

The 1980's

In late January of 1981, Monsignor Cowgill assumed the responsibility of General Coordinator for the visit to Anchorage of His Holiness Pope John Paul II. The parish was invited to assist once again, by a notice in the Sunday bulletin.

"VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to help prepare for the visit of Pope John Paul II. If you can help please put your name and telephone number on the signup sheet in the back of the church. For further information call Bumpy Poole at 272-6181."

Celebrating the Tridium following the papal visit, the Holy Thursday Liturgy program for 1981 listed the following; "Eucharistic Ministers: Marge Dittrich, Penny Greene, Harvey Dougherty, Ken Smith and Mary Snowball. Lectors: Rayna Larson, Al Holbrook, Donna Gum and Sheila Erwin. The Altar Servers are Brad Bergsrud, Morris Horning and Dennis Foreman."

In the early 80's a new community within the larger St. Anthony community began to grow. Catholic Korean families who had been gathering in homes to share the Liturgy of the Word approached Archbishop Hurley sharing a need to be able to participate in the liturgy in the Korean language.

In 1981 Sister Magdalena Yang, a Sister of Notre Dame, California Province, arrived for the summer to provide ministry to Korean families, bringing them together for singing, religion classes and retreat. A year later Father Chang Moon Kim arrived and celebrated the Mass in the Korean language for the people in St. Anthony Church. Soon Maryknoll priest Father Robert Lilly visited Anchorage and compiled the first Korean Directory and assisted in the sacramental preparation of the Korean people.

Tam Agosti-Gisler and Hans Gisler joined the parish, also Jerry Grewe who would later become a Deacon for the Archdiocese and be employed by the parish, served as Education Committee Chairman.

A few months later on June 14, 1981 the community was joyful as Dennis Foreman was admitted to candidacy for ordination as a permanent Deacon by Archbishop Francis T Hurley.

Sister Karen Yesh was hired as Religious Education Director and parishioners Kenneth Michael Flynn and Juliana Allarding were married at St. Anthony's on September 26, 1981.

Parishioners Jacques and Mary Regat were commissioned, by St. Anthony's to accomplish the first two of a series of wood carvings for the church, to be completed in time for the Twenty fifth Anniversary of the parish. The carvings of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Joseph the Worker soon adorned the back of the church. In the late 1980's, the Regats were again commissioned to complete a triptych in tribute to our patron St. Anthony of Padua.

1982 proved to be a year of blessing. Dennis Foreman was ordained a Deacon for the Archdiocese of Anchorage in February and in May became a member of St. Anthony's staff. Deacon Dennis was employed by the parish for 12 years and continues to share his time and talents with the parish.

In June of that same year, Bill Goehring's ordination to the priesthood was the first ever ordination at the parish. The parish began providing financial support in the amount of \$12,000 a year for Brothers Bob Eaton and David Sifferman as they worked to begin the Brother Francis Shelter in early 1983, Archbishop Hurley and Monsignor Cowgill visited Korea and invited Korean-speaking priests to stop in Anchorage on their way to and from Korea. Over the next few years, a number of Korean speaking priests and sisters assisted the growing community. Eight years later, in 1991, the Korean Catholic Community of St. Anthony dedicated a new 3,400 square foot building. The center was named to honor the martyr, St. Andrew Dae Kun Kim, who was the first Korean Catholic priest. It was dedicated to Monsignor Cowgill. The \$300,000 building included a large meeting room, kitchen, offices, washrooms and living quarters for a priest.

The Silver Anniversary of St. Anthony was celebrated in October of 1983 and coordinated by Lu Guptill with dinner planned and prepared by Jeanne Dougherty, Agnes Coyle, Marge Dittrich, Nan Deitz, Soni Baer, and Donna Cherrier. All 300 rolls for the event were baked by Donna Gum, Dennis Foreman, Tom Tunnley, Don Larson and Jacques Regat. Altar servers for the Jubilee Liturgy were Steven, Sean & Clint Foy and Kevin Holtz. Parishioners

made squares which were sewn together into the quilt that now adorns the wall in the vestibule of the church.

The early eighties also kept Religious Education Directors Lillian Tackes, Ernestine Fleece and Marge Dittrich very busy. The community was publishing "The Parish News," edited by Joan Emmendorfer. In late 1983 Stephanie Rose Therese Sandoval was baptized on November 27, Marissa Carrilo on February 12, 1984 and Maria Van Houten on February 26, 1984. A new Associate Pastor Father John Ouper was appointed effective June 15, 1984.

Over the next number of years many parishioners became more involved in outreach. Between 1984 and 1991 families in the parish including the Tunleys, Greenes, Drapers, Foys, and Bergsruds housed refugees from communist countries. The Parish as a whole assisted with food, employment assistance, clothing and Christmas gifts.

In 1985 members of the community began taking an active role providing meals for Clare House, a shelter for women, and supporting Sister Arlene Boyd's new ministry, McCauley Manor.

Maureen Hanley joined the parish and began providing music for liturgies; Maureen became especially known for the Children's Choir. A few years later, Maureen married parishioner John Haines.

In 1986 the youth of the parish, in prophetic foresight, would place a notice in the Sunday bulletin thanking parishioners for sharing their time, talent and treasure in support of their events. The Parish welcomed Sister Peggy Ramsden FSCC to the staff. An April 27, 1987 letter discussed Father LaSalle Hallissy's appointment to St. Anthony's as Associate Pastor.

On July 30, 1987 parishioner Ted Greene was ordained to the Diaconate and later hired by the parish as Director of Religious Education. Deacon Ted and his wife Penny were instrumental in bringing Cursillo to Anchorage in the late 1980's. This program grew and touched the entire city. Deacon Ted also began facilitating Saturday morning bible studies in the parish hall.

By 1988 the rectory/office, built in 1961, reached its capacity to meet the needs of the parish. The parish purchased a 4 plex across the street from the church to house its priests. In the late eighties Kathy Brenner who had served a secretary for many years retired and Gretchen Frohle joined the office as parish secretary.

On February 22, 1989 Father Alfred J. Fisher was given a temporary assignment as Associate Pastor serving until the end of August, 1989. Then on March 20, Associate Pastor, Father Charles Crouse was once again in residence at St. Anthony.