

File (1) of 3- in Diocesan arch's
of Calgary.

BEISEKER

For list of parishioners in 1917

Cf. Strathmore File (Lists sent to Bishop
McNally in December 1917 as indicated by
postmark on envelope.)

Diocese of Calgary

TELEPHONE:
(403) 263-3371

BISHOP'S OFFICE
219-18th AVE. S.W.
CALGARY 3, ALBERTA
CANADA

BEISEKER, St. Mary's (Assumption) SUMMARY

- 1914 - 1915 Letter (in German) from Joseph Schmalts to Bishop McNally requesting German priest, etc.
Bank Loan. Parishioners letter to Bishop McNally re Fr. Gelsdorf OMI.
Letter of Fr. Gelsdorf to McNally. Secretary's reply - bishop would be glad to have him at B. if his superiors allow.
Father Carew will visit parish for Mass.
- 1916
- 1920 - 1923 Father Gilman to McNally re people and Bishop's message.
Confirmation
Two letters Father Beaton to McNally, - collections, trustees.
- 1924 Rev. Colin Ross & trustees.
Parishioners request German Priest, - letter and translation.
- 1924-25 Rev. M. McQuaid. Correspondence with A.J.H re parish records.
List of churches and missions. Church Goods Co. debt, - to Bishop Kidd. Enlarging Swalwell church. No. of children. List of people and comments. Fr. Speckmaier visits B., -not anxious to take over.
- 1926 Census, Oct. 1927
- 1927 Bishop Kidd to Mr. Tighe KC and Fr. McQuaid - no action re school
- 1930 List of families. Insurance to be increased.
- 1932 Fr. J.A.N.Lebel in temporary charge. His report May-Sept. 1932
- 1936 - 1941 Bishop Carroll to Msgr. McCoy re dances.
Rev. M.J.Fitzpatrick 1937 report
Fr. Tennant Adm. (1941) after temporary adm. of Fr. F.A.Foote.
Bishop Carroll's letter to him.
Organ and breaking land (20 acres)
- 1943 - 1944 Church property outside village, - all agree.
Rectory destroyed by fire, Marhh 1944. Fr. Anderson (dean) reports.
New rectory under construction. Report of costs of same.
7 acres sold.
Bequests of Masses - Ignatz Hagel, Jacob Hagel, - conditions.

N.B. The other BEISEKER FILE contains all the correspondence, Bishop Carroll, Building Committee, etc. with Fr. Tennant, Father McGreevy, Father Vernbrock re:

New church

Dispute among parishioners re site of new church
Construction of church, etc. moving of rectory.

Alterations to rectory

Repairs to church.

St. Moritz-Gemeinde-Satzung
Beiseker Alta, Dec 17. - 1914

Hochwürdigster Herr Herr Lippel Mc-Nally.

Da ich mich in einem sehr Traurigen Lage befinden,
Zunächst der St. Rulignon wegen, - Mir als seit gutem
Stück bei mir sind, so möchte ich mich als Familien-
licher Vater, um ein Wort zu sagen, da sie die Gabe von
Gott, sind. Ich bin in einem Zustande von
Krankheit, um meinen Traurigen Lage für zu-
zukommen. Mir als Herr Lippel Mc-Nally
bekannt ist das mir vor Ankunft des Herrn Lippel
Küffel jeden Sonntag in Samstag Regelmäßig
Freund, und Geistlicher Gemeindeführer abgehalten
haben, welche seitdem nicht mehr stattfinden, die
einige Mitglieder der Gemeinde. Wo Herr Lippel
Küffel die Verbindung sein soll? Und man kann sich
Wahrscheinlich darüber aufklären, Tagten so zu
sagen, zu lesen wie was mir der Lippel geschrieben,
Kann, haben mir die St. Adwantszeit, die Zeit
zeit, und noch kein einziger Rosenkranz Mäand
von der Gemeinde in dieser Kirche sein gehört.
Und mir ist sehr ein Missetat unter der Gemeinde
da, das es mir nicht zu nennen ist, und man
die diese Sonntag kommt, lässt die Liebe Jugend
zusammen mir das Unverständliche Brief-
(Man ist mir erlaubt das so zu sagen) einige Ge-
fallen sich sogar zu den Protestanten in der Zeit

Man Antwanitz das ff. Waffelweck dergleichen mit
 und man man zu impanen Nothfalle. von der ge
 minnen sagt. warum das kein Allgummen Falt
 man ffene angucken wird, dan sieht es gleich so
 was kommen wie Waffeln. Mund der Löffel so fah
 will. das Antrüg. gut darauf sein. - Weil der
 Samen. - der Allgummen Kopfbauz. - so man
 die Spindelns. - Durch Father Küffel und einige
 mit impaner Witter. - gestüft und verfert wird
 und zwar Father Küffel sich immer auf das fuffe
 das es sein Lüt, noch ffen der Löffel befolte. -
 Was weiß ich mit betainen brayten das Witter
 die Lügnet für die Wangelnütig immer gefen
 ob sie may immer zu dem Sakrament der Lütten bei
 Father Küffel gefen sollen. gerade durch sein impan
 stündig brayten xx - Was ich. wie mittel
 unner Rinder Wangel, von ffen Pefen fassen
 Löffel Wüffeln Lüt. Wäfen. - das sie immer
 alle in Witter Gulip. bringen müffen
 das sie immer Güten Duffen Wüffeln
 fenden müffen, das man es immer fassen das Möglichste
 Wäfen. - Das Walle Gote. - x.

Es ist möglichste Dingston in Lütten -
 Joseph Jesualtz

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PLEASE ADDRESS
ALL COMMUNICATIONS
TO THE MANAGER

Beiseker, Alberta, December 31st. 1914.

CABLE ADDRESS "ROYALBANK"

The Rev. J. T. McNally,
Bishop of Calgary,
Bishpp's House,
Calgary, Alberta.

Dear Sir,-

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 29th. Inst. brought to us by Messrs. Hagel & Silbergnagel, in connection with a loan of \$600.00. to pay the balance due the Crown Lumber Company, Ltd. on the bill of lumber for the Priest's house here.

We have already given them this accomodation but would ask you to complete the enclosed form of Guarantee and return it to us at your earliest convenience. Kindly sign in your official capacity using the seal which you placed on your letter to us, and if there are other signing officers for the Church, the same as would sign in the execution of any other legal document, kindly have them sign as well and the whole duly witnessed. You will appreciate the fact that the congregation here are not an organized body in the legal sense of the word and their Trustees are not legally appointed as far as we are concerned, so that we would like to have your guarantee for the amount as owners of the property in question. We hold a Guarantee signed by seven of the parishioners but there has been considerable

The Royal Family of Canada



PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA	
ACC.	72.130

dissatisfaction over this and many will not sign so that does not represent the congregation as a whole. Those who have paid their portion in full object to signing a guarantee for the amount due by the others. However if you will sign the form enclosed our requirements will be fully satisfied.

Wishing you the compliments of the season.

Yours very truly,

Garth A. Johnson
Manager.

Beiseker, Alta.,

Aug. 28, 1915

To His Lordship

The Right Rev. JOHN T. McNALLY.

Bishop Of Calgary.,

Your Lordship : -

We parisheners of Beiseker, consider it as our duty, to express our best thanks to Your Lordship, for the warm interest which you have shown all the time for our German Parish in Beiseker, and which you yet lately have shown again in sending us Rev. Father William Gelsdorf O.M.T.

We hope and we will pray to God, that Your Lordship will do the same in the future and if possible in sending us a Parish Priest for our German Catholic Congregation here in Beiseker, for the reason, that our Congregation is increasing all the time, in that we are now about 28 families with a very large number of children.

Your Lordship certainly will be not angry at us, when we express our full satisfaction with Rev. Father William Gelsdorf, and that we would be only to glad, if Your Lordship could find a way, to send us this good Priest. We on our part certainly would be always very thankfull to Your Lordship and we would show this our thankfulness in praying for Your Lordship and in supporting our Priest to Your Lordship's and the Priest's satisfaction.

We give the full gaurantee that a Priest, taking Beiseker and the other missions around will have a good living to his own satisfaction.

Thanking Your Lordship again for all Your kindness and asking for Your fatherly blessing,

We remain;

Your obedient parisheners from Beiseker.,



Ignaz Högel

Karl Lamm

Karl Selber

or Kellner

S. Lamm

Ludwig Pfennig

Joseph Schmalz

Wolfgang Hage

Joseph Wilhelm

Carl Jäger

Jacob Hage

C. N. Hage

Joseph Güll

Carl Lamm

Edmonton, September 9th 1915

To His Lordship
The Right Rev. John T. McVally: -

Your Lordship: -

Your Lordship will kindly excuse me, when I am going to take your time for a little while in sending you few lines.

As your Lordship asks me, when I passed last time (Aug. 17th) in Calgary, to pay a little visit to the German settlement in Beiseker, I was very glad, that I was able to do so the week following. I had not occasion to see your Lordship after, but nevertheless your Lordship may expect a short report about this my visit & I am going to do so in telling your Lordship, that I was very satisfied with this my first visit in Beiseker. Of course, in account of the harvest, which just started, not all the people were able to come to the Church, but they did their best to come to the service as far as they could. My impression about the Cath spirit among those people was a very good one and I was only too sorry, that I was not able to be on Sunday there.

Perhaps your Lordship would be glad to see me going there on a

Sunday if I could. As I think, I shall be free for Sunday Sept. 19th.
If it would be the wish of your Lordship, that I should go there on
that Sunday, I would be only too glad to do so. I would send a notice
to those people on time.

As I heard, did the parishioners from B. send a petition to your
Lordship regarding to me. I hope, that those people did do it with
politeness and in full subjection to your Lordship's authority. Regarding
to me, I would like to say, that I personally have nothing to say about
it, but leave everything to the wise decision of your Lordship. If your
Lordship would like to have a priest at that place and if your Lordship
would care to have me there, I certainly would be only too glad to be
for your Lordship's disposition, as far as I can do it. Of course, in
the present critical position with Calvary & O.M.S. (with which I perso-
nally have nothing to do!!!), I understand, that your Lordship might
not like to give any decision. But perhaps it would be good to tell
your Lordship, that I am going to ask Rev. F. Brandin for removal &
that I am going to resist in it, for the reason, that I cannot do the
good for those Polish people, what I could do for others. They are not
grateful at all for all the sacrifices I bring for them. I am sure an
English or an other community deserve it better than those people.
Father Kulawy will remain here and will be able to do the work alone.

