

## **Timeline - The Beginnings of Fordyce Parish 1907-1958**

- 1907 – Town of Fordyce was established (named after a train dispatcher, W. J. Fordyce)
- 1908- That spring, a group of men asked the Bishop of Omaha, Richard Scannell, for permission to build a church.
- 1908- In August the cornerstone was laid – First pastor was Fr. Pieper. Fr. Brass, pastor at Constance had supervised the work of the building. The same church is still here; cost was approximately \$10,760.00 including the furnishings. There were 30 families.
- 1909- The church was blessed and Mass was celebrated on February 18<sup>th</sup>
- 1909- In October, Fr. Bernard Teves became the first resident pastor.
- 1909- On August 23<sup>rd</sup> The Parish was officially incorporated.
- 1911- On May 22<sup>nd</sup> – At a meeting of the church committee and pastor decided to hire the School Sisters of St. Francis to teach in the local public school. A home was rented across from the church, (now owned by Joe and Amanda Potts).
- 1911- September, Sisters Carola, Donata and Raphael began their teaching duties. They taught until June of 1919.
- 1912- In May, the remainder of the debt of the church was paid off after only four years.
- 1912- In October, Fr. Teves was sent to Europe to further his studies. Fr. Stahl from Battle Creek took his place until Fr. Teves returned in July of 1913.
- 1913- In the fall, Fr. Victor End was appointed pastor. He was at Fordyce for 21 years as a Pastor.
- 1920- On September 29<sup>th</sup>, the new school was dedicated. The cost of the new school was \$42,000. The School Sisters have been teaching at Fordyce since that time.
- 1920- The new school had been built and the Sisters returned.
- 1934- Fr. End died. Fr. Westerman helped the Parish while he was sick.
- 1935- March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Father Daniel Reifenrath was appointed pastor.
- 1942- June 26<sup>th</sup> Fr. Reifenrath was transferred to West Point.
- 1942- June – Fr. Peter Vanderlaan was appointed pastor of Fordyce. The new Wurlitzer was purchased during this time for \$4000.00. Fr. Vanderlaan had a heart attack and resigned in August 1952. Fr. Vanderlaan died in June of 1953.
- 1952 – September 11<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Conrad Kaup became pastor of Fordyce. Fr. End and Fr. Vanderlaan were buried in St. John the Baptist Cemetery
- 1952- Church windows were weather-stripped and the School received a new roof and the Sisters' living quarters were remodeled. (Sisters lived in school until 1972).
- 1954- New rectory was built (old rectory had been bought from a family in 1909). Cost \$35,000.00.
- 1958- Parish 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee
- 1958 - Last payment on rectory – all debts paid. 96 families
- 1958 - 440 Parishioners, all children in Catholic grade school, most high school students in Holy Trinity High School or Mount Marty. During those first 50 years – 676 baptisms, 160 marriages, 148 deaths in the records.