rev. Father Fessler. The interesting and beautiful ceremony was witnessed by a large concourse of people. His grace preached a sermon explaining the august ceremony and the lesson drawn therefrom to Christians. After the dedication services solemn High Mass was celebrated for the first time in the new church. Very Rev. J.F. Fierens, V.G., was celebrant, assisted by Very Rev. Prior Adelhelm, OSB., deacon. and Father Otemeyer, sub-deacon. Rev. Father Fessler assisted His Grace on the throne. The music was rendered in a most exquisite manner. The Archbishop preached a beautiful and impressive sermon on the occasion. At 3PM the interesting ceremony of blessing the new 350 pound bell took place, after which the Archbishop confirmed ten persons. Vespers and Benediction then took place. Rev. Fathers White, of Salem, and Brosseau, of Gervais, arrived in the meantime and took part in the services. His Grace conferred the habit of the Order of the Precious Blood on the following young ladies: Miss Mary Platten, Sister Mary Margaret; Anna Theison, Sister Mary Seraphim; Elizabeth Heuberger, Sister Mary Antonia; Mary Heuberger, Sister Mary Laurentia. The new church is 70 x 26, and is surmounted by a spire 110 feet in height. It is one of the most substantial and imposing church edifices in the valley and reflects much credit on the Catholics of Sublimity and their pastor, Rev. Father Fessler.) In the parish book there are nine names listed as those confirmed, they are: Jacobus Ditter, Joannes Hiersiefen, Franziska Heuberger, Rosa Theisen, Maria Ritzinger, Anna Ritzinger, Maria Ditter, Sadie Browning, and Emma Weinrich. The size of the church in the article is not the correct size of the church.

Around this time the addition or second church, which had become the Sisters Convent, was moved to where the present convent is located. The old United Brethren building was then used for parish functions and later was used as a temporary home for new parishioners moving into Sublimity. It was used in this manner until June 1, 1910, when an accidental fire caused it to burn to the ground.

In 1890 Archbishop Gross requested three of the Maria Zell Sisters to be sent to Beaverton, Oregon to assist in the organizing of St. Mary's Home for Boys. Then on June 27th, 1891 the Sisters left Sublimity and moved their Motherhouse to Beaverton. Fr. Joseph Fessler went with them to help in the management of the Home for Boys. The convent in Sublimity was then known as St. Boniface convent and housed the Sister's teaching staff for the parochial school. With Fr. Joseph Fessler leaving, other priests came to help out at the parish, those coming were: Revs, Joseph Kempker, Peter Beutgen, and Joseph Bucholzer, this from 1891 to 1895. In 1895 Rev. Anthony Lainck was appointed pastor of St. Boniface in Sublimity. By this time the parish was in much need of an organizer and this was found in Fr. Lainck. He was well liked by all the people of the town but especially looked toward the education of the children. With that in mind he had a new St. Boniface Grade School built, using the first one as an annex. He helped the young people enjoy a social life within the framework of the sodality, by giving plays and dances. Even though high schools were scarce in those days he had the Sisters teach the ninth grade and later on by 1916, the tenth grade. These classes were conducted in the old public grade school building on the west end of town, just north of the creamery. Fr. Lainck also was instrumental in the establishment of the Men's National Catholic Order of Foresters in June of 1903. Other societies he started were; the Women's National Catholic Society of Foresters in 1907, the St. Boniface Society, a National Catholic German Society in 1916, and the Knights of Columbus in 1923 under the name of St. Anthony Council. Pertaining to the Church he had a sacristy and an extension for the altar built. Then in 1908 a new High Altar and two side altars were built and the interior of the church was redecorated. The Altars were hand made by Engelbert Gier and decorated with gold leaf. Also at that time a Bell Tower was built; it contains three bells. Imprinted on them is the date of 1909 from the "Henry Stuckstede Bell Foundry Company of St. Louis, Missouri." On the big bell is written "Bonifacius—vocat populum suum." On the mid sized bell is "Sancta Maria—ora pro nobis," and the small bell is "Sancta Barbara—protege nos hora mortis." These bells ring automatically for Mass and the Angelus daily. For the parish there was a new Foresters Hall built, this in 1907, and in 1913 the third St. Boniface grade school was built. It was a two story building consisting of four classrooms and a full basement. Archbishop Alexander Christi blessed the corner stone on September 29, 1913. The former grade schools were then used for parish functions. Much was accomplished in the parish during Fr. Lainck's thirty years as pastor, he died on June 11, 1927 being sorely missed by the town and surrounding area.

Sublimity was incorporated and granted its own charter in 1903. John Kintz was chosen mayor, John A. Ditter treasurer, Theodore Odenthal recorder, Philip Meier marshal, and J. Hassler, H. Hunke, Bernard Prange and A. Riesterer as councilmen. It was then decided to buy six kerosene street lamps which had to be lit by hand every evening and extinguished in the morning. Ed Meier did this for two years at \$3.00 a month, then John Zuber took over at an increased salary of \$5.00 a month. This went on much the same until 1909 when Anton VanHandel was elected mayor and William Bell treasurer. Then again in 1910 John Zuber was elected mayor, William Bell treasurer, John A Ditter recorder, P. Hermens marshal, H. Riesterer, J. Breitenstein, Joseph Schrewe and Peter Welter became councilmen, and James Ripp lamplighter at \$6.00 a month. By 1912 the first fire fighting equipment was obtained from Portland, it was a fifty gallon chemical tank mounted on two wheels and pulled by two men. In September of 1914 the first electric lights were assured for the town, this from the Stayton Light Co. The following year twenty lights were put up and connected up with private residences nearby. By 1913 nine miles of macadam roads had been built at a cost of eighteen thousand dollars to the taxpayers of district No. 24.