I did not yet speak to Rev. Father Brandin about it, but I intend to
do so, as soon as I get an answer from your Lordship.

Asking for your fatherly blessing, I am
Your Lordship's
obedient servant in J. Christ

Father William Belsdorf O. M. S. P.
204 Sinclair street.

Edmonton, September 28th 1915

To His Lordship
The Right Rev. J. P. McVally: -

Your Lordship: -

Having received the letter of Your Lordship through
your secretary, I feel obliged to express my best thanks to your
Lordship for your confidence putting in me. It seems under the
circumstances indeed a little difficult to arrange matters with my
superiors, nevertheless I hope that something will be arranged soon,
if it is so God's will.

Asking for your Lordship's benediction, I am

Yours in J. Chr. & N.S.

obedient servant

Father William Selsdorf O.M.S.
*

September 20, 1915.

The Rev. William Gelsdorf, O.M.I.,

204, Sinclair Street, Edmonton.

Dear Reverend Father,

The Bishop of Calgary directs me to tell you, in reply to your letter of the 9th. inst., that if you can arrange matters with your superiors, he will be only too pleased to have you at Beiseker.

Yours very truly,

Bishop's secretary.

*St. Mary's Rectory
Eighteenth Avenue West*

*Calgary, Alta. March 29, 1916.*Mr. Thomas Hagel,
Beiseker.

Dear Sir,

If we cannot find a German-speaking priest, the Rev. Father Carew, of Strathmore, will visit Beiseker on Saturday, April the 8th, and say Mass for the Parish on Sunday, April the 9th. Please notify all the Parishioners in good time, in order that as many as possible may be able to assist.

Yours faithfully,

Administrator.

Beiseker

To Right Rev. Bishop McHally D.D. August 16th 1920
Calgary

My Lord,

as requested I am writing to inform your Lordship that I gave your message on Sunday to my people, & they have promised me not to make any trouble by asking your Lordship for a Jesuit Priest and also that they will do their best to pay the salary they owe me as soon as they can.

Under these circumstances I understand your Lordship will be prepared to come here next Thursday for confirmation. Mr John Gaety is prepared to drive your Lordship out, in his car which holds seven people, I have vestments for a Deacon & Subdeacon & take it for granted that I can have all the sacred Relics exposed on the various altars in honour of the solemn occasion.

Believe me to be, kissing the sacred purple,
your Lordship's obedient servant
W. Geoffrey Gilman

Berwick, Alta, Jan 28/21

My Lord,

Enclosed herewith please find Card for Mass Intentions acquit-
ted and \$150.59 as follows:-

Apicou Missions Collection from Berwick	\$20.00
1920 fee for Diocesan Aged Priests' Fund	\$10.00
10% Cathedraeum for monies rec'd during 1920 from ^{the Diocese}	5.50
Private donation from Ignatz Hegel for Poor of Russia or Cent Simps.	115.00
	<u>\$150.50</u>

I would like to get some Mass Intentions soon should
Your Lordship have any on hand to give out.

Your Obedient servant
Patrick Beaton

Bicester Jan 3/22.

My Lord,-



Enclosed herewith please find a cheque for [£]100.25 as follows:-

Annual fee for 1921 for Diocesan Priests Fund	£ 10.00
Collection from Bicester " " " "	13.00
Part Payment of <u>Cathedraticum</u> for 1921	77.00
Exchange	25
	£ 100.25

I am not sending all the Cathedraticum ~~due~~ as I have not had time as yet to find out exactly how much is due. Later on I shall send the rest.

I would like to apply to the Church Extension Society for vestments for Swalwell & Lavington - one set will do for both places. Also I would like to get a small altar stone that I can take with me when saying mass at Acme, Lavington, Swalwell & Aricema. With best wishes for a happy New Year.

Yours,

Your obedient servant J. H.
Patrick Beaton

Return 23.00 to Lic. Accl.

Beiseker

Sydney Hegel

Joe Libbenage

Trustees of Church

at Beiseker.

Ap. the Valley

Beiseker, Feb. 22/23.

Rt. Rev. J. J. McHally, D.D.,
Bishop of Calgary,
910-7th St. N. W.
Calgary, Alta.

My Lord,-

I am herewith enclosing Insurance Policies
for Church & House at Beiseker with permits for the
use of gas lamps attached.

I was not able to get "La Corporation Episco-
pale Catholique Romaine, St. Albert" and "Trustees of
the Roman Catholic Church, Beiseker," as the names of
the assured, corrected, as it would cause a deal
of trouble & more expense

Your obedient servant in X^o.

P. J. Beaton

Beiseker, Alberta.
August 28th, 1924.

Rev. Father Ross.
Beiseker, Alta.

Dear Father:-

We the undersigned beg to inform you that we will not take any steps in connection with cleaning of the Parish house in Beiseker for your accommodation nor will the Parish be responsible for any expence that you may incur by doing so.

We asked for a German speaking Priest here and in view of that fact we do not recognise you as our Pastor and hence we promise you no support or maintainance.

Signed.

Trustee's.

Peter Schmalz
Anton Haged
Miguel Goffler

Beiseker

Atta

Aug 29-1924

Rev. A. J. Weatherington S.B.,
Sacred Heart Church
Calgary

Reverend and Dear Father,

Since speaking to you over the 'phone
a few days ago re. affairs in Beiseker. I have asked
the trustees of the parish to put the statements which
they have made to me on paper, which they did.
And I am enclosing ^{you} the same.

Yours truly

Calvin F. Ross



PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
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Sacred Heart Church,
1515, 13th. Avenue W.,
Calgary. August 23, 1924.

Dear Sir,

The copy of the translation of a petition, together with the original petition, signed by a number of the people of Beiseker, and addressed to His Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary, have come to hand.

I regret that it was impossible to meet certain members of the parish of Beiseker who came to see me a short time ago; but it altogether better to have these matters committed to writing concerned, because in the absence of the Bishop, I can do nothing.

Now I have once more to assure the faithful and loyal Catholics among the people of Beiseker district, that they may count on His Lordship the Bishop to do all in his power for them now and in the future, as he has done in the past. In return, I trust that the faithful members of the Beiseker mission will give practical proof of their appreciation and gratitude for His Lordship's kindness by their loyal support and cooperation as good Catholics.

Yours truly in Christ,

.....Chancellor.

To Mr. A. Hagel,
Beiseker, Alberta.

Beiseker, Alberta. August 15, 1924.

Rt. Rev. J.T. McNally, D.D.
Bishop of Calgary,
910-7A St. N.W. Rosedale,
Calgary, Alberta.

Rt. Rev. J.T. McNally:

Further to our delegation which we send to interview you as per attached petition, and they being unfortunate in that they found you were out of the city and father Hatherington being too busy to grant them an interview, however, they were advised to go home and mail their petition instead.

We are herewith enclosing the original petition together with a copy of same translated into english.

It is our sincere hope that you give same your favorable consideration.

We remain yours in Christ.

Trustees.
Peter Schmalz Secy.
Anton Hagef Chairman

Beiseker. Aug. 14th 1924

Alte Hof. Frau Lippel, - sie mögen uns
vergessen wenn wir sie belästigen, denn
wir sind gesund von unsrer Gesundheit.

Hier wir die Untertanen von der
St. Maria = Himmelstg. Gemeinde in Beiseker
Läden von der Herrn Frau Hofmeisterin
Frau Lippel Joseph, mit der herzlichsten
Bitt. - wo möglich, uns das kleine Christen
zügeln malen und das in unser
Mütter sprach erdienen, und unsern,
und das uns zur Lustig glücklich-
keit unsern Kain. - Weil das soviel
Menschen in unsern Gemeinde sind.
Malen die englischen sprach nicht
Lernstunden können, besonders in
Religiöser bezug, davon, bitten
wir die Hofmeisterin herzlich, - Ihre Namen
Jesus Christus, mit allem Vertrauen das
sie uns das diese bitten, "Wo möglich."
nicht abflagen können, - und bleiben
wir Ihre ergebenen Diener in
Christo
gelobt sei Jesus Christus in Ewigkeit
Amen



PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
ACC.

Copy, or translated copy of petition.

Beiseker, Alberta. August 14, 1924.

Rt. Rev. J. F. McNally, D.D. Bishop of Calgary,
910-7 A St. N.W. Resedale.
Calgary, Alberta.

Rev. Bishop McNally:

We hope to be excused should we inconvenience you, but as we are delegated by the members of our Parish, it is our duty to try and interview you if possible.

We the undersigned members of the Church of The Assumption of the B.V.M. of Beiseker, humbly appeal to you Rt. Rev. Father & Bishop McNally with our most sincere wish.

If at all possible, to give us a priest, who can serve us in our own language, and there-by help us towards carrying out our duty as Christians and Catholics. As there are so many people in our Parish, who can not understand english. Especially is this true in Religious matters. We are therefore again kindly asking in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord with our fullest confidence that you will not, if at all possible, reject our most humble request.

We remain your obedient lambs in Christ.

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PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
ACC.

Beiseke.

Beiseker Alta

Nov. 24/24

Rev. A. J. Hutchinson 15
Calgary Alta.

Dear Father:

Upon inquiry I was informed that Father Beaton took away all records in connection with the parish such as books in which to record baptisms, deaths & marriages also records re financial standing of the parish.

Please advise if such are in Calgary and if so please forward them

Not in Calgary

Yours sincerely
M. McDuaik.

Becker alle
Sept 29/21

The Rt. Rev. J. J. Kidd S.D.
Bishop of Calgary.
Calgary alle.

Your Lordship: Below is the required information

⁽¹⁾ <u>Place</u>	⁽²⁾ <u>Church or not.</u>	⁽³⁾ <u>Title of Church.</u>	⁽⁴⁾ <u>Catholic Schools.</u>
Becker	yes	St Mary of the Assumption.	none
Swallow	yes	(no record here of any title)	none
Acme	no	none	none
Granger	no	none	none

Yours sincerely
M. McQuail

Feb. 2nd, 1926

Rev. Michael McQuaid
Beiseker, Alta.

