

DEDICATION OF ST. BONIFACE CHURCH

One of the Largest Crowds that Ever Assembled in Barnes County Was Present on this Occasion

Early in the morning of the eight of December as the daylight dispersed the shades of night the malodious tones of the church bell awakened the community and announced the festive day of the dedication of the new St. Boniface church.

Having been silent for over a year the bell now turned her solemn duties to call the faithful to worship, to gladden the hearts on festive occasions, to toll the mourning over the departed.

The weather for this season of the year was ideal. Sunshine is rare in December but that day it shown in all its grace over the snow covered ground and continued all day to favor us and to add to the comfort of the hundreds of visitors who came to witness the dedication ceremonies.

bishop chanted the litany of the Saints to which the priests responded, then followed the blessing of the Altar with accompanying prayers and the blessing of the inside walls whilst 3 psalms were recited. After the antiphon "Bless O Lord this house" etc., the final prayer was offered in which the blessing of God is invoked upon all that come to worship. This ended the official part of the dedication.

Immediately after this the Solemn High Mass began. The bishop leaving the Sacristy was preceded by two thuriferarii with censer and incense, four acolytes with lighted torches, the Rev. Fathers Sailer and Bruenaegel as deacon and sub-deacon and the Rev. Father Bierens as celebrant. Before

which he called an architectural gem of which his lordship and the whole diocese felt justly proud, and thanked Catholics and non-Catholics both for the great assistance given to accomplish the work. Then the bishop eloquently pictured the object of the church, its symbols and the great mission it has received from Christ to continue His work, to teach and to save souls. In the peroration he encouraged all to continue the good work which would necessarily tend towards Christian perfection.

A large class then approached the sanctuary for Confirmation. 93 boys, girls, men and women received the sacraments of confirmation at the hands of the bishop, the successor to the apostles. This was the largest class ever presented for confirmation in this mission. After the imposition of hands the bishop confirmed with holy chrism, a mixture of Olive oil and Balm consecrated by him on Holy Thursday. When making the sign of the cross on the forehead he pronounced these words "I sign thee with the sign of the cross and I confirm thee with the chrism of salvation in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." after which he gave his blessing. The event closed the solemnities of the morning.

It was a happy hour for the priest in charge of this parish to see so many parishioners and friends present at this grand dedication service. Considering the distances and the icy roads, the missions belonging to the Wimbledon church were well represented. There were present from Kensal and Courtenay about 80 members. Others to whom he had ministered came from Helena, Binford, Wallum, Rogers, Bordulac and others from Valley City and Fried. The church was a great center of unity and the religious celebration was joy for all.

In the afternoon the faithful again gathered in the church to attend divine worship.

The choir was up to the mark. The Rev. Father Sailer delivered a sermon in German, showing in well chosen words the importance of the day and gave short biographies of the Saints represented on the windows of the church and the points of religious life, by which he held his audience spellbound.

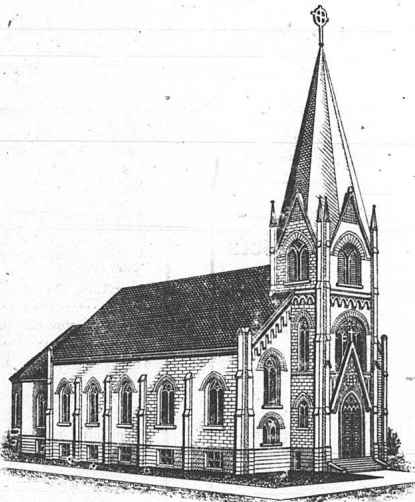
After the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and the recitation of divine praises by priest and people, the choir chanted the "Laudante" i. e., "Praise the Lord all ye Nations, Praise Him all ye People." When the last sacred tones were dying away and re-echoed in the hearts of the faithful, the ceremonies were ended but the dedication will be remembered by all in memories sweet and pleasant.

The Rt. Rev. Bishop regretted to be unable to stay with us the whole day and left at two o'clock for Sanborn in company with the Rev. Father Bruenaegel.

The ladies Alter society served an excellent decaition dinner and supper in St. Boniface hall. At dinner they entertained over 250 guests and supper was served to an equal number. The ladies had a busy time but enjoyed the work and are to be congratulated on their success.

The new St. Boniface church will be the great testimonial of Catholic religious life and enterprise in this vicinity for years to come and a credit to the town of Wimbledon.

Our local contractor, Mr. J. R. Clausen, who held the contracts for the rectory and the church deserves the highest recommendation for the work he has executed so well to the full satisfaction of the building committee and for the completion of the church, the pastor wishes to extend his sincere thanks to all who have helped him financially or otherwise in the realization of his plans.—Wimbledon News.



St. Boniface Church, Wimbledon, N. D.

The day will be recorded in the annals of the church, in the history of the town and in the memory of the people for ages to come. Never was a larger conflux of faithful seen in this vicinity at any religious celebration. More than 400 people were worshipping within the church when the Rt. Rev. Bishop J. Shanley D. D. began the dedication ceremonies.

The procession left the rectory at 10 o'clock headed by six little brides of honor dressed in white, the Altar boys in Cossock and Turplice holding torches and holy water, then came the assistant priests and the Rt. Rev. Bishop in episcopal purple with mitre and crozier. After the opening prayer in front of the entrance to the church the bishop preceded to sprinkle the outside walls with holy water saying the antiphon "Asperges me" i. e. "Sprinkle me Lord with hyssop and I shall be cleaned, wash me and I shall be made whiter than snow" the priests followed the bishop praying the psalm "miserere".

Having returned at the entrance of the church the bishop prayed in the official prayers that the almighty may deign to accept this place of worship, which has been erected by His devoted people for Divine Service and placed the church under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin, St. Boniface and all the Saints.

After this bishop and priests entered the church. Having arrived at the high Altar the

ascending the Altar steps the "Confiteor" was said whilst the choir music filled the Sacred edifice with the beautiful, masterly and impressive chant of the church.

The organist and singers of the choir deserved great credit for the manner in which they rendered the sacred music. The "O Sponsa me" a duet was especially well executed.

Programmes were distributed to enable everybody to follow the principal parts of the Holy Mass.

The ceremonial of the church in her sacred functions is grand rich in meaning and full of dignity which deeply impresses unto devotion the people who participate in the divine Sacrifice of the Mass. It is through her ceremonies as well as through her prayers that the church speaks to God her praise and adoration and thanksgiving. In absence of the orator of the day who was unable to attend, the Rt. Rev. Bishop addressed the congregation in his usual pleasing manner. In his introduction he recalled memories of the past, the missionary days in relation to the origin and phenomenal growth of the diocese of Fargo, of which he has been bishop for 19 years. In the course of his address he highly praised the Catholics of Wimblon for their loyalty towards the church. He greatly appreciated their friendly cooperation with the priest in charge which resulted in the erection of the magnificent and splendidly furnished church