

## HISTORY OF SAINT PATRICK CATHOLIC PARISH Typed and updated by Pat Metzger

Dubuque's first bishop, Mathias Loras, assigned the first resident pastor to northwest Iowa in 1857 at Corpus Christi Parish of Fort Dodge.

The exact date of the arrival of the first priest in Estherville is unknown. It is believed that the first known priest who served the Catholic people of Estherville was Father Aylward. In 1857, from his station in Fort Dodge, Rev. Aylward was in charge of the territory of Northwest Iowa. It is presumed that Rev. Aylward visited Estherville during his years in Fort Dodge.

The next priest to take charge of the territory was Father John Smith, who was stationed in Emmetsburg in 1871. Rev. Smith celebrated Mass as often as possible in the homes of the few Catholic families residing in Estherville. By 1872, Rev. Smith had established parishes in the northwest territory including: Garner, Britt, Algona, St. Joseph, Emmetsburg, Estherville, Armstrong, Spirit Lake, Lake Park, Spencer, Primghar, Sheldon, Sibley, Rock Rapids, and Rock Valley.

Rev. Smith was assisted in his duties in 1881 by Father Norton. Rev. Norton continued to work in the Estherville area, offering Mass and administering the Sacraments until 1887, at which time Father Luke Carroll was appointed pastor of Estherville, Ruthven, Aryshire, and Spencer. Rev. Carroll resided at Ruthven, and served the parish of Estherville as a mission parish.

In 1890, Rev. Luke Carroll built the first Catholic Church in Estherville. There were five Catholic families living in Estherville at the time. These five families gave Rev. Carroll his principal assistance in the erection of the church building and in establishing the parish. The heads of these five families each had been named after Saint Patrick. They were Patrick Howe, Patrick Sullivan, Patrick Riley, Patrick Bagan, and Patrick Murray. Because of this coincidence and also because of the great personal devotion of Rev. Carroll to the Irish Saint, it was decided to name the Catholic Church in Estherville, 'Saint Patrick Catholic Church.'

Patrick Howe and Patrick Sullivan were employed by the railroad at that time and persuaded their company to donate the land where the church and subsequently the house stood on South Ninth Street, also to donate the tract of land south of Estherville, presently St. Patrick Cemetery. At that time there were probably not over twenty-five families in the little parish, and the church, small as it was, it served their needs very well. This small church was later sold to the Catholic people of Ledyard, to be used as their first church.

Father John Kelly, a young priest from Dublin, Ireland, came to Estherville as the first resident pastor in 1891. Under Rev. Kelly's direction, the first rectory was built. Rev. Kelly also served parishes in Forest City, Bancroft, and Armstrong.

By this time, there were probably thirty-five families in the parish, mostly railroad people. Among the pioneer families in St. Patrick Parish, in addition to the five families already mentioned, were the families of; William Fahey, John Kirby, George Sykes, Walter Wratten, Loren White, James Doyle, Tom Doyle, Henry Long, John Waldron, William Coady, John Kriebs, William McKenna, Tomas Maher, Walter Crowell, M.J. Kelly, Herman Sauer, Pat Cain, Albert 'Bert' Schacherer, Pat Heaton, John Morrissey, William Quinn, John Murphy, Ed Donahue, Matt Kehoe, John Hamilton, James P. Kennedy, and William Helsinky.

Once a month, young Rev. Kelly made visits to the out-missions. To reach the out-missions, Rev. Kelly traveled long distances by horse and buggy, stopping for the night at the home of a parishioner. Iowa climate being very extreme, the young priest made great sacrifices in fulfilling his priestly ministry.

Reverend Kelly established the church in Graettinger in 1891, which he continued to serve from Estherville. In 1898, Rev. Kelly moved to Graettinger. Father Michael Daly was appointed as the second resident pastor of Estherville.

Rev. Michael Daly served as pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Estherville from 1898 to 1901.

The Diocese of Sioux City was established by a decree of His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII, on January 15, 1902, by the separation of twenty-four counties in northwest Iowa, from the territory of the archdiocese of Dubuque. At the time of its establishment, the Diocese of Sioux City had a Catholic population of 50,000. There were at that time 95 priests in 84 parishes and 32 missions. Pope Leo XIII named as first Bishop of Sioux City the Rt. Rev. Philip J. Garrigan, a native of Ireland, on June 18, 1902.