Dear Father McQuaid:-

I have received your letter of Jan. 27th. with the enclosed letters from Father Williams and from the Winnipeg Church Goods Co. I presume that you have the letter I wrote you at the beginning of November last. In that letter I mentioned that it has been and still is a law in this diocese that no parish priest is allowed to involve a parish in a debt exceeding fifty dollars without the express permission of the Bishop. I also mentioned that, according to the statement sent me, the priests in charge of Beiseker Parish had paid more cash to the Winnipeg Church Goods Co. than the amount of cash received from various sources and individuals, for their gifts of statues, etc. to the church. There were apparently some things received by the church which were not paid for, such as Priests' Dishes, cushions, candlesticks and candles. If the church has received those, and did not pay for them, they should be paid for by the Parish.

I repeat what I said before regarding the interest charges. They can look to whomever they wish for it. I will have nothing to say or to do regarding that matter.

Wishing you every blessing, I remain

Yours faithfully in Christ

Bishop of Calgary.



PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
ACC.

Beiseker Alta

Jan 27/26

The Rt. Rev. John J. Kidd D.D.
Bishop of Calgary
Calgary Alta.

Your Lordship:

I am enclosing a letter from
Father Gilman and one from the Winnipeg
Church Judo Co.

I have told you all I know in connection with the matter.
As I see the situation, past and present, it would
be imprudent to try to collect this from the parish,
and I might add that Father Beaton is of the
same mind on the matter.

I am submitting the matter for your consideration.

I am
Yours sincerely
M. McQuaid

Diocese of Calgary

TELEPHONE:
(403) 263-3371

BISHOP'S OFFICE
219-18th AVE. S.W.
CALGARY 3, ALBERTA
CANADA

BEISEKER B. or File (2) - only partially photostated here

This file contains all the correspondence, etc. between Fathers Tennant, McGreevy, Vornbrock with Bishop Carroll, Diocesan Bldg. Committee and others re:

New church
Dispute among parishioners re new site.
New site agreed upon - near school
Construction of church
Moving of rectory
Alterations to rectory
Repairs to church.
Various reports and acknowledgements.
Map
Closing Swalwell

to give cash donations as soon as a fund is opened. I do not think it will be too difficult to raise quite a considerable sum by the time material and labour conditions improve enough to build. The church building here is in rather bad shape; besides being too small, it is beginning to disintegrate.

I will be having Confirmation this summer if convenient for you, likely the latter part of July or the beginning of August, during the time of the Religious Summer School. I almost need the help of the sisters to handle the children. Of course a week day is suitable for Confirmation here and it should not be too difficult to arrange a date.

Enclosed you will find a cheque to cover the Sunday second mass intentions up to date.

Sincerely in Xto.:

A. Tennant.

St. Mary's Church
Beiseker
Alberta

May 22nd. 1945.

Most Rev. F. P. Carroll D.D.
Bishop of Calgary,
Calgary, Alta.

Your Excellency:

During the recent Victory Loan drive some of the people purchased bonds to form a nucleus for a church building fund. This was done without any organized campaign but of course I did not discourage the idea, especially as we are badly in need of a new building. I would like your permission to open a building fund account and if you think proper to have a letter from yourself which could be read from the pulpit giving your approbation and encouragement in this. To date we have \$2500.00 in bonds for this purpose and others wish



May 27th, 1945

Rev. A. Tennant,
St. Mary's Rectory,
Balseker, Alberta.

Dear Father Tennant:-

I have received your letter of May 22nd and I am pleased to learn that you have begun a church building fund. The present church has done its part for the people of St. Mary's Balseker and now with the increasing congregation, it is time to think of future development. The only prudent and sensible method is to establish a fund which will care for these developments. Past experience has taught many a parish in Southern Alberta that it is folly to erect a church and pay for it afterwards. Hence my great pleasure in learning your plans.

I am pleased to endorse the establishment of the Building Fund and to appeal to your good people, who have shown their excellent Catholic spirit, in so many ways to support your efforts.

You have my permission to open a special bank account in the name of St. Mary's Parish for this purpose. Any Victory Loan bonds which may be given you for this fund should be fully registered, in the customary manner, in the name of the parish.

With sincere good wishes for the success of this effort.

Yours cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Calgary.

Beiseker, Alberta.
May 17th. 1948.

Most Reverend Francis P. Carroll D.D.
Bishop of Calgary,
Calgary, Alberta.

Your Excellency:

I have been thinking about writing you for some time regarding the almost ridiculous crowding of the Beiseker Church when there is only one Sunday mass. For instance, last Sunday at least fifty people could not get in the church at all for the 9.00 a.m. mass. Some of these were near the door where they could see the altar but others I am informed simply sat in the cars and some of the small fry wandered away from the vicinity of the church altogether. It is not so bad in the winter with the bad weather and worse roads, but as soon as summer comes it gets continually worse. It is not only detrimental to pious attendance at mass on the part of the congregation but it sure gets on my nerves as well.

I know that the only permanent solution to this condition is a new and larger church. So with this letter, I am including one to the Diocesan Building Committee for permission to make arrangements for plans for a new church as soon as conditions warrant this. I am not very much afraid of the financial obligations of a new building but a definite plan for a new church in the near future would certainly spur the people on to further efforts on behalf of the Building Fund. Without stressing the matter so far to any great extent, we already have \$16,000. or thereabouts.

However, possibly some temporary measures might be taken until a new church in a year or more becomes a reality. I have thought of asking for help from the Basilians in Calgary for two Sundays a month but I hate to do

this when it is the only time they have off from teaching and coming here to assist on a Sunday, certainly could not be looked upon as a rest. But I think that if I could say three masses on two Sundays of the month, I could give Swalwell their two regular Sundays and at the same time have two masses here every Sunday. On account of the distance, this arrangement would only work from, say: May to October because of the distance. Swalwell is 22 miles away. But as I have already mentioned, in the winter months the crowding of the Beiseker Church is lessened somewhat. If you think it feasible, I could try the three Sunday Masses if you could obtain the indult for me. During the summer, I can say one mass here pretty early and have a good attendance at it.

Also, if possible I should like to set a tentative date for Confirmation towards the end of August. There are not so very many children, as we took in quite a spread in the age groups the last time, but there are quite a number of adults. Usually, I like to have the 15th. of August but Father O'Byrne's C.Y.F. school is from the 9th. to the 15th. If I could have the evening of the last Sunday of August, it might work out pretty well.

Would you kindly pass on the enclosed letter through the good offices of the Chancery to the Diocesan Building Commission.

Sincerely in Xto.:

May 18th, 1948

Rev. A. Tennant,
St. Mary's Rectory,
Beiseker, Alberta.

Dear Father Tennant:-

I have received your letter of May 17th along with its enclosure for Msgr. Hetherington. Although building conditions seem to be getting worse, you should make some sort of a beginning to relieve the situation at Beiseker. I will see that Monsignor receives your letter.

Of course, the longer the erection can be delayed, the better. Yesterday I discussed building conditions with a man connected with them as an engineer. He does not think things are going to improve for a year or two yet. The cost of the new hospital wing has already increased \$200,000 for ^{over} estimates of less than a year ago.

I have the faculty for granting trination. My objection to it is that it is too hard physically on the priest. However if you think you can manage, you could experiment. Let me know on what Sundays you want it.

I am reserving the last Sunday of August for your confirmation.

Kind regards,

Yours cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Calgary.

Tenant's letter 9 May 1947

(2)

At the meeting of the men of the parish, I did not commit myself one way or the other but left the matter entirely in their hands. However I do think it is a good idea to give the Catholics of this district an opportunity to build their homes near the church. It is very difficult at the present time to get lots in Beiseker on which to build homes. The money from the sale as you suggested could be added to the Building Fund.

I am also forwarding in this letter a cheque for \$30.00 towards the "Infirm Clergy Fund".....the amount which Beiseker now owes, I think.

Receipt sent
D.J.B.

Sincerely in Xto:

A. Tennant.

Saint Mary's Church,
Beiseker, Alberta.
Aug. 14th. 1945.

Right Reverend A.J. Hetherington V.G.
Sacred Heart Church,
Calgary, Alberta.

Dear Monsignor:

Enclosed you will find a detailed account of the prospects of the Beiseker New Church Fund following a survey of the financial possibilities made during the past month, together with a blank form used as a pledge during this campaign. Of course of necessity, this took into consideration building on the proposed new site. If the result is sufficient to warrant beginning the construction of the church we had in mind (I am sending the latest sketches under separate cover), I must leave to the better judgement of yourself, his Excellency and the Diocesan Building Committee. Once the building is started, all opposition to the change of sites might disappear and help from the reluctant may be forthcoming. However, with the attitude of the people here being as unpredictable as it is unreasonable, I would not venture to give a guarantee. The best solution might be to permit the building of the church to proceed as far as the funds go, and then go out after more money. I feel certain that we would get plenty of voluntary labour as far as this kind of help could go.

In the report, you will notice that 24 refused to sign any pledge likely for the reason given. As a matter of fact, some made it their business to get ahead of the canvassers to dissuade others from considering the donations or pledges. The big trouble with the ones favoring the present site is that they insist on advocating repairing the old church. It is this negative attitude on their part which has done their own cause the most harm. I have repeatedly told them that repairing the old building is the one thing which both the Diocesan Building Committee and his Excellency refuse to permit. But they persist in believing that a failure in raising funds will bring about eventually the fixing up of the old building. Two or three have gone to the extremity of refusing any help to the church through the Sunday collections and even opposing the work of the C.W.L. etc. I guess this "starvation method" was used in the old days but is almost of negligible effect now, outside of not making things any easier.

Contrary to what might be thought, I have certainly done my best. And I do not think it necessary to go into the many ramifications of the parish dispute based mostly on personal grudges and jealousies even to the extent of an attempt being made to have one man fired from his position with a grain company, and other such like actions. I worked hard and spent much time on the enclosed report and if it is considered a failure, I am at a loss to know what other angle from which one might attack the problem. If any further information is needed, I will only be too glad to give it. In passing, I might mention that there was quite a hail storm through here the other day which did not seem to respect opinions on the site of the church.

It seems evident that I will have to struggle through another winter no matter what, with the old building and the worn out heating system but this can be done with a few minor repairs the cost of which I'll keep to a minimum.

I am sorry to have to bother you again with this but I have wanted to make some progress in spite of the difficulties and this method seemed to be about the best. I want to thank you in advance for your help and advice.

Sincerely in Xto.:

I am sending a copy of this letter and also the report on the parish campaign to his Excellency, the Bishop.

May 24th, 1950.

Rev. Fr. Tamm, S.J.,
St. Mary's Rectory,
Beltsville, Md.

Dear Father Tamm:

The Committee has been considering the plan that you submitted, and while they are looking for something original, they considered that the following points will be desirable in the matter.