In 1927, after Fr. Anthony Lainck died, Rev. Francis Scherbring was appointed pastor of St. Boniface parish. In 1931 his brother Rev. Joseph Scherbring was appointed the first resident pastor of Stayton, so they were no longer a mission of St. Boniface. On September 11, 1935, Fr. Francis Scherbring died and Fr. Joseph Scherbring was appointed as the pastor of St. Boniface. During his pastorate he accomplished much for the parish. In 1940 he directed the building of a new full sized gymnasium with a basement large enough to seat two hundred fifty people, at a cost of \$7,500. He also established the first St. Boniface High School in the former grade school

building. It consisted of three rooms, and the teaching was done by the Sisters of St. Mary. The first graduating class from this high school were: Camilla Lulay Butler, Bernice Ruettgers, Dolores Bentz Cremer, Loretta Etzel Ziebert, and Joseph Spenner. In 1945 Fr. Joe Scherbring had a new High School built. It was made of brick veneer consisting of five classrooms, library, and office, at the cost of \$38,000. This attracted students from neighboring parishes. It was dedicated by Archbishop Edward D. Howard on September 9, 1945. This was also taught by the Sisters of Saint Mary. Then 1948 Fr. Joe had a brick veneer convent for the teaching Sisters built at a cost of \$52,000. With that another dream of Fr. Joseph Scherbring was realized by having the old convent moved to the eight acre property, donated by Minnie Hassler, to be used as a home for the elderly and infirm. In 1954 Fr. Scherbring obtained a group of refuge Sisters from Austria, belonging to the Order of Sorrowful Mother, to staff and manage the beginning of what is now the Marian Estates. Then in 1955 Fr. Joseph Scherbring died. With the passing of Fr. Joseph Scherbring there is a new pastor for the parish. He is the Rev. Robert S. Neugebauer who was appointed in 1955. In 1957 Fr. Neugebauer directed the building of a new brick rectory to match the convent and high school. This building has five apartments and a full basement for meetings, breakfasts, etc. Cost of the construction was \$67,000. Fr. Neugebauer also made improvements to the church, convent, school and cemetery. He was also instrumental in the formation of the first Parish Council.

On Columbus Day October 12, 1962 quite a wind storm devastated many farm buildings in the area as well as Parish buildings. New roofs had to be put on the gym, high school, grandstand and bell tower. At that time the grandstand was converted into a shop and storage building, and the bell tower got a new siding and coat of paint. Also around that time the second grade school with the first school as it's annex, was torn down, due to age and the Columbus Day storm. Other improvements done by Fr. Neugebauer were: the installment of an electrical bell ring system for Mass times as well as funeral tolls and the Angelus, a new church entrance on the west side, and other happenings inside the church, cemetery, and parking lot. In 1963 Regis Catholic High School opened in Stayton, this at a cost of \$689,000. The St. Boniface High School was then converted into a grade school, and the two-story grade school built in 1913 was taken down. Fr. Robert Neugebauer retired in 1969 and the Rev. Thomas Gadbois was appointed new pastor of St. Boniface Parish. In 1973 after eighty five continuous years of parochial schools in Sublimity, St. Boniface Grade School closed. The school, gymnasium, and land were leased to District School 7C for \$10,000 per year, and later purchased in 1993.

Because of ill health, Fr. Thomas Gadbois retired in 1975, and the Rev. Daniel J. Hurley became the resident pastor. With Fr. Hurley in 1979, St. Boniface Parish celebrated it's 100th Anniversary. Archbishop Cornelius Michael Power concelebrated the ceremonies with Bishop Paul E. Waldschmidt, Bishop Kenneth D. Steiner, Bishop Francis P. Leipzig, Abbot Anselm Galvin, O.S.B., our Pastor Rev. Daniel J. Hurley, and some of those from the parish who became priests, the Revs, Leo J. Schmid, S.J., Clement Frank, O.S.B., Theodore J. Wolf, S.J., Stephen Breitenstein, George E. Highberger, C.S.C., Joseph Heuberger, and Assistant Pastor Louis Urbanski. There were many Sisters, some former parishioners, and some as visitors, along with the St. Boniface parishioners and many people from surrounding parishes in attendance.

In 1986 the Rev. Edward Altstock became the resident pastor. In 1990 The Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon left St. Boniface convent, this after being here for one-hundred and four years. The vacated convent now is used for parish functions. In 1991 the Rev. Glenn Dare was pastor, 1994 Rev. Galdino Monteiro, and in 1997 Rev. Arthur Dernbach became pastor. Due to time and the 1993 earthquake, repairs were made to St. Boniface Church. Then in 2001 we had the Rev. Michael Sprauer as pastor, and 2002 Rev. Patrick Donoghue became pastor. So now with Fr. Patrick Donoghue, we are celebrating the 125th Anniversary of St. Boniface Parish and also the 1250th Anniversary of the martyrdom of Bishop Boniface, the Saint our parish is named after. This being celebrated on the feast day of St. Boniface, June 5th, 2004.

(minor revision 2013)