Rev. Daly was succeeded by his brother, Father John Daly, who served as pastor of Estherville until 1907.

During the Rev. John Daly tenure, construction of the red brick church on South Ninth Street was begun. Before it was completed however, Rev. John Daly returned to Ireland, and Father Joseph Murtagh succeeded him as pastor. The church was completed and dedicated on October 13, 1907. On May 14, 1912, the parish was officially incorporated. During this period, plans were being formulated for a parochial school and three-fourths of a block of property was purchased.

Rev. Murtagh served St. Patrick Church until 1920, when he was resigned because of ill health; Rev. Murtagh was succeeded by Father Herman Schleier. Rev. Schleier served only a few months before he was transferred to Sacred Heart Parish at Spencer.

The Estherville Knight of Columbus, a fraternal order of Catholic men, was organized in October 1919. The Knights of Columbus have continued to function as an active order of Catholic men, with duly elected officers and members, assisting as needed in the development of the Catholic ideals in the Estherville area.

Bishop Garrigan died October 14, 1919, and The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XV appointed Bishop Rev. Edmond Heelan as the second Bishop of Sioux City Diocese, Bishop Heelan was also a native of Ireland.

Court Joyce Kilmer #460 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas was organized in Estherville April of 1920. The Catholic Daughters have been continuously chartered since their organization in 1920, dedicated to the concept of inspiring Catholic women in the ideals of unity and charity.

Father Clarence Conway became pastor in 1920 and remained until 1927. His parishioners remembered Rev. Conway as small of stature, but with remarkable speaking ability.

Father William Viet served St. Patrick Parish from 1927 to 1930.

Father L. J. Savage became pastor in 1930. Rev. Savage established the first religious vacation school in the parish, securing three seminarians to assist him for two weeks in the summer, to teach catechism to the children. This vacation school continued for many years.

During Rev. Savage's tenure, the red brick rectory on South Ninth Street was built, at an estimated cost of \$25,000. This spacious and comfortable home, designed to provide living quarters for the pastor, and to accommodate overnight guests, was situated beside the red brick church, in the position of the original old house.

Father John J. Keane became the pastor in 1938, he was a leader in both spiritual and community affairs. Rev. Keane contributed much to the growth of St. Patrick Parish. Through his efforts, the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother of Milwaukee, Wisconsin were persuaded to come to Estherville to take over the operation of Holy Family Hospital.

While the early records are incomplete, it is believed that Rev. Keane was instrumental in establishing the Altar and Rosary Society of St. Patrick Parish. This is an organization, which includes all the ladies of the parish, dedicated to assisting the pastor, as needed, with both the spiritual and temporal needs of the parish, with members devoted to promoting the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

In 1946 Bishop Heelan reported to Pope Pius XII that his health was failing. The Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, then sent Bishop Thomas L. Noa to Sioux City. One year later in 1947, Bishop Noa was reassigned and Bishop Joseph M. Mueller was appointed Bishop of Sioux City Diocese by Pope Pius XII. Joseph Maximillian Mueller, a native of St. Louis, was named coadjutor in 1947 and became the Ordinary of the diocese on September 20, 1948

For reasons of ill health, Rev. Keane resigned his parish duties in 1949 and died at St. Benedict Convent in Sioux City on March 15, 1950.

In December of 1949, Father James H. Duhigg was appointed pastor of St. Patrick Church in Estherville; his former parish was in Livermore, Iowa.

1950, Father Gerald Zensen was appointed the first assistant pastor; Father Patrick Nooney succeeded Rev. Zensen in June of 1952.

In the fall of 1950, a drive was launched to raise funds for the erection of St. Patrick Catholic School and Social Center. A building committee was selected to develop plans for this project. Members of this building committee were Henry J. Nepl, Louis Krier, Geroge Reuland, Ted Schacherer, Hector O'Riley, Leo E. Fitzgibbons, F. J. Kennedy, L. E. Collins, Frank P. Lown, O. J. McKirchy, John Koster, Matt Donovan, and George Calhan.