I. The sketches and plans do not look right to begin with. The Committee considers it wiser to stick to traditional style of architecture, unless one is deeply versed in ecclesiastical art and liturgy, and is at the same time a trained architect with a gift in the matter of design. The sketches submitted would appear to be copied from St. Mary's church built in Vermont in 1845. A criticism of this building written by Maurice Lambert of New York (considered by architects to have strong leanings towards modern styles) reads in part as follows: "Having acquainted themselves with the liturgical requirements of the plan, the architects endeavored to forget all about 'paper architecture' and designed the building according to the best temporary building practice. They raised the walls and covered the roof. At this point, it may be assumed to result that only the best of the same-kind architects can afford to proceed in the manner and produce good building."

The first impression made by the drawing that you submit is that they are designed for a temporary hut, and a military camp, probably 100-150 feet. They might be sleeping quarters in four sections, each having its own group of toilets and showers. The tower has no design at all, just a flower garden on end. The church building should give one that to the layman when he first sees it, that it is a church. These plans do not even show a cross mounting the facade. In this part of the country, particularly, the lay people have become accustomed to recognizing a Catholic Church by the cross on it.

II. The cruciform plan is a legitimate ecclesiastical style. Orthodox Greek churches seen in western Europe are generally of this type. But there is some appearance to them, unmistakably marking them as a church. It is not clear how this particular form makes by special provision for weather conditions, especially wind. The kind and amount of conditions peculiar to Beltsville are not specified. But at first sight, it would seem that a dome of 20 ft. in width, with a wall height of 12 ft., and a surrounding roof, could constitute a danger to the stability of the over-constructed type of building.

III. Concerning the Interior

1. As to the acoustics, we are not convinced by the argument that the alleged proximity of everyone to the altar is going to guarantee that everyone will hear the preacher.

2. The choir, even if you turn the seats around so that they face the main body of the church, will appear just as in a Presbyterian church. It would be a concert platform in which some day, the ladies will be there in their Easter bonnets, facing the congregation etc. - and they face the rear of the altar. So that the Committee cannot approve that position for the choir.

3. As to the seating in the transepts:

Pews 25 ft. in length are excessive for a Catholic church where the people have to go to Communion. Even if these transepts are retained, there should be an aisle. It would be better of course, to have smaller transepts and face the pews "East", in the traditional way, and put the altar back in the "East" end of the building.

IV. Basement.

As one suspected in the first view outside, the tablets are in the central section, right under the altar. That is technically the apse of the church, or more correctly still, the "confessional", and should be designed and used for nothing but the body of a saint, and for the convenience of the faithful to approach and pray. It is not supposed to be used even for the good purpose of catechizing the children.

Seeing that one will run into endless snags when one departs from traditional church architecture, it would be best to remove the altar back where it belongs, and take the choir out, and use the back part for the altar and sacristy. And as we have said in the conclusion of No. III, to do it the same way as pointed out. Remove the transepts and proceed as outlined in par. 3.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

H. Rev. A. J. Hetherington, V. C.

per


Beiseker

For some years, a new church or an enlargement of the present one, has been needed in Beiseker.

The original plan was to build a new church on the present site. A set of plans was submitted a few years ago to the Diocesan Bldg. Committee for this purpose.

Funds for this purpose consisted merely of surplus of current revenues, which now amount to \$18,000 to \$20,000.

To erect a new church, a distinct building fund was established, a parish committee appointed, and a campaign carried on. This distinct fund amounts to about \$32,000.

Most of the latter has been raised during the past year. Whilst the financial campaign was in progress, a number of parishioners began to agitate for a new church site within the village. The old school site, opposite the present new school building, is available. This new site is situated one block south of the present Government Highway, and is apparently suitable. But the parishioners are divided - "the feeling has become almost vicious" (Fr. Tennant - May 15/53).

The chief agitators for the old site are retired farmers who created houses opposite the present site. But the parish is about evenly divided.

Evidently there will be "sore-heads" following any decisions. Fr. Tennant suggests that the \$18,000 from current revenues be used to repair and enlarge the present church - & that Bldg. Fund be left untouched.

Saint Mary's Church
Beiseker, Alberta.
June 1st. 1953.

Most Reverend Francis P. Carroll D.D.
Bishop of Calgary,
CALGARY, Alberta.

Your Excellency:

I am a little late in answering your letter of May 16th., mostly because I have been trying hard to bring about some semblance of agreement between the warring factions over the site of a proposed church here. However, it seems about as hopeless as the peace talks at Panmunjom. However, I have gathered all the information I can for the Diocesan Building Committee as you requested, regarding the proposed new church or repairing the old church sufficiently to do for some time. I am enclosing this information. Sometimes, I feel that possibly another priest might be the cure for the situation here. To say the least it is very discouraging and not very inducive to attempt to make any progress or look to the future.

If you would let me know when it is convenient for you, I could have the young man, James Hagel come to Calgary to see you about his desire to enter the seminary. I wrote to you about him in my last letter.

Sincerely Yours in Xto.:

A. J. Tennant

June 14, 1953.

Rev. A. E. Tennant,
St. Mary's Rectory,
Beiseker, Alberta.

Dear Father Tennant:-

After discussing at length the advisability of making alterations to the present Beiseker Church, and considering fully the advantages and disadvantages of securing a new site for the church, the Diocesan Building Committee reached the following decision at its meeting of June 8th, held at the Bishop's Residence.

1. The existing church building has deteriorated to such an extent, that any expenditure of money on it would be an absolute waste.

2. That the present site owned by the parish be retained, and a new church be constructed thereon. Some of the reasons for this decision are:

- 1) A saving in the cost of moving the present rectory.
- 2) A saving in the cost of purchasing a new site.
- 3) The present church property is a great deal larger than the proposed new site, and therefore would permit a future building expansion. Thus a convent, parish hall etc. could be erected if and when necessary.
- 4) Should anything happen that the existing school arrangements with the Department of Education become unsatisfactory, sufficient space to build a Catholic school would be available on the present site.
- 5) A new church built on the present site would have a far better appearance and display, than to be hidden away in the town site.
- 6) The Town Council has given assurance that utilities would be made available to the present church property.
- 7) The present site contains the cemetery, and the traditional place for the cemetery is beside the parish church.

The Diocesan Building Committee has submitted the above decision to the Bishop.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Secretary,
Diocesan Building Committee.

June 14, 1953.

Rev. A. E. Tennant,
St. Mary's Rectory,
Beiseker, Alberta.

Dear Father Tennant:-

I have received from the Diocesan Building Committee, their decision regarding the erection of a new church in your parish or the renovation of the present church building. I send it to you herewith.

The members of the Committee took no sides in this matter and discussed it with open minds. They considered all the arguments for and against the two propositions; and their conclusions have been given without favor or prejudice to anyone but only for the ultimate welfare of the Church in your parish. Their decision is, therefore, quite neutral and I am pleased to approve it.

I am satisfied that the good will and Catholic spirit of the people of Beiseker parish will accept the decision and that all of them will unite to erect as soon as possible a new church on the present site. The excellent record of the parish warrants this expectation. I appeal to all, whether the decision agrees with their opinion or not - to be of one mind in the matter and join with you in the erection of a church worthy of the parish and a tribute to God's honor.

Yours cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Calgary



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PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
ACC. 72.130

Saint Mary's Church
Beiseker, Alberta.
December First 1953.

Most Reverend Francis P. Carroll D.D.
Bishop of Calgary,
Calgary, Alberta.

Your Excellency:

Would it be out of order to ask concerning saying mass in the afternoon or evening? If possible, I believe it would be of great help to have an evening mass in Beiseker on holydays of obligation for the following reasons: It would be a distinct advantage as far as the school children and even their parents are concerned. Although I have a mass at 8 a.m. on these days before school opens, quite a number are late coming to church and in a rush afterwards. And although I have another mass at 10 a.m., I know that some of the children and grown-ups also do miss mass completely on these holydays. Also, I believe the evening would bring some from Acme and Swalwell who have too far to go for the morning masses. As most of the holydays come during the winter months, it is quite dark up to about the time of the first mass for the farmers to have their chores done and get into church on time with the children before school. Ordinarily the school buses bring them in to school. So with your permission, I would like to try the afternoon or evening masses for holydays of obligation. This would not have to include Christmas or New Year's Day or when a holyday falls on a Sunday. I would very much like to try this as a closing of the triduum on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Also during the winter, if possible I believe the afternoon or evening would be of great help for the missions of Acme and Swalwell especially the latter as the trip up there and back is 44 miles. In summer it fits in nicely with an early mass here but in the winter I always seem to get

a late start. Also the few children of the Swalwell Mission are the ones who are suffering most from the lack of religious instruction and with an afternoon or evening mass, I could give them considerable time, not having to rush right back to Beiseker for another mass.

In the above cases, I do not think I would apply them to the summer at all but during the winter months (say, from November to March incl.) it may just work out nicely and bring more to the masses in the missions, especially as I mentioned at Swalwell.

There seem to be new complications arising regarding the "blessed" church site in Beiseker. I'm very sorry to bring this subject up again but at your convenience, and if you have the time to give to it I would like very much to ask your advice about some of the new phases of this controversial, and to you (and to me also) tiresome situation.

If you can spare the time and will let me know when it would be convenient, I would like some advice on some of the new aspects of the situation. I could come in to see you, at any time.

Sincerely in Xto.:

A. Tennant

SAINT MARY'S NEW CHURCH FUND (as of date of parish meeting Nov.12/53)

A. Individual Contributions (1945-52) in bonds & cash.....	\$ 18,183.71
B. Sale of barn and pipes (1944).....	172.85
C. Sale of church property to Matt Hagel (1947).....	400.00
D. Interest on Bonds and Savings Account (1947-53).....	3,025.87
E. from Columbus Club.....	361.12
F. from C.Y.O.	560.00
G. from Parish Account (C.W.L.).....	9,994.63
H. from 1953 envelopes "New Church" to end of Oct.	1,301.82
TOTAL.....	<u>34,000.00</u>

D. INTEREST: 1947:138.34 1948:322.97 1949:292.41 1950:429.12
 1951:442.33 1952:762.23 1953:638.47

E. COLUMBUS CLUB: 1945:60.00 1951:115.89 1952:185.20

F. C.Y.O. Lions Supper(1945):60.00 1948:500.00

G. Parish Account (received from C.W.L.): 1947-48:1000. 1948-49:1500.
 1949-50:1700. 1950-51:1700. 1951-52:1400. 1952-53:2300.

