



Clarence E Farrelly
Assistant Pastor Sacred Heart 1928-1932
Pastor of St. Mary's 1928-1932



Pastor of St. Mary's
1928-1932

Msgr. Farrelly, 86, dies in Emmetsburg



Msgr. Clarence E. Farrelly

Msgr. Clarence E. Farrelly, longtime pastor of St. Thomas Catholic Church, Emmetsburg, died September 8 at Palo Alto County Hospital, Emmetsburg after a long illness. He was 86.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m., September 11 at St. Thomas Church, Emmetsburg. Bishop Lawrence D. Soens was the principal celebrant of the mass. Rev. Donald Ries of Sioux City was the homilist. Burial was in St. John Cemetery, Emmetsburg, under the direction of the Martin Funeral Home, Emmetsburg.

Clarence Edward Farrelly was born March 20, 1901, in Chicago, IL. He at-

tended Corpus Christi Grade School in Chicago and graduated from DePaul Academy in 1920. He was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree from Loras College, Dubuque in 1923 and took his theology training from the Sulpician Seminary, Catholic University, Washington, D.C. He was also awarded an S.T.B. degree (Baccalaureate in sacred theology) and a Master's of Arts degree.

He was ordained for the Diocese of Sioux City on June 11, 1927, at the Cathedral of the Epiphany, Sioux City by Bishop Edmond Heelan.

His first assignment was at St. Jean Baptiste Church in Sioux City for five months, followed by his assignment to Sacred Heart Church in Boone from 1927-31 as assistant pastor.

His first pastorate was at Sacred Heart Parish, Laurens from 1931-44. While there in 1938, he supervised construction which doubled the size of the church.

On June 6, 1944, he was named pastor of St. Thomas Parish, Emmetsburg and remained there for the next 35 years until his retirement August 1, 1979. Following his retirement he resided at the Emmetsburg rectory.

He was instrumental in the building of Emmetsburg Catholic High School in 1952 and the addition of the gym and dining room in 1957.

For the diocese he held the position of Examiner of the Clergy and served on the Vigilance Committee.

Pope Paul VI named him a prelate of honor with the title, Monsignor, on June 25, 1974.

The Emmetsburg community named him Sportsman of the Year in 1980 and Citizen of the Year in 1981. He was a member of the Emmetsburg Rotary Club and Emmetsburg Booster Club. He served as Faithful Friar of the Bishop Heelan Council, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus.

Survivors include two sisters, Sister Mary Hillary, C.S.C., of South Bend, IN, and Mrs. Florence Hinchey of Chicago, IL.

Funeral of Michael F. Lacey

July 12, 1884

June 05, 1976

Boone, Iowa

June 9, 1976

My dear friends,

Bishop Edmond Heelan sent me as an assistant pastor to Father Edward Masterson in Boone in 1927. In those days the pastor said the two masses in Boone, and the assistant priest went out to St. Mary's mission. At the mission it was my custom to hear confessions for one half hour before mass, then offer mass and preach. After mass I then taught catechism to the children for one half hour.

When this was all done it was the custom for many, many years for the priest then to go to the Lacey home for break— Vast. I know that the priests ahead of me did this, like Father O'Malley, Father Mason, Father Hayes and others. I continued the practice. The priests that succeeded at, Fathers John Kelly and James Duhigg continued the practice.

It was always a pleasure to go to the Lacey home for breakfast. Mrs. Lacey and her three sons, John; Pat and Mike were always there. Sometimes a niece, Margaret, was also there. Very often she got breakfast, sometimes it was Pat. Often it was Mike or John. Everyone was willing to help. Mrs. Lacey was too old to do the work. Her relative, known to all of us as "Uncle Jim", was also present. But, he too was too old to do any of the work. But we all enjoyed being together. We always had a good visit.

Mike took care of the Church. I'm sure that he got no pay for it. It was a work of love to keep the Church warm, and clean and always ready for use. He also had the wine and water cruets for mass and took care of all these duties very faithfully. The Church was open and ready for use when the priest got there.

There were no electric lights in the Church in my day. When it was dark or cloudy, then we lighted more candles on the altar so the priest could read the prayers of the mass.

It was my pleasure and privilege to serve the people of St. Mary's Mission for nearly four years. ~These were four happy years. I remember so well the deep faith of the people, and how loyal and devoted they were both to the Church and to their priest. They loved their religion and their little Church. And I hope and pray that the children and the grandchildren of these parishioners will always have the deep faith and loyalty to their Church that their ancestors had. They never thought of missing mass thru their own fault. They even came to mass when the roads were bad, sometimes they walked to mass. One winter, 1930, many of us went to mass in a bob sled.

That winter of 1930 we had a heavy snow at Thanksgiving. We had more snow. The weather was cold. It did not thaw. The roads became blocked because of snow drifts. It was hard to keep the-roads open. That year I could not drive all the way to the mission because of the high snow drifts. So I drove as far as the George Fitzgerald farm. He had a team of horses hitched to a bob sled and that is the way I went to St. Mary's that winter of 1930. We all stood up in the sled, the large Fitzgerald family and myself. In those days there were still hitching posts in front of the Church. Many families came that winter in bob sleds, and hitched the team of horses to the posts in front of the Church. That winter I returned with the Fitzgerald's to their home after mass and had breakfast with them. The family was very kind and hospitable.

In the course of my four years with St. Mary's mission, and with the Lacey family I got to know the Lacey family very well. They were good, honest, hard working people. They were kind to each other, and generous to the Church, I felt it was a shame that none of the boys, John, Pat, or Mike were married. The good name of Lacey should be carried on. Many times I urged Mike to get married so that the Lacey family and its good name would not die out. I meant this. And how happy I was to learn that he did get married and had a family of six children and that the good name of Lacey was being carried on.

Today we think of these things. I did not intend to preach today. But the sight of so many of my old friends recalls so many pleasant memories of the Lacey family and the other good families of St. Mary's that I thought that a few words would be in order.

"Eternal rest granted unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him."

Clarence E, Farrelly