By the spring of 1951, plans were completed, and the school and social center was constructed at a cost of \$275,000. The school opened for classes on September 2, 1952, with an enrollment of 120 children, grades one through eight. Staffed by the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother, from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the school contained eight classrooms, office, library, two music practice rooms, chapel, lunchroom, meeting room, kitchen, and auditorium / gymnasium. Bishop Joseph M. Mueller, D. D., formally blessed and dedicated the school on October 19, 1952.

Father Patrick Nooney served as assistant pastor from 1952 until 1957.

Father Gerald Fisch was assigned as the assistant pastor to St. Patrick Parish 1957.

In 1960, plans were formulated for a convent for the Sisters. Construction was completed in 1962, at the cost of \$55,000. This home for the Sisters was a well-equipped convent, with chapel, community room, living room, dining room, kitchen, nine bedrooms, bathrooms, and a recreation room.

It was during the year of 1962, that St. Patrick Parish was acknowledged by His Holiness, Pope John XXIII. Rev. James H. Duhigg was elevated to the rank of Domestic Prelate. At the same time two laymen, Francis Kennedy and Leo Fitzgibbons, both Estherville attorneys, were honored as Knights of Saint Gregory.

Rev. Fisch assisted in St. Patrick Parish until 1963, having full responsibility for many months during the illness of Rev. Duhigg.

Father James E. Fangman became the assistant pastor in 1963. Rev. Fangman was instrumental in bringing the Legion of Mary to St. Patrick Parish. The Legion of Mary is an organization of Catholic men and women, who aid the pastor in performing spiritual works on the parish. It functions under the auspices of the Bishop of the diocese, and in cooperation with and under the direction of the pastor of the parish. The first meeting was held on September 29, 1964, with eleven prospective Legionnaires attending: Earl and Dorothy Nepl, Nolan and Lena Boggess, Marvin and Nina Boever, Jerry and Hazel Hood, Opal Korleski, Alice Heywood, and Vincent Maloney. The apostolic work undertaken by the Legion of Mary includes visiting all members of the parish, hospital and nursing home visitation, with special attention given to the aged or disabled person.

The hopes and dreams of a new St. Patrick Church and rectory became a reality in 1962, when more than \$300,000 was pledged for this purpose. Property had been accumulated over the years at the corner of Ninth Street (Hwy 4) and Central Avenue (Hwy 9) for the location of the new church and rectory. Members of the building committee selected to develop plans for the structure were Leo E. Fitzgibbons, Earl Bagan (grandson of Patrick Bagan), Earl Nepl, Claude Timmins, and Howard O'Brien.

In 1966 the church and rectory were designed by Stanley J. Howe and Associates of Omaha, Nebraska. Fagre Construction Company of Estherville built the church and rectory, using Mankato Area Stone, with Indiana Limestone trim, and a clay tile roof. The Peter Dohman Studios of St. Paul, Minnesota designed the windows and mosaics, which were made in Cologne, West Germany. The Mosaic is massive. It rises at least 50 feet above the floor and is about 20 feet wide. The large image of the Transfigured Jesus seemed to glow. The artist (Leonard Ratkovec) intentionally constructed the front wall so the top of the Mosaic is about 10 feet closer to the Main Altar than the bottom part. The church was designed for a seating capacity of seven hundred fifty, with office and rectory joined to the church proper. The approximate cost of the completed project was a half million dollars.

Frank Greteman was consecrated as auxiliary bishop of Sioux City on May 26, 1965, at the Cathedral of the Epiphany in Sioux City, and became the Ordinary in 1970. Born in Willey, Iowa, he was the first priest native to northwest Iowa to become a bishop, and the first Iowa priest to serve his home diocese as bishop.

Bishop Joseph Mueller dedicated the new Saint Patrick Church on Sunday, October 30, 1966, on the Feast Day of Christ the King, at ceremonies prior to an afternoon Dedication Mass. Auxiliary Bishop Frank H. Greteman gave the homily during the Mass.

On August 1, 1968, Rev. Fangman was transferred to Immaculate Conception in Sioux City, and Father Lawrence Burns became the assistant pastor.

Upon the resignation of Bishop Mueller from active duty in December of 1970, Pope Paul VI appointed Most Rev. Frank H. Greteman as Auxiliary Bishop.