9,600.00

The above TOTAL is now in the Beiseker Branch of the Royal Bank of Canada as follows:

Savings Account:	\$ 16,900.00
In Bonds, in safety deposit box.:	<u>17,100.00</u>
	<u>34,000.00</u>

These funds are now in trust to Saint Mary's New Church Fund Committee with J.H.Schmaltz and the present pastor Rev.A.Tennant acting as chairman and treasurer.

At present (Jan. 1st 1954) available for New Church Fund approximately 33,000.00

Handed in to Diocesan Com. by
 Adam Velker Village
 Wilfred Lavoie Councillor
 Louis Schmaltz Councillor
 Mat Schmalz - Municipal Councillor

We the supporters of the Catholic Church, residing within the village of Beiseker, humbly petition the Diocesan Building Committee to give consideration to our needs and wants, in giving its approval to the building of the new Catholic church on the proposed site. (the former school property).

		Env. No.
Adam Velker	(Adam Velker)	44
L. E. Fisher	(L. E. Fisher)	13
Felix Hagel	(Felix Hagel)	38
Val Schmaltz	(Val. Schmaltz)	52
Andrew Richter	(Andrew Richter)	14
L. L. Schmaltz	(L. L. Schmaltz)	9
John Verbeek	John Verbeek)	58
Jos. J. Hagel	(Jos. J. Hagel)	39
F. A. Meidinger	(F. A. Meidinger)	31
Steve Silbernegel	(Steve Silbernegel)	59
A. Schwarzenberger	(A. Schwarzenberger, Mrs.)	53
Eva Hagel	(Eva Hagel, Mrs.)	43
Barbara Neubauer	(Barbara Neubauer, Mrs.)	57
Geo. N. Schmaltz	(Geo. N. Schmaltz)	64
W. J. Lavoie	(W. J. Lavoie)	29
D. Silbernegel, M. ss.	(D. Silbernegel, M. ss.)	60
Geo. Schmaltz Sr.	(Geo. Schmaltz Sr.)	63
E. B. Hagel	(E. B. Hagel)	32
M. Lucyk	(M. Lucyk)	33
Betty Schmaltz	(Betty Schmaltz, Miss)	28
E. N. Hagel, Mrs.	(E. N. Hagel, Mrs.)	12
Donnie Schmaltz	(Donnie Schmaltz)	67

We the supporters of the Catholic Church, residing within the village of Reisker, humbly petition the Diocesan Building Committee to give consideration to our needs and wants, in giving its approval to the building of the new Catholic church on the proposed site. (the former school property).

<i>J. Hanlon</i>	(J.B.Hanlon)	37
<i>V.F. Smith</i>	(V.F.Smith Mrs. (Don)	30
<i>Florence P. Hagel</i>	(Florence P.Hagel, Miss.)	49
<i>Otto Tetz</i>	(Otto Tetz)	62
<i>M.F. Stinn</i>	(M.F.Stinn)	56
<i>Agatha Velker</i>	(Agatha Velker, Mrs.)	55
<i>Mrs. D. Hagel</i> <i>h.l. Fisher witness</i>	(Ignatz Hagel, Mrs.)	10
<i>Mrs. H. T. Simmonds</i>	Mrs. H.T.Simmonds)	45
<i>Mrs. Dolores Kostrosky</i>	(Mrs.Dolores Kostrosky)	66
<i>L.W. Bunyan</i>	(L.W.Bunyan)	21
<i>Vernan Schmaltz</i>	Vernan Schmaltz)	65
<i>Mary L. Johnson</i>	(Mary L.Johnson)	19
<i>Rose Marie Wald</i>	(Rose Mary Wald, Miss.)	48
<i>A. A. Wald</i>	A.A.Wald)	47
<i>J.B. Plowman</i>	(J.B.Plowman)	8
<i>Joe Kiperick</i>	(Joe Kiperick)	61



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PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
ACC.

Memo only.

This petition is in support of the resolution passed by our Building and Finance committee of 17th of February 1954. a copy of which attached hereto.

Copy of minutes of committee meeting, February 3rd 1954

A meeting of the New Church Committee was held in Saint Mary's Rectory on Wednesday February 3rd with all members present with the exception of Mr. Oswald Ternes who has tendered his resignation. The meeting was opened shortly after eight O'clock by the chairman Mr. J.H.Schmaltz and an informal and lengthy discussion took place regarding the proposed new site for building a church. A motion was finally made by Carl L.Schmaltz to this effect:

"With the approval of the Diocesan Building Committee, THAT this parish building and finance committee go on record as favoring the proposed new site (The former school property) within the town limits of Beiseker for building a new church, also that the present said parish building committee will whole heartedly follow the studied decision of the Diocesan Building Committee. This motion was passed unanimously."

It was also suggested by Louis E. Hagel that if this parish committee is invited to interview the Diocesan Building Committee that all members make a determined effort to be present, if at all possible.

The meeting was adjourned on motion by Val Schmaltz.

Rev. A. Tennant Secy-Treas.

This is a copy of the Catholics supporting the church (by way of making use of the Sunday collection envelopes,) and residing in the town of Beiseker, as prepared by Rev. Father E.A. Tennant.

Envelope No.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Schmaltz Peter, | 49. Hagel, Miss. Florence, |
| 2. Schmaltz Felix P. | 50. Schmaltz, Matt. |
| 3. Hagel Mrs. Frances, | 51. Schmaltz, Val. |
| 4. Hagel Anton, | 52. Schmaltz, Carl L. |
| 5. Hagel A.E. | 53. Schwartzengerger, Mrs. A. |
| 6. Hagel Marcus, | 54. Selzler, Jack, |
| 7. Schmaltz, Mrs. Juliana, | 55. Velker, Mrs. Agatha, |
| 8. Plowman, J.R. | 56. Stinn, Mike, |
| 9. Schmaltz Louis L. | 57. Nuebauer, Mrs. (H) Barbara, |
| 10. Hagel Ignatz | 58. Verbeek, John, |
| 11. Hagel Miss. Barbara | 59. Silbernagel, Steve, |
| 12. Hagel Mrs. E.N. | 60. Silbernagel, Miss. D. |
| 13. Fisher, Lawrence, | 61. Kiprick, Joseph, |
| 14. Richter, Andrew, | 62. Tetz, Otto, |
| 15. Hagel, Jos. Sr., | 63. Schmaltz, Geo. Sr., |
| 16. Hagel, Miss. Emma, | 64. Schmaltz, Geo. N. Jr. |
| 17. Hagel, Gabriel, | 65. Schmaltz, Vernan, |
| 18. Troidl, A.E. | 66. Kostrosky, Mrs. Dolores, |
| 19. Johnson, Miss. Mary, | 67. Schmaltz, Donnie. |
| 20. Plante, F. | |
| 21. Bunyan, Lorne, | |
| 22. Velker, Nick, Sr., | |
| 23. Schwengler, Gabriel, | |
| 24. Miller, Magnus, | |
| 25. German, Mrs. Barbara, | |
| 26. Schisse, Mrs. M.M. & Bob. | |
| 27. Schmaltz, Leo. J. | |
| 28. Schmaltz, Miss. Betty, | |
| 29. Lavoie, W.J. | |
| 30. Smith, Mrs. (Don) V.F. | |
| 31. Meidinger, F.A. | |
| 32. Hagel, E.B. | |
| 33. Lucyk, M. | |
| 34. Schmaltz, F.J. | |
| 35. Schmaltz, Tony. | |
| 36. Olsen, Mrs. (Stan) Barbara. | |
| 37. Hanlon, J.B. | |
| 38. Hagel, Felix, | |
| 39. Hagel, Jos. J. | |
| 40. Verbeek, Dr. E. | |
| 41. Hagel, Miss. Victoria, | |
| 42. Hagel, Alfred, | |
| 43. Hagel, Mrs. Eva, | |
| 44. Velker, Adam, | |
| 45. Simmonds, Mrs. Mary, | |
| 46. Ternes, Wm. | |
| 47. Wald, A.A. | |
| 48. Wald, Miss. Rose Mary, | |

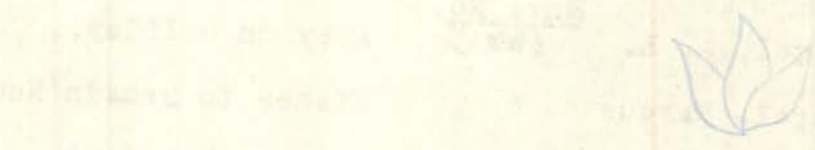
Total Envs - 150

Supplementary Report to Petition.

	<u>Env. No.</u>	
Hagel, A. E.	#2 5	Away on holidays.
Hagel, Marcus	6	Wishes to remain Neutral
Schmaltz, Mrs. J.	7	Away in hospital
Hagel, Emma	16	<i>Neutral</i> Clerking, Employer Ternes favors old site.
Troidl, A. E.	18	Wishes to remain Neutral <i>Calgary Power Employee</i>
Plante, F. A.	20	Wishes to remain Neutral School Principal.
Verbeek, E. Dr.	40	Wishes to remain Neutral Just starting here.
Hagel, Victoria	41	Transferred to Bank in Calgary.
Selzler, Jack	54	Wishes to remain neutral, local carpenter.

The following were against the Petition.

-Schmaltz, Peter	1
-Schmaltz, F. P.	2
Hagel, Mrs. F.	3
Hagel, Anton	4
-Schmaltz, L.J.	27
Hagel, Alfred	42
Ternes, Wm.	46
-Schmaltz, C.L.	52



PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA	
ACC.	72-130

In support of land for
New Church Site —
and land for Expansion

Many Parisheners besides those shown on agreement are prepared to assist in paying of the land for the new church site as well as the cost of moving the Priests House.

It should also be noted that any extra cost will be offset by the fact that the Sewage disposal & septic tank needs rebuilding, also the the well will need attention in the near future at a large expense.

Beiseker Alta
February 27nd 1954

We the undersigned hereby offer to donate, as an extra donation, if required for the building of our new church thereon, over and above our regular donations towards the building fund the following:

- 1) Block "S" Plan 8292CH within the village of Beiseker, (known as the old school ground)

AND

- 2) Pay all expenses for moving the present rectory from the present site to the new site,, viz., Block "S" Plan 8292CH in the village of Beiseker, including the digging of a full basement, full concrete foundation with concrete floor, similar to the present one, the setting of the building on the new foundation.

