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Dated: **May 24, 1926**

Holy Rosary School and Church Which Was Recently Completed in North Kato

The spiritual needs of the Catholic population of North Mankato up to October 1, 1924, were ministered to by the parishes of St. Peter and Paul and St. John's across the river.

Noting the rapid growth of North Mankato, Archbishop Dowling decided to form a new parish in the rapidly growing city and accordingly on October 1, 1924 he sent Father Freisleben, who for many years has been assistant pastor at St. Agnes, St. Paul to begin the work. The new pastor arrived about the first of October and immediately began the work of organization.

Through the courtesy of the city officials the Catholics were offered the use of the old city hall, since replaced by a beautiful municipal building, and here the first mass in North Mankato was celebrated. However, it soon became evident that the city hall would not be large enough and the kindly offer to use the St. Peter and Paul's school chapel until some sort of structure could be built, was readily accepted.

Plans for Building

After several meetings of the pastor, with people in the autumn of 1924, eleven lots together with a house were purchased and it was decided to erect a combination church and school building.

Mr. Herman Gaul, architect of the new chapel on Good Counsel Hill was selected to prepare plans. In due time plans and specifications were prepared and given to contractors for their figures. Bids were opened the second week of April and the general contract was awarded to J.B. Nelsen Construction Company; the plumbing and heating contract to Krost and Harty and the electrical contract to the Mankato Electrical Company. Upon the letting of the contract, work was immediately begun and on June 6, Monsignor Thomas A. Welch, vicar general of the archdiocese of St. Paul, since appointed Bishop of Duluth, laid the cornerstone with appropriate ceremonies. Thereafter work on the building steadily progressed and the structure was completed in time for the September term of school.

On September 20, the first services were held in the new chapel and on October 4, Archbishop Austin Dowling, in the presence of a large gathering of priests and people, blessed the new structure. The new Structure in design is a modified Gothic.

Plan of Structure

Mankato stone, rough and sawed from the Coughlan quarries, together with Springfield brick have been so harmoniously placed as to make a solid but neat appearing structure. In the basement there is a commodious hall where parish social functions may be easily and agreeably taken care of. On the first floor at present there is a chapel neatly furnished with a seating capacity of 450 but which may be readily converted into four classrooms, when the need may arise.

On the second floor there are four spacious classrooms well lighted together with the boys' and girls' lavatories, a music room and a small library room.

The structure has two beautiful entrances one on each end. The stairs are constructed of concrete thus amply caring for the children should any fire contingency arise.

Holy Rosary school is conducted by the School Sisters of Notre Dame with Sister Mary Villanova in charge and throughout the year has had an enrollment of 140.

The end of the first year finds the new Holy Rosary parish in a flourishing condition. The parishioners have given the pastor the most loyal support ever ready to do anything that might add to the spiritual or temporal welfare of the people, even at the cost of great sacrifices. Where such a spirit exists a prophet is not needed to foretell that such an institution will have a fair measure of success.