In early 1971, because of the inability of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother to continue to staff the school, the painful decision was reached to close the school. It became necessary to employ a coordinator to direct the religious education programs of the parish. This position was filled over the years by various individuals, including William McGuire, Don Schiltz, Nancy Heyer, Rita Hendrickson, Betty Ann Rosfjord, Madonna Frazer and Kathy Cornwall.

In December of 1970, acting on directives of Vatican II, Msgr. James H. Duhigg appointed a steering committee, selected from members of St. Patrick Parish, whose function was to lay the groundwork for the formation of a Parish Council. A constitution and bylaws were developed and approved on April 19, 1971. The election of the first St. Patrick Council was set. Elected were Rosemary Bennett, Marvin Boever, Marilyn Bose, Harold Carr, David Fitzgibbons, Richard Haan, Alice Heywood, Kathy Jasper, Mike Maloney, Carol Pluth, Betty Parsons, Jim Ricke, Elsie Smith, Eldon Swanson, James Tholkes, Don Thornburg, Claude Timmins, and Doris Wycoff. The Council was set up to function under the committees of Worship, Education, Finance, Administration, Parish Life, and Public relations. The Parish Council was instrumental in the organization of the religious education programs, the renovation of St. Patrick Cemetery, and in remodeling some areas in the school.

A Parish Council was formed in 1971. The Council was the guiding force in the formation of religious education program. This group spearheaded the renovation of St. Patrick Cemetery. They also became involved in the development of various projects and programs of the parish. Over the years, the Parish Council has evolved into the Pastoral Council, with its stated purpose to give counsel and direction to pastoral activities, deal with the mission of the Church, and help design procedures and processes by which the pastoral work of the church is accomplished.

In 1975 Msgr. Duhigg announced his retirement from parish duties, effective on January 22, 1975. On this same date, Father Burns was assigned new duties as chaplain of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Sioux City, Iowa. Rev. Burns served St. Patrick Parish as assistant for more than six years, and endeared himself to all the parishioners, as well as the people in the community, especially to the Mexican community who were members in the parish. Rev. Burns also had a special ministry to prisoners. At the time of Msgr. Duhigg's retirement in 1975, the St. Patrick School and Social Center was renamed the Duhigg Center, in honor of Msgr. Duhigg's many years of dedicated service and in remembrance of his many contributions to the parish.

Rev. Albert O. Grendler became the pastor of St. Patrick Parish on January 22, 1975 and served in this capacity until July 1986. It was during this period that the parish grew in the implementation of the Vatican II directives. Beautiful changes in the celebration of the liturgy took place. A Parish staff was established and new emphasis was placed on lay ministry.

Rev. Thomas Flanagan became the associate pastor on June 14, 1977 and served until July 31, 1980. Rev. Flanagan had a special rapport with the youth of the parish and was instrumental in establishing youth programs and a youth choir.

In August of 1976, St. Patrick Parish welcomed the arrival of two religious Sisters from the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of Dubuque. Sister Rosina Ressler and Sister Shirley Waldschmidt were appointed pastoral assistants and immediately became active in their role of enriching the spiritual life of the parishioners with whom they came in contact. Sister Shirley served from 1976 to 1979, and Sister Rosina served from 1976 until 1983. Sister Diane Hungerford's tenure was from 1979 until 1985. Sister Kay Forkenbrock joined the staff in 1980 as liturgist and functioned in that capacity until June of 1989. It was under Sister Kay's direction that music in the liturgies at St. Patrick Parish reached new vitality. Jayne Friedrich was hired as Music Minister in 1989, after Sr. Kay left.

Construction of the pipe organ by Rick L. Darrow of Sioux City was completed June 1982. In memory of Frank Dobberstein, on February 13, 1983 there was a celebration of Dedication of the Darrow Pipe Organ at St. Patrick Parish. Rev. Grendler was the celebrant. Sister Kay Forkenbrock directed the choir.

On January 25, 1983, Pope John Paul II accepted the resignation of Bishop Greteman. Pope John Paul II appointed Lawrence D. Soens as the Bishop of Sioux City Diocese. The Episcopal ordination of Bishop Lawrence Soens, a native of the Diocese of Davenport, took place on August 17, 1983, at the Cathedral of the Epiphany.