It is estimated that the above two items would cost approximately \$3,000.00.

Matthew Schmalz
J. Schmalz

I Andrew Richter, Farmer, of Beiseker, Alberta, being the registered owner of a parcel of land situated within the legal limits of the village of Beiseker, known as Pt. of S.W. quarter (1/4) of Section 13; Township 28; Range 26; W of 4th M. consisting of approximately (7) seven acres; Hereby agree to enter into an agreement with Saint Mary's Church, Beiseker, Alberta, to sell to them this said parcel of land for the sum of Two-hundred-forty-five (\$245.00) dollars, or if preferred by the church to enter into an agreement of option, I will give them an option, for a period mutually agreed upon.

Signed at Beiseker,
in the Province of Alberta
this 22nd day of February 1954.

J. J. Schmalz
Witness.

Andrew Richter
Owner.

INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DIOCESAN BUILDING COMMITTEE
REGARDING THE CHURCH BUILDING SITUATION IN BEISEKER PARISH.

For the past number of years, it has been very evident that the present church building in Beiseker could not be used in its existing conditions for very much longer. The sensible thing to do seemed to be to plan for a new church. Contributions from the people towards a Building Fund was suggested although no organized drive for funds was ever started. In this way \$18,183.71 with interest to date of \$2387.40 was raised during the course of the years in cash and Dominion Savings bonds. At the present time, the sum of \$32,241.00 is in a separate account and a separate safety deposit box in the Beiseker Branch of the Royal Bank, the difference being what has been saved during the years from the ordinary and extra-ordinary receipts of the parish.

It became quite clear this year that the old church building as it is, could hardly be used over another winter. Therefore I thought it about time that a definite move had to be made to remedy this situation. I appointed a committee of five men of the parish whom I thought the most capable of helping in raising money for a new church.

With the help of a plan sent by Father McGuinness and a preliminary sketch of a proposed church seating 450 by architects Hodges and Bates of Calgary, the committee of men and myself thought that there would not be too much difficulty in collecting and making suitable agreements to raise the estimated \$75,000.00 for such a building. And that work could start almost at once. The estimated total cost of this building is \$75,000.00 and the preliminary sketch is available for consideration

of the Building Committee at any time.

However, the difficulty which has continued to block all efforts of collecting funds and going ahead with the plans suddenly, appeared. It was the opinion of the committee which I had chosen (all but one) that the only site for the new church must be the property in the village proper on which the old school had been situated and across the road from the new school. This property is now owned by the Wheatlands School Div. and would be bought by some of the parishioners and donated to the church. There are seven lots situated there at a value of \$200.00 a lot. The cost to those donating the property would be considerable less than this, at the present time.

The only advantages which I can see to this proposed new site are that it is close to the school where now 152 Catholic children attend. But it is run on the lines of a public school and is likely to remain so. Also, public utilities, phone, water etc. would be more readily available. The sewage and water by-law has just been passed for the village. The present church property is situated in the municipality and \$200.00 taxes must be paid this year from which very little if any benefit is received.

On the other hand, the present property has been held by the church for over forty years and the expense and difficulty of moving the rectory would be considerable. But the terrible condition that has arisen is that the parish is now divided into two separate groups and personalities and old sores have created a situation that is almost impossible to solve. I have remained neutral in the controversy insisting that the welfare of the church should be the only deciding

factor and that the situation of the church should not become very important when the two localities are actually only about three short city blocks apart.

But I now believe that feelings have become such that the only solution at least during the course of the present generation might be to repair or remodel the old church. I have looked into this and have come to the following conclusions:

A new heating system will have to be installed. This will likely have to be done at any rate, to make the building as is, suitable for human occupation this coming winter.

Siding or stucco will have to be put on the exterior.

The building will have to be insulated .

New floor covering will have to be laid. (for the whole floor area).

A new shingling job on the roof, new wiring and all windows fixed.

To make more room, the altar could be moved back into the present sacristy and a sacristy built on the side.

After making considerable inquiries and obtaining estimates, it would take about \$12,000.00 to do this properly. Possibly somewhat less with some voluntary labour.

I might add that the ones who really would go all out for a new church would not help much in this project of repair but they are mostly those also who favour the new site.

The repairs or remodeling of the old building could therefore be done without touching any of the funds actually donated for a new church.

Respectfully Submitted: *A. E. Tennant.*

Beiseker, Alberta, May 26, 1953.

Listed below are some of the reasons why we think the new church should be build in the village, East of the CPR. Track.

- 1) The church should be near the school, It is agreed that it is the young that we must prepare and make fit to carry on tomorrow. We have found that it is very inconvient to have the children go from school to the church at the present distance, especially is this true during Lent, when a number of the children attend Mass, and also make the stations during noon hour, the church being isolated as at present, makes it difficult to have an adult to supervise when the children make the stations, and sometimes they do mischief.
- 2) The church should not be on a through road, or a very busy highway, as is the case now, being on a highway connecting highway No.9 - with highway No.2.
- 3) The church should be on the same side of the railway as the village proper, where in this case 173 Catholic people reside, as against 22 on the west side of the railway, and if the church is built East of the railway, it is possible that some of the now residence Catholics will move their houses to the East side also, as at least one party has already acquired a lot for that purpose.
- 4) If the church were build on the old school ground, the proposed new site, the people living West of the railway, would still be closer to the church than many in the village living East of the railway.
- 5) At present the church is outside of the Village limits, making it very difficult, if not impossible to have public utilities installed, such as water, sewage, Telephone and what is even more important perhaps, sidewalks. The matter of keeping the church clean is a real promlem at present, as people, and especially children coming to church from the Village or school must walk on the road, or beside the road, and in wet weather they do pick up a lot of mud on there shoes.
- 6) With the black top highway running east of the village the trend of settlement is to the East, as in indicated by the fact that every lot near the proposed new site has been bought, and even the school lots, not for sale at present, have been spoken for already, because they are near the proposed site.

Because of the demand for public utilities, (and Beiseker is in the process of installing a water and sewage disposal system, a vote on the by-law will be taken June 1, 1953) the Government will not allow any further developement west of the C.P.R. Tracks, untill there are no more lots to be had within the present, or near the present surveyed water and sewage system.

- 7) All five men on the finance committee are of the opinion that the new proposed site would be a very desirable location, three of the five ~~are~~ are living on the farms, and own no



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PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
ACC.

May 26, 1953.

property in the village, and so have no personal interest in the location in that regard, they are only interested in what they believe to be for the good of the parish.

A. V. Schmaltz
Felix Hagel
Val Schmaltz

Ed Schwartzenberger
Florian Mayer

Beiseker Alberta
May 25th. 1953.

Reasons why we think any new Catholic Church should be built on the present Church grounds in Beiseker.

We have at present 14 acres of nice grounds on which site the present church is standing and the rectory which is a new building (estimated value \$12,000.00) has already been built on this site. It would cost a lot to move this building, estimate of cost: \$3,000.00.

The cemetery is also located on the present church property and has been there for the past 40 years.

A parking problem would also arise at the proposed new site in the village of Beiseker, the parcel of land not being suitable. We wish to submit a sketch showing the proposed new site. (Scale 1 inch to 200 ft.)

These objections to moving the present church site are the opinions of the following: Peter Schmaltz, Wm. Hagel, Anton Hagel Sr., Louis Hagel, Marcus Hagel, John Mayer, Anton Hagel Jr., Oswald Ternes. We believe that we represent the opinions of more than half the parish.

If it is impossible to come to an agreement about building a new church, we also propose that the old building be repaired and remodeled and that the money saved already be used for this purpose.

North Branch

SPRINGMILL

C.P.R.

FIRST

AVENUE

ROAD

800 Feet

SECOND

AVENUE

Proposed
New Site
approx
3 acres

Saint Mary's Church,
Beiseker, Alberta.
January 26th. 1954.

Most Reverend Francis P. Carroll D.D.
Bishop of Calgary,
Calgary, Alberta.

Your Excellency:

I am enclosing the minutes of the parish meeting held here in November in regard to the proposed new church for this parish. If you remember, the last time I was speaking to you early in December, I promised to send you a copy of the minutes of this meeting. I did not send it earlier because I had hoped that I might be able to report some progress towards a settlement of this parish dispute. The proponents of the "town" site for a new church being of a more progressive and more aggressive nature have been active in their program and actually I believe the whole parish would follow their lead though somewhat reluctantly, and I think the undercurrent of the controversy would still remain. As appears in the report of the parish meeting as enclosed, you will notice that I appointed a committee of men to act as a parochial building committee. They are equally divided between the two factions with a couple of neutrals. Some of them are of the opinion that this committee should have the opportunity of discussing the problem with the Diocesan Building Committee, some believing that when the decision of the diocesan committee and as approved of in your letter, was made without a full understanding of the need and the suitability of the new church being built in town, the others hoping to obtain once more an irrevocable statement that the church is to be built on the present site. If this meeting with the diocesan committee even if they agreed to it, would do any good or not I'm at a loss to say. The fault with the ones who wish to keep the church where it is, is that they are satisfied to let things go as they are until it becomes necessary to make some repairs on the old church. Whereas, the others have given promises that there will be no extra cost to the parish in obtaining the land in the town for a new site and also no extra cost in moving the rectory.

In the meantime the parish suffers both physically and spiritually. The condition of the church has rendered the holding of mass almost unbearable during the severe cold weather such as last Sunday when after staying up practically the whole night to keep a fire in the old furnace, the temperature in the building during the first mass at 8 a.m. was actually below freezing. I have been saying mass on week days in a make-shift chapel in the basement of the church. And the less hardy in both spirit and body, miss mass on these cold days on Sundays, not because they cannot get to church but because of the cold condition of the building. I have even experienced difficulty with prospective converts because of their knowledge of the parish dispute, and undoubtedly some have been lost because of this.

It is difficult for me to make any recommendations for the solving of this controversy outside of:

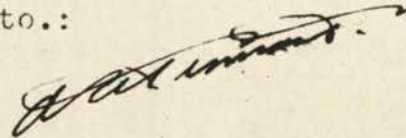
1. An attempt being made to reconcile the rest of the parish to the new site.
2. A final and completely decisive statement from the Building Committee backed up by yourself again regarding the present site of the

church. (Even a meeting of the above mentioned parish committee with the Diocesan Building Committee might clear the air because no matter what the decision would be, the other side would feel that they had at least had their say before the highest tribunal. I myself however have never recommended such a meeting to them nor been in favour of it, and I surely would not want to attend myself, but let both sides have a clear field in presenting their views. I would rather leave this up to Monsignor Hetherington and the Diocesan Building Committee to decide on the advisability of such a meeting.)

