



Church of the Sacred Heart, 12th and Marshall in Boone

Past, present, come together in Sacred Heart Centennial

by **MARY PIEPER**
BOONE Today

When parishioners of the Church of the Sacred Heart celebrated the centennial of the church building at 12th and Marshall, October 9, 1994, the past and present came together.

Former pastors and assistant pastors at Sacred Heart, as well as men and women from Boone who have become priests and nuns, attended the special 2:30 p.m. Mass with the current parishioners. A reception in the Ryan gymnasium was held after Mass. Bishop Lawrence Soens of the Sioux City Diocese was present for the celebration.

Old pictures and objects were on display during the reception, and a booklet describing the rich history of Sacred Heart was made available to each family in the parish.

The history of the parish itself begins more than 30 years before the present church was built in 1894. It was on June 13, 1860, that Father John Marsh, driving an ox team over the open prairie from the northern part of Iowa, discovered two Catholic families in the little borough called Boonesboro, and said the first Mass in what is now the city of Boone.

Over the next few years, several priests served a small group of Catholic families in Boonesboro. Then, Father Delaney, the first permanent pastor, built a small church at the corner of 5th and Clay, and dedicated it to St. Joseph. At this time the congregation was experiencing a rapid increase, due to the building of the Chicago and Northwestern railroad across the state. Beginning in the mid-1870s, services were held in Ives' Hall on East Eighth Street to better accommodate the increasing number of parishioners. In 1880, a frame church, called Church of the Sacred Heart, was built at the corner of 12th and Marshall.

Catholic education began in Boone in 1887, when the Sacred Heart

School was established. The rectory was used as a schoolhouse. The first class of four students graduated in 1891.

The frame church at 12th and Marshall was replaced in 1894 by the stone church which continues to serve the parish to this day. The church was built with light brown sandstone in Romanesque style, with massive walls, circular heads and openings, heavy corners, and a battlement tower. The original interior design of the church featured a number of watercolor paintings. Some of the subjects represented included the Apparition of the Sacred Heart to Margaret Mary Alacoque, the landing of Columbus, Joan of Arc and St. Thomas of Aquin.

The church has gone through several redecorations over the years. The first was in 1914, when the walls, ceilings and sanctuary were decorated with oil paintings, replacing the watercolors. However, the original designs were retained.

In the 1930s, the parish lost 40 to 50 families when the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad offices were transferred from Boone to Chicago.

The interior of the church was repainted for the second time around 1937. The most significant change was replacing the original painting of the Apparition of the Sacred Heart, which was behind the main altar, to that of the Transfiguration of Jesus on Mt. Tabor.

A new Sacred Heart School was completed in 1952. The new building included a parish hall, stage and kitchen.

The church was redecorated again in 1954. The mural of the Transfiguration and the paintings in the nave, which were reproductions of the original paintings included when the church was first built, were retained and incorporated into the new decoration scheme.

During the 1960, parishioners adjusted to the liturgical changes adopted during Vatican Council II. Ryan High School was also built during this time period. Although high school classes had to be discontinued in 1970 due to prohibitive costs and a steady decline of religious education teachers available, the elementary school continued and made use of the high school building.

The fourth redecoration of the church took place in 1970, when the ornate Victorian decorations which had remained in the church since its construction were removed. The interior was painted light tan, and the altar was turned around so the priest faced the congregation during Mass. New oak altar furniture was obtained, and the interior of the church was replastered.

Several structural changes also took place during this time period. Doorways were cut between the sacristy room and music room into the body of the church. An entrance into the northeast corner of the church body was made by removing the lower portion of the first stained glass window on the east side of the church. To make the church more handicapped accessible, an elevator was installed in the east end of the vestibule. A restroom was also installed in the vestibule.

The most recent redecoration took place in 1989, when color and gold leaf stenciling were added.

Between the mid-60s and the mid-70s, the parish experienced steady growth. Each year the parish increased by about 20 families. By the mid-70s, the parish included almost 700 families. Today the parish includes approximately 750 families.

100-year-old time capsule found in Sacred Heart cornerstone

by MARY PIEPER
BOONE Today

While making plans for the centennial of the Church of the Sacred Heart, church members literally uncovered a piece of the past.

Parishioners decided to drill into the church cornerstone to recover a box placed in the cornerstone when the church was built 100 years ago. The box contained old coins, medals, a copy of the *Boone County Republican* newspaper from that time period, and a scroll written in Latin that listed local and national officials of the government and the church.

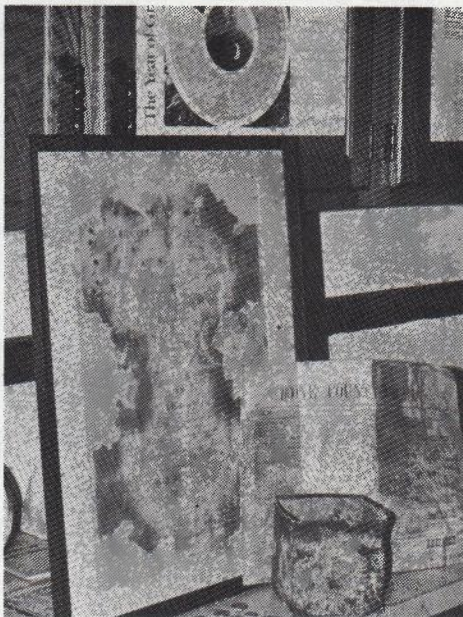
Donna Johnson, volunteer church historian and head of the Centennial Committee, first learned of the time capsule five years ago while looking through some old newspapers. She found an article from 1894 that mentioned the box buried in the cornerstone. This year she found another article about the time capsule.

The articles listed the items which were placed in the box, but did not state the exact location of the box. Therefore, guessing how far to drill into the cornerstone to recover the box was difficult, Johnson said.

Tony Franklin of Ben Franklin Masonry in Boone cut into the cornerstone. His drill went through the metal box inside, and also made a small hole in the Latin manuscript. That was the only damage, however.

The manuscript has been framed and was on display, along with the other items found from the time capsule, during the Centennial Celebration.

Church members plan to replace the 1894 time capsule with one from 1994. Items to be put in the time capsule include a current newspaper, a Knights of Columbus medal, a photograph of the church, a rosary and some 1994 coins.



The small metal box which was placed in the cornerstone of the Church of the Sacred Heart 100 years ago and the items which were inside it are pictured above: A Latin manuscript, some coins and medals, and an old copy of the *Boone County Republican*. Boone TODAY photo by Mary Pieper