Rev. Thomas Topf became pastor on July 17, 1986. Rev. Topf continued to develop the liturgical celebrations in accordance with Vatican II directives. Rev. Topf served as pastor until 1993.

Sister Ann Marie Dunn served as a pastoral assistant for one year, in 1986.

A celebration, commemorating 100 years of Catholic presence in Estherville, Iowa, was observed on April 21, 1991. Bishop Lawrence D. Soens, Bishop of Sioux City Dioceses, presided at the centennial liturgy. Concelebrants were Rev. Thomas Topf, pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Rev. Ben Jensen, Rev. Albert Grendler, Rev. Thomas Flanagan, and Rev. Patrick Nooney. Rev. Robert Pierson, O.S.B., served as the homilist. A reception followed the centennial liturgy, welcomed all present and former parishioners and guests, priests and sisters from the parish, all former pastors and associates, as well as religious and lay teachers and staff members who were a part of St. Patrick Parish or St. Patrick School. Sister Joan Bartosh was hired at St. Patrick Parish in 1987, as pastoral associate. Sr. Joan's religious order was, School Sisters of Notre Dame. She served the parish until 1999.

With the influx of Hispanics to the Sioux City Diocese during the early 1990's, the diocese responded by securing Sister Carol Hawkins as a minority pastoral outreach worker, and Rev. Randy Guerdet as co-director of human development and minorities. In 1992, St. Patrick Parish made an effort to respond to the needs of the Hispanic population in Estherville by scheduling Spanish Mass once a month, with Rev. Randy Guerdet presiding at the liturgy and Sr. Carol helping with the needs of the of the Spanish speaking community. The Hispanic children were included in the religious education programs. The Duhigg Center Kitchen Project was started on September 14, 1992 and completed in the spring of 1993. Through volunteer labor from St. Patrick Parishioners, an addition to the kitchen space at Duhigg Center, the 18' X 28' addition, nearly doubled the kitchen space. The everyday volunteer workers included: a 59 year old masonry man/janitor-Jack Fredricksen who was the ramrod of the project, a 46 year old cleaning lady-Pat Metzger, a 71 year old retired cabinet maker/house builder-Barney McCormick, a 66 year old retired barber- Don Ludwig, a 66 year old retired truck driver-Duane Wunn, a 78 year old retired farmer-Lawrence Reding, a 70 year old retired mechanic/welder-Ben Bendixen, and a 66 year old retired brick layer-Ed Kroenke. The short time help included a salesman, farmer, road builder and a few others. There were delays included: after the first two days, it was discovered there was no permit yet, there were 2 funerals, 2 rainy days, 2 weeks for the roof, and 1 week for bricks to arrive. Christensen-Larson Construction constructed the roof at the cost of \$8,790. The project was completed 12 days beyond projected finish date with the total cost including the roof \$38,734.23. Nearly five months of effort, with more than 2,000 hours of volunteer labor went into completing the project. At the same time the building was made handicap accessible. An open house at the expanded facility was held on March 21, 1993, with Rev. Topf giving the blessing.

July 15, 1993 Father Thomas Nash became Pastor of St. Patrick Parish. Rev. Nash had 40 years of priestly experiences; also he had served in Africa for three years where he was a teacher of seminarians.

July 15, 1995 St. Patrick Parish, Estherville / St. Mary Parish, Armstrong became a clustered parish. Rev. Nash served as pastor of both parishes and lived in the Estherville Rectory, with Carol Anderson appointed as the pastoral minister at Armstrong. The reasons for the clustering were the changing demographics, a shift in the population from rural to urban areas, combined with a declining number of priests. The transition

to the clustering mode was well received, thanks to the positive and cooperative attitudes of both parishes. Even though Armstrong is approximately 18 miles from Estherville, and while Rev. Nash was fully capable of driving the route himself, 104 different St. Patrick Parishioners or families drove Rev. Nash to and from each Armstrong service on every Saturday and Sunday of the year. This particular cluster 'Armstrong/Estherville' was viewed as somewhat of a model to be followed by other parishes in the diocese as the diocese reached the clustering phase of 'Ministry 2000.'