3. Permission from the Building Committee to repair and fix up the old church as well as possible and as cheaply as possible to do for the next number of years until such time as death and fortunes of the future would put an end to the foolish dispute. However, this last although a temporary solution of sorts, would not tend to increase the zeal of either pastor or people in working very hard for the future advancement of the parish.

I am indeed very sorry that I have to bring up this subject again but it is something that seems to hang on and grow worse as time goes on. Although the recent parish report sent to you does not look too bad, it certainly is not good enough for this ~~place~~ place and everything of any value in it, was certainly done the hard way.

Sincerely in Xto.:



I am also enclosing a copy of this letter and a report on the parish meeting to be given to Monsignor Hetherington or the Diocesan Building Committee if desired.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parishioners of St. Mary's Church at Beiseker, held in the Beiseker and District Memorial Hall on the evening of Nov. 12th. 1953.

Reverend Father Tennant after having asked G. J. Schissel to act as a recording secretary, opened the meeting with prayers and acted as chairman. Father then explained the purpose of the meeting to organize a concerted effort on the part of the whole parish to further the plans for a new church. The details of the amounts in the Building Fund and how they were raised were then explained by the Reverend Chairman. (Each person at the meeting was provided with a copy of the Financial Statement of the New Church Fund). Suggestions were then given for increasing the amount of the fund. Various ways and means were then discussed such as promises of grain, pledges, donations of bonds and coupons and the signing of notes. It was agreed to leave this phase of the work up to the Building Committee which would be appointed. Father then gave the many reasons for the immediate need of a new building for a church both for the spiritual welfare of the parish and the material progress of the community. The desirability of a community of religious sisters in the parish was also ~~xxxx~~ brought to the notice of the meeting. The type of building suitable for a church for this parish was then considered and the sketches already drawn up were discussed. Father then read the letter from the Bishop and the Diocesan Building Committee regarding the site of a new church for Beiseker Parish. Father Tennant then appointed the following to a committee to act on the financing and building of a new church: J. H. Schmaltz, Val Schmaltz, Ed Schwartzenberger, Florian Mayer, Felix Hagel, Oswald Ternes, Marcus Hagel, Louis E. Hagel, Carl L. Schmaltz and Baltser Schmaltz. These men all agreed to serve on such a committee and a vote of confidence was then requested in the members of this committee. It was moved by Peter Schmaltz and seconded by Tony Schmaltz that the Parish as a whole accept this committee. Before this motion could be brought to a vote, a long contraversial discussion took place regarding the site for a new church. J. H. Schmaltz declared that he did not think that the question of a site could be re-opened at this meeting but since it had and ^{until} was settled a local Building Committee could not function. He then made a motion that the approval of this appointed committee be tabled until such time as the meeting was ready for the ~~making~~ motion. Father Tennant then said that there must be unanimous agreement on the site ^{therein} not much progress could be made. But in view of the letter from the Bishop (which he read again) the matter was settled as far as he was concerned and that if any discussion or vote regarding the site of the church was to take place at this meeting, he felt obliged to leave the meeting. He agreed to return at such time as this question was brought to a conclusion. He then left the hall.

As a new chairman for this portion of the meeting had to be elected, Adam Velker nominated J. H. Schmaltz to act as chairman but he declined due to his position on the suggested committee. Wendel Schmaltz nominated Matt Schmaltz but he too declined and in turn nominated Louis L. Schmaltz whose nomination was seconded by John Mayer. This was carried. The chairman also being mayor of the village, declared that no official assurance had ever been given by the Town Council that the new utilities of the village would be made available to the present church property as stated in the letter of the Diocesan Building Committee. During the discussion of the Church site which followed, J. H. Schmaltz gave his views of what had happened regarding the proposed building of a new church since the time that Monsignor Hetherington and Father McGuinness came to Beis-



eker in August of 1952 to look over the school property proposed as the site of a new church and the condition of the present church. Lawrence Fisher made a motion that a vote be held among the members of the parish regarding the building site. This motion was seconded by William Schwarzenberger. After considerable discussion pro and con, an amendment to this motion was moved by Matt Schmaltz in effect that this meeting regrets that the Diocesan Building Committee made a decision regarding the site of a new church without consulting the members of the parish but since the Bishop had approved of this decision in a letter to the parish priest, that this meeting go on record as being willing to abide by his decision. The amendment was seconded by A. Troidl and was carried but not unanimously.

Father Tennant then came back to resume his position as chairman and the delayed motion regarding the personnel of the Parish Building Committee was then passed and Father asked them to carry on with the work of preparing for the building of the new church subject to the approval of his Excellency the Bishop in all their decisions. J.H. Schmaltz also spoke on the important duties of the members of this committee. The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Matt Schmaltz and was carried. Closed with prayer by Father Tennant.

J.H. Schüssel.

 secy. of meeting.

After the parish meeting, a short meeting of the above Parish Building Committee was held and the nominations of J.H. Schmaltz as chairman and Reverend A.E. Tennant as Secretary-treasurer were approved.



PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
ACC. 72.130

January 29, 1954

Rev. A. E. Tennant,
St. Mary's Church,
Beiseker, Alta.

Dear Father Tennant:

I have discussed the matter of the church site with Monsignor Hetherington. He thinks that, if it will bring the matter to a solution, your parish committee should meet the Diocesan Building Committee. The latter is to meet soon - probably next week. Father Lefort will let you know when and if the meeting is decided upon. Then perhaps you could get your committee or representatives from both sides in it, to come in here. If your committee thinks they have not been given a chance - although you set down both sides - this will remove that complaint. Also it may give a new approach to the question on the part of the Diocesan Committee.

With sincere regards,

Yours cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Calgary

COPY

1954 (9)

A Meeting of the New Church Committee was held in Saint Mary's Rectory on Wednesday February 3rd with all members present with the exception of Mr. Oswald Ternes who has tendered his resignation. The meeting was opened shortly after eight o'clock by the chairman Mr. J.H. Schmalts and an informal and lengthy discussion took place regarding the proposed new site for building a church. A motion was finally made by Carl L. Schmalts to the effect: WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE DIOCESAN BUILDING COMMITTEE, THAT THIS PARISH BUILDING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE GO ON RECORD AS FAVORING THE PROPOSED NEW SITE (THE FORMER SCHOOL PROPERTY) WITHIN THE TOWN LIMITS OF BEISEKER FOR BUILDING A NEW CHURCH, ALSO THAT THE PRESENT SAID PARISH BUILDING COMMITTEE WILL WHOLE HEARTEDLY FOLLOW THE STUDIED DECISION OF THE DIOCESAN BUILDING COMMITTEE. This motion was passed unanimously.

It was also suggested by Louis E. Nagel that if this parish committee is invited to interview the Diocesan Building Committee that all members make a determined effort to be present, if at all possible.

The Meeting was adjourned on a motion by Val Schmalts.

Committee members present: J.H. Schmalts, chairman, Val Schmalts, Felix Nagel, Louis E. Nagel, Florian Mayer, Ed Schwartsenberger, Carl L. Schmalts, Marcus Nagel, Baltzer Schmalts and the parish priest and secy. treas., Rev. A. Tennant.

Rev. A. Tennant Secy. Treas.

Word was later received that the Diocesan Building Committee agreed to meet with the Parish Committee on Tuesday afternoon at 2.00 p.m. with February 9th. at the Bishop's residence in Calgary.

February 24th, 1954

Rev. A.E. Tennant,
St. Mary's Rectory,
Beiseker, Alta.

Dear Father Tennant:-

As a result of a meeting of the Diocesan Building Committee and a discussion of the matter with the Bishop, he has asked me to write you regarding the proposed sites of the church, and to obtain more definite opinions from yourself in the matter.

Though the minutes of the parish meeting attended by 100% of the parishioners, submitted by you, indicated that the question of the site was settled, it is apparent that this was not so. Since that time, there have been several delegations of factors proposing the new school site seeing one or other members of the Diocesan Building Committee, including one delegation consisting of 3 Village Councillors, and one Municipal Councillor, and the presenting of a petition signed by 67 parishioners residing in the town.

The information now required is:-

- 1) What is your own personal opinion regarding the choice of the site, independent of any controversy?
- 2) Taking into consideration the controversy that exists, and the action of your own parish Building & Finance Committee, which is the best and wisest site to choose?
- 3) How much of the opposition to the old site is due to the fact that the Village Councillors are piqued because the neighbors of the present site voted to remain out of the Village and therefore out of the jurisdiction of the Village Council? (The Bishop is wondering if there is some other factory moving these who are setting up objections to the present site.)

Your answers to these questions will assist a great deal in reaching a conclusion in this controversial matter.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Chancellor

copy for
His Excellency

Saint Mary's Church
Beiseker, Alberta.
February 24th. 1954. 5

Reverend Jos. LeFort
Scy. Diocesan Building Committee,
Calgary, Alberta.

Reverend and Dear Father:

Would you kindly bring the following requests and considerations to the attention of the Diocesan Building Committee, and also if necessary to the attention of his Excellency the Bishop, as soon as possible. I believe it is quite urgent.

The parishioners of this parish (at least those interested in a new church at all) would like to start the construction of their new church at once, making use of a maximum of voluntary labour. As no doubt the members of the Diocesan Building Committee must know, it is very difficult to make arrangements with a contractor who is willing to help in this way by using as much voluntary labour as possible. We have been very fortunate in contacting one Nick Yurchevich (at present I believe, the contractor of O.L.P.H. church in Calgary) who is willing to take on the work under these "voluntary labour considerations". I think he is known as one quite capable of this work. He has already met with our Parish Building Committee and they have already worked out many of the details. We have also contacted Mr. Frank Hilbert who is willing to help us with supervision. He is also known as a good man at this and is doing the same work for O.L.P.H. church. It would be very unfortunate for us to lose the services of these two men by not being able to give them assurances at once that we will be permitted to go on with the work as soon as possible.

