

# Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church History

(Part I of a 3 Part Series)



In the early homestead years there wasn't any church in the Pleasant Valley area and Fr. Vogel, the resident priest from Cherry Creek would come and have mass a few times a year at the Jacob Heil home, Margaret Heil Becker's parents.

As time went on and more people moved into the Pleasant Valley area. John Heidt homesteaded in 1910 followed by the Shoener family. The Jacob Heil family came in 1917 followed by Joe Schatz, Gabe, John and Tony Ganje. The Ehli, Dosch and Fischer families were next. They were followed by Jack and Frank Neigel, Joe Bosch and the Fiest family. It was evident that a church was necessary. In 1921, with the help of the Catholic Extension Service, the basement of the Pleasant Valley Church, Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, was built.

In 1923, Fr. J.H. Golden arrived and under his supervision the church was built on the basement. Later a parish house was moved in and additions were built to it. Fr. Golden served this mission post until about 1929.

It was established as a parish and Fr. Vogel was moved to Pleasant Valley from Cherry Creek. He served as resident until 1931.

In 1931, Fr. Sullivan arrived and was resident priest until 1936.

In 30's were dry years and people started to move out of the Pleasant Valley area. With many of the parishioners moving, Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church went back to being a mission. It was served by Fr. Isherwood, pastor of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Dupree, SD, until about 1938. Fr. Isherwood would come about twice a month and celebrate mass in the parish house.

The Pleasant Valley Church set idle for several years and so Fr. Golden, the resident priest from All Saints in Eagle Butte sold the Pleasant Valley Church in 1944 to Bill Maupin. Bill traded it for a restaurant in Eagle Butte. Later the church was moved into Eagle Butte and converted into what it is today, part of the American Legion building.

The parish house was purchased by the Bowman Bros. and moved into Eagle Butte and at the present time is the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Bowman.

Before 1926, the records were recorded with the All Saints records in Eagle Butte; therefore no marriage, baptism, death or confirmation records were available before the above date. As remembered by some of the Pleasant Valley parishioners in 1923 Annie Heil and Don Shoener were the first couple to be married in the Pleasant Valley Church.

The following is a list of some of the priests that served the Pleasant Valley Parish either as a mission or as a resident priest; Fr. John Vogel, Fr. J.H. Golden, Fr. John Emonts, Fr. J. Hammerstein, Fr. W.B. Isherwood, Fr. J.E. Sullivan and Fr. Joseph Vorman.

The following is some statistics of the Pleasant Valley Church:

1928 First Communion Class: Anton Bosch, Gabriel Ganje, Joseph Ganje, Anton Schatz, Magdalena Ganje, Margaret Schatz, Barbara Ganje, Julia Fiest and Joseph J. Ganje.

1929 First Communion Class: Angeline Ehli and Therese Fiest.

1930 First Communion Class: Anton J. Ganje, Edward Ganje, Philomene Ehli and Barbara Schatz.

Baptisms: Eugene Ganje, Anna

Mary Ehli, Wilhelm Fischer, Marcelinus Kiefel, Elizabeth Florin Shoener, Andrew Fischer, Danni Shoener, Carolina Magdalena Ehl Timothy David Shoener, Josep Bosch, Leo Fischer, Odett Josephine O'Neal, Bernard Ganje Terrence Heil, Maurice Dea Pfeiffer, James Caspar Fischer, Mary Frances Ganje, Eul Rousseau, Benjamin Schatz, Ann Bell Lopez, Clarence Bosch, Marth Lightfield, Dolores Heil and Alber John Ganje.

1928 Confirmation Class: Marti Fiest, Pius Ganje, Rose Fischer, Rose Heil, Gabriel Ganje, Bernar Heil, Mary Ganje, Nicholas Ganje, Catherine Fischer and Elizabeth Heil.

1931 Confirmation Class: Anto Schatz, Albert Ganje, Philemen Ehli, Barbara Ganje, Joe Ganje, Barbara Schatz, Angeline Ehli, Regina Ehli, Anton Ganje, France Schatz, Margaret Schatz and Kat Ehli.

1935 Confirmation Class: Barbar Heil, Ben Ganje, Iola Frances Heil, Clarence Ganje, Edmund Ganje and Clarence Edward Heil.

Deaths: Joseph Fischer, Henr Fischer, Frances Fischer, Wendell Bosch, Herman Ganje, Leo Fische and Permilla Shoener Strever.

Marriages: Casper Fischer and Catherine Bosch, George Till and Elizabeth Stephenson, John Littl Eagle and Nellie Kane, Raymon Becker and Margaret Heil, Ronni Rousseau and Grace Carlin, Josep Bosch and Katherine Fischer, Joh Little Eagle and Maime Kills Prett Enemy, Oscar Floyd Farrell and Permella Maher, Moses Make Roor and Margaret Roach, Walter Cree and Jennie Crow, and John Heil and Anna M. Shoener.