On August 19, 1997, it was announced that Pope John Paul II had appointed Msgr. Daniel N. DiNardo as Bishop of Sioux City Diocese, with his ordination on October 7, 1997. Bishop Daniel DiNardo, a native of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, became the sixth Ordinary in 1998. Bishop DiNardo was reassigned in 2004.

Rev. Thomas Nash received the distinction of Prelate of Honor, bestowed by the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, in October 1998, giving Rev. Nash the title of Monsignor. Msgr. Nash served as pastor until he retired July 13, 1999. Upon retiring, Msgr. Nash moved to Carroll and died a few months later on October 4, 1999.

On July 14, 1999 Rev. Jerome Cosgrove became the pastor of St. Patrick / St. Mary Cluster Parish. Rev. Cosgrove served both parishes until July 2007 when Rev. Cosgrove semi-retired and moved to Sioux City.

In 2000 the former convent was remodeled and renamed Nash Center. The Nash Center was used for parish activities and for religious education.

Construction by Christensen Construction Company for the Bell Tower was February 2003. The tower is located at the front entrance of the church on the corner of Highway 9 and Highway 4. The Tower is made of field stone with slate used at intervals for the walls and cut stone cap, 10' X 10' X 44', the tower matches the church. The bell is the original bell from the former church and its value is estimated at \$40,000, the bell was cast in 1913 and has been silent since 1966. The total cost of the tower was \$158,800. The estates of Milo and Rose Gillespie and Arthur and Agnes Hageman were used for the construction of the tower. Rev. Cosgrove was the pastor when the Bell Tower was constructed.

2004 Bishop Daniel DiNardo was named Coadjutor Bishop of Galveston-Houston, Texas. In the absence of a bishop for our dioceses Rev. Msgr. Roger J. Augustine served as Administrator of Dioceses of Sioux City from 2004 until 2005 when the Pope assigned a Bishop Walker.

Rev. Cosgrove was instrumental in the remodeling of St. Patrick Church. The remodeling in the church began September 2005 with a gathering space created within the existing church, with a glass wall sitting on top of a stone wall separating the gathering space from the body of the church. New handicap restrooms, new location for Baptismal Font, and the new Confessional were part of the remodeling. The seating capacity was reduced by removing pews from the back of the church to make room for the project. The remodeling project was completed in the spring of 2006 when the newly restored cross was replaced back in the holder on the rooftop of the church. Total cost for the remodeling was \$216,000. Installation of new heating and air conditioning units were installed, cost was \$255,000. The parking lot was blacktopped at a cost of \$23,500. Memorial gifts given by members of the parish, parishioners remembered the parish in their wills, parishioners' pledges, and saving accounts from the past helped pay for the project.

On April 2, 2005 the world was saddened with death of the 264<sup>th</sup> Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. Pope John Paul II was one of the most beloved worldwide public figures of all times. He became Pope in 1978 and remained active until his death in 2005. Pope John Paul II was the first Polish pope and first non-Italian pope in 455 years. He canonized more saints than all his predecessors combined. Pope John Paul II traveled

extensively. He was the 2nd longest serving pope; beatified by Pope Benedict XVI on May 1, 2011. He was canonized a saint on April 27, 2014 by Pope Francis I.

Mother Theresa of Calcutta and Pope John Paul II were personal friends. Mother Teresa died on September 5, 1997. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II on October 19, 2003. She was canonized a Saint on September 4, 2016 by Pope Francis I.

Pope Benedict XVI was elected as Pope on April 19, 2005. Pope Benedict was the first German pope since 1057. Pope Benedict XVI is the oldest to become pope since 1730. He resigned in 2013.

Most Reverend R. Walker Nickless was appointed as the seventh Bishop of Sioux City on November 10, 2005 by Pope Benedict XVI. Bishop Nickless was the first Bishop that newly elect Pope Benedict XVI appointed. Bishop Nickless was formally ordained and installed as bishop on January 20, 2006 in a ceremony at the Church of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ in Sioux City. St. Patrick Parish was the first Confirmation for Bishop Nickless to perform on February 26, 2006.

Bishop Nickless blessed the new bell tower and gathering space on July 29, 2006. Approximately 300 people were present at the Liturgy for the blessing and dedications.

July 2007 Rev. Brian C. Hughes became pastor of St. Patrick / St. Mary Parishes. August 10, 2008, Bishop Nickless sent Rev. Hughes to Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico, to learn to speak Spanish. August 2009 Rev. Hughes was having health problems and it was discovered that he had colon cancer that was caught at its earliest stages. He had surgery September 22, 2009 in Rochester. Rev. Hughes was back as pastor February 2010. Rev. Hughes served St. Patrick Estherville/St. Mary Armstrong Parishes until July 19, 2011 when he was assigned to St. Mary Parish in Spirit Lake.

Sister Joyce Blom, FSPA arrived in Estherville in 2007 to be the Minister for Spanish speaking community. Sr. Joyce left St. Pat's parish May 2010.

Rev. Vern Stapenhorst was the acting pastor in Rev. Hughes' absence from August 2008 until December 2008. Again Rev. Stapenhorst was the acting pastor from October 2009 until February 2010, when Rev. Hughes was back on active duty.

On July 19, 2011 Bishop Walker Nickless re-clustered many parishes including Estherville / Graettinger Parishes clustered together. Bancroft / Ledyard / Armstrong Parishes clustered together.

Monsignor Michael D. Sernett was the pastor in Graettinger when he was assigned there in July 2007.

July 19, 2011 Msgr. Sernett became pastor of the newly clustered St. Patrick-Estherville/Immaculate Conception- Graettinger Parish. Msgr. Sernett lived in the rectory in Estherville and drove back and forth to Graettinger. July 14, 2014 Msgr. Sernett retired and moved to his home in Pocahontas Iowa.

With the closing of the Catholic School in early 1971, because of the inability of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother to continue to staff the school, the convent went through many changes. First the convent was use by the religious director and his family for living quarters. Following that, the convent was remodeled for housing some of the ECHO clients. Again a change was made with Nash Center and was use by the parish for classrooms and meetings. In 2012 the Nash Center was no longer being used by the parish and was sold to Mike Clarken, the brick building was moved by Forbes House Moving LTD, to the new location on the corner of South 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, total remodeling was done and made into an apartment complex.

Following the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI on February 28, 2013, Pope Francis I was elected by the conclave on March 13, 2013. He is the first pope from the Americas. Pope Francis I is the 266<sup>th</sup> pope.

July 15, 2014 Rev. Merlin J. Schrad arrived in Estherville and is the pastor for Estherville-Saint Patrick's and Graettinger-Immaculate Conception clustered parishes, living in the rectory in Estherville. Under the direction of Rev. Schrad and Finance Committee members, Ed Gruwell, Bob Schacherer, Jim Ricke, Carol Pluth, Bernie Duitsman, Elaine Prust, Dan Severson and Chuck Tostenson, 'Stop The Leaks Fundraiser' was launched on October 12, 2015 with a goal of raising \$72,000 and a stretch goal of \$110,000. Because of the success of the Razzle Dazzle Raffle, they were able to begin this campaign with the first \$15,000. Letters and pledge cards were sent to each family in the parish and the response was phenomenal: 149 pledges in the amount of \$170,077.00 with another \$2,620.00 in Memorials. Roof Repair on the Church Flat Roof was completed in October, 2015 by Nohava Roofing Company of Le Mars, Iowa; a Duro-Last roof system was installed at a cost of \$71,679.00. Cement Work at the main entrance of the church and some sidewalk replacement and repair began June 13, 2016 and was completed on June 24, 2016 by Boggess Construction - Tom Boggess at a cost of \$13,222. New Church Sign: Wiring was installed June 13, 2016 with the new sign installed and completed on June 30, 2016 at a total cost of \$13,404.65 by Roling Signs, Inc. of Sioux Rapids, IA. Inman Electric with Tom Inman has been installing the electrical wiring for these projects. New doors and Handicap doors were installed and completed on September 7, 2016 by Estherville Paint and Glass - John Peton at a cost of \$14,358.43. The final phase of "Stop the Leak" was completed in August of 2017 with the parking lot repaired with blacktop, cracks were filled in and the parking lines were painted at a cost of \$7,978.00. The three year campaign fund after the bills were paid stands at \$40,183.26.

On July 1, 2017, Estherville-St. Patrick's and Armstrong- St. Mary's were again clustered with the changes from Ministry 2025. Graettinger – Immaculate Conception clustered with Holy Family- Emmetsburg and Sacred Heart- Ruthven.

Over the years, St. Patrick Parish has nurtured vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Priests who have been ordained from this parish include: Father Robert O'Riley

Father Ivan Rovira Father Robert Pierson Father Ben Jensen Father Randy Guerdet

Records show that the following women entered the religious life: Inez Sauer – Sister M. Fidelis, RSM Religious Sister of Mercy

Buried: Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield, Michigan Julia Helinsky – Sister M. Rosalee, OSM Servants of Mary

Buried: Servants of Mary Cemetery, Omaha, Nebraska Viola Helinsky – Sister M. Rose Marie, OSF Order of St Francis

Buried: Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Dubuque, Iowa

Elizabeth Burns – Sister M. Elizabeth, RSM Religious Sister of Mercy

Retired: currently living in Farmington Hills, Michigan Lois Spear – Sister M. Marie Jude, OP Adrian Dominican Sisters

Buried: Adrian Dominican Sisters Cemetery, Adrian, Michigan Lucille Woods – Sister M. Cabrini, SSM Sisters of Sorrowful Mother

Left Order in 1968 buried: St. Patrick's Estherville, Iowa Margaret Wegs – Sister M. Jeremy, OSF Order of St Francis

Left Order in 1997 lives in Saginaw, Michigan

Hilda Iseminger – Sister M. Hildegard

Maxine Ellerbrock – Sister M. Coralita, RSM Religious Sister of Mercy

Buried: Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield, Michigan

Frances Lambert – Sister M. Geneva  
 Loretta Harvey – Sister M. Loretta  
 Margaret Campisano – Sister M.  
 Left Order  
 Mary Jo Martin – Sister M. Suzanne, SSM Sisters of Sorrowful Mother  
 Left Order  
 Linda Eral – Sister M. Albert, SSM Sisters of Sorrowful Mother  
 Left Order  
 Joan Spoo – Sister M. Consolata, SSM Sisters of Sorrowful Mother  
 Left Order  
 Ruth Schock – Sister Ruth Schock, OSF Order of St Francis  
 Currently: Professor at Briar Cliff in Sioux City Iowa  
 Popes from 1831 until today:

254 <sup>th</sup>	Gregory XVI	1831 – 1846
255 <sup>th</sup>	Pius IX	1846 – 1878
256 <sup>th</sup>	Leo XIII	1878 – 1903
257 <sup>th</sup>	Pius X	1903 – 1914
268 <sup>th</sup>	Benedict XV	1914 – 1922
259 <sup>th</sup>	Pius XI	1922 – 1939
260 <sup>th</sup>	Pius XII	1939 – 1958
261 <sup>st</sup>	John XXIII	1958 – 1963
262 <sup>nd</sup>	Paul VI	1963 – 1978
263 <sup>rd</sup>	John Paul I	1978 – 1978
264 <sup>th</sup>	John Paul II	1978 – 2005
265 <sup>th</sup>	Benedict XVI	2005 – 2013
266 <sup>th</sup>	Francis I	2013 –

The following men have served as Bishops of the Sioux City Diocese:

Philip Joseph Garrigan - March 21, 1902 - October 14, 1919 (His death)  
 Edmond Heelan - March 8, 1920 - September 20, 1948 (His death)  
 Joseph Maximilian Mueller - September 20, 1948 - October 20, 1970 (His retirement) Frank  
 Henry Greteman - October 15, 1970 - August 17, 1983 (His retirement)  
 Lawrence Donald Soens - June 15, 1983 - November 28, 1998 (His retirement)  
 Daniel N. DiNardo - November 28, 1998 - January 16, 2004 (Reassigned as the Coadjutor  
 Bishop of Galveston-Houston)  
 R. Walker Nickless - November 10, 2005–Present.

Sioux City Diocesan priests who became bishops:

Edmond Heelan, Auxiliary Bishop and Bishop of Sioux City  
 Frank Henry Greteman, Auxiliary Bishop and Bishop of Sioux City Dennis Marion Schnurr,  
 Bishop of Duluth, Archbishop of Cincinnati