According to the Annual Report recently submitted to the Chancery Office, we now have \$52,356.52 (actually since the report with added donations, now \$53,000.00). It is the opinion of Mr. Yurchevich and our own men that we can put up the building closed in, with this amount. We are not asking to borrow any money but I believe that from there on, we can finish everything in not too long a period of time. As to the savings in voluntary labour, I have only to refer to the year 1944 when in the report of that year the building of the new rectory in Beiseker is given as \$5468.28. This building was estimated by a Calgary contractor at that time, with lower costs of materials and labour of course, as being a \$10,000.00 house. Of the \$5468.28, less than a thousand dollars was paid out for labour. We figure that all the hauling, cement work and much of the carpenter work in the rough, can be done quite satisfactorily by our own men. The brick work would be the main item in bringing in outside help. I might also add that the chairman of our own committee, J.H. Schmalts is not without some experience in building, having as a divisional trustee of the school division been responsible for the building of new schools and only this fall his own family built a new \$20,000.00 home. There is no doubt that we can build the church and close it in with the funds we have on hand.

As to the building itself, we propose to follow the plans as outlined by the architects, Bates and Hodges and as taken

from the original sketch made so kindly by Father McGuinness. We have had difficulty with these architects as they seem to be under the impression that we are loaded with money or can borrow it to the total amount of their estimate. They are not at all in favour of the "voluntary labour" idea and think it should be contracted out-right. Of course this is simply out of the question. We are tryin to save money and build a nice church within our means. However, we do propose to follow their plans with the laminated arches, brick wall with cement blocks inside, no basement (only for the furnace room), forced hot water heating. Monsignor Hetherington has the latest sketches which I sent to him a short time ago. As to the walls of brick and cement blocks (or tile) the plans show that all the weight rests on the laminated arches, as even an amateur like myself can plainly see. Mr. Yurehevich has worked out all the needed materials and has had a plan of the heating system needed made by an engineering firm. He has been most helpful, generous with his time and I have complete confidence in him. It would be a terrible mistake to loose his services for the kind of work we have in mind here.

As to the urgency of the matter, I might say that now is the psychological time to make a move. The dispute regarding the two sites has pretty well died down. We now have the title to the new site and it is certain that any long delay will do no good. Besides, we are desperately in need of a church. The only reason the parish has been able to function normally at all is due to the mild winter, so far. Ash Wednesday being our first taste of a normal winter, I had to visit the old broken down furnace in the church at midnight, 3 a.m., 5.00 a.m. and 7.00 a.m. to even have the building half warm enough for the opening of Lent and Mass. I think this is exepcting too much of anyone. I am sure that many Sunday Masses would have been impossible only for the saving grace of mild weather. Retired couples have moved to Calgary for religious reasons. This may be very fine for the city parishes but should our policy be the disintegration of the rural parishes? This is happening fast enough through the lack of opportunities for the young people in the country. We are now unable to hold such functions as a Mission, Forty Hours and so on. This is not good for a parish. I also beleive that the good people here and there are many of them and I myself, deserve to have some faith placed in us. In a financial way, a quick glance over the Diocesan Collections as recently published shows that we are certainly above average.

If the above proposals do not meet with the approval of the Diocesan Building Committee, we will just have to build a cheaper stucco church or do something with the old wreck. The point I want to emphasize, is that we do need a church - now, or at least a decent place to say mass. A decision must be made at once ~~must be made at once~~. I humbly ask the members of the Diocesan Building Committee for every consideration, help and advice they can give. I think this should be a part of their responsibilities and duties too.

Sincerely in Christ:

A. Tennant

Saint Mary's Church
Beiseker, Alberta.
February 27th. 1954

Reverend Joseph LeFort
Chancellor, Diocese of Calgary
CALGARY, Alberta.

Reverend and Dear Father:

In reply to your letter regarding more information from myself for the consideration of his Excellency and the members of the Diocesan Building Committee, I will attempt to answer the inquiries in the same order as in your letter. In my remarks I will designate "the present site" as the land on which the church now stands on the Western outskirts of the village of Beiseker, and "the new site" as that proposed on the old school grounds to the East of the C.P.R. tracks and within the village limits of Beiseker.

About two years ago, when the question of building a new church on the new site first came up, the proposition was simply ridiculous not because of the site itself but rather because of the price proposed for the land of the new site which then also included the old school building, a price something in the neighborhood of \$10,000.00. It seemed to me then that the advocates of the new site were more interested in making a good transaction to benefit the Wheatlands School Division than really having the welfare of the Church in mind. One of the "boosters" for the new site also being the Divisional School Trustee did not help to allay suspicion as to the sincerity of the proposition. I need not repeat that the deal then was simply ridiculous and had very few supporters among the parishioners. However as time went on support for the new site increased in proportion as the acquiring of the new site became more reasonable. As I understand it now, the school division would turn the land over to the village for free, the village in turn selling it as the site for a new Catholic Church with one of the interested parishioners paying about \$500.00. The old school building, I understand is to be sold for \$700.00 and torn down by the buyer for the lumber. I have been trying to interest our local council of the Knights of Columbus in acquiring this old school building for themselves and the parish to be used as a hall.

With this preamble finished, I will go on to answer the questions of your letter as well and sincerely as I can.

1. My own personal opinions regarding the two sites, independent of any controversy:

Topographically (the lay of the land, appearance etc.), the present site is without doubt, the better place. However, in my own mind and from a purely utilitarian point of view, I must admit that I do favour the new site. I would have admitted this right from the start if the proposition of acquiring the new site had not been in the beginning and continued to be until just recently, as I said above "simply ridiculous". But if Beiseker does expand or grow, any growth at all will be toward the highway and away from the present site if the pattern of other small towns in Alberta is any criterion. Also, being higher here and uneconomical for the present sewer and water system to expand to any great degree in this direction, I do not believe that there will be any building of homes in this neighborhood until all available space (and there is plenty of it) within the town and to the east and north is taken up. In the twelve years I have been here only two elderly Catholic couples have built new homes near the present site (to be near the church, it is true) while a dozen homes have been built by Catholics to the east in the town, even by those who advocate building the church on the present site. I do think that being near the school also might have some advantages in bringing a Catholic atmosphere to this public school where there are so many Cath-

but
not
"official"

Alberta
1904

Statement of
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The following is a statement of the
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The following is a statement of the
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PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA	
ACC.	72.130

olic children. To me there seems more hope of making this school as Catholic as possible, than establishing ourselves as a separate unit, at least for the immediate future. Of course, a church on the new site would be of greater convenience for more people. On a nice day, the walk over to the present church from town does not seem like much of an effort, but with snow or rain, mud and the wind which really has a good sweep across the wide open spaces on the way over, and especially after dark with inadequate lighting, it is beyond the physical powers of many. They are the poorer parishioners (without cars), and many elderly. For the most part, the sixty-seven signers of the recent petition were sincere. Actually only four families, seven adults and two small children, benefit from the proximity of the present church. Of these, four individuals come to daily mass. If it were not for the rectory, starting out anew and from a practical standpoint, the new site would be the logical choice for a new church. The rectory could be moved I think, for about \$2000.00 with voluntary labour including the basement or foundation. Interested parties have also promised that this would be done without any cash outlay by the parish, but it would still cost someone the above sum. In any case, the present property should be kept, not only because of the cemetery but in view of any possible future need for land. An option to purchase land across a road from the new site, recently proposed as an alternative to Monsignor, is not practicable.

Taking the existing controversy into consideration, as your second question suggests, is much more difficult to answer, as the "fussin' and a fightin'" is certainly more of a personal nature, having existed for years from North Dakota and could be, even back to the days of Catherine, the great. About five or six of the old-timers keep it boiling. The great majority of the people in the parish would like to see the matter of the church location settled once and for all. If only the controversy were to be considered, just letting things go and gradually repairing the old building to carry on sufficiently, would cause the least upheaval. But there is not much progress in this. And as I have said before this would satisfy most of the advocates of the present site who are satisfied with the "status quo" and when the statement came out last summer for the building of a new church on this present site, just sat back with the attitude "now go ahead and build the church where we wanted it all the time". The others, advocating the new site have ability, interest and know-how. Thus the town councillors, divisional school trustee, municipal councillor and the local school board are all members of the parish and all "boosters" of the new site, a rather formidable array in our small public life. So, this time the decision of the Diocesan Building Committee and his Excellency, will be accepted, undoubtedly reluctantly by the "losers", but nevertheless accepted. No one will quit the church over it. I think this is the point, if the present site is designated, we will have to be satisfied with something pretty mediocre.... the new site maybe something just a little better. As an example of the consequences of the controversy, an intended marriage has come to naught, like to the Montague and Capulet incident, but with the principals not having the determination nor the imagination of Romeo and Juliet.

Misunderstood by Tom The third question had me puzzled for a time, as there is no desire on the part of the neighbours across the road from the present church and within the village limits, to secede from the village proper or the jurisdiction of the village council. On the contrary, they are very happy to remain in the village as it means the bringing of the water utilities to their homes, even though it means considerable added expense. There has been no vote held concerning this and no disagreement that I am aware of, between the neighbours of the present church site and the village council as far as village business is concerned. This impression may have been a result of the recent petition presented to Monsignor which naturally those across the road from the present church did not sign. The land across the road from our church has always been in the village and remains so.

No I hope this letter in which I have attempted to give my views for what they are worth, at some length will help in the solution of this really tiresome question. I might add as a sort of postscript that I have not let my heart dictate the above opinions as the "present site" people are much easier to get along with and deep down inside I think, the better Catholics.

Sincerely in Xto.:

A. E. Tennant

VILLAGE OF BEISEKER

OFFICE OF
SECRETARY-TREASURER

BEISEKER, ALTA.

March 1, 1954

Very Reverend Monsignor Hetherington

Sacred Heart Church

Calgary, Alberta

Dear Monsignor Hetherington;

Further to the brief and survey placed before yourself and your building committee by the Council of the Village of Beiseker on February 23, 1954. The Council wishes to express their appreciation for your time and the pleasant interview regarding the finding of a satisfactory solution to the church problem in Beiseker.

Realizing that the Monsignor has only the best interests of the Church in mind, we as the public administrators of the Village of Beiseker beg to point out that we have a very serious responsibility to our ratepayers. In the same respect we have a responsibility to our parish and are attempting to resolve the church location problem in the light of both the Church and the Village; as a whole the council is composed of Catholic gentlemen.

As a village council we must consider the present public debt of \$142,000.00 incurred through water and sewage and a population of a little over 300 persons. This debt is considered by the Provincial Government as a maximum for a village of our size and assessment. The council must make every attempt to keep the village compact in order to pay for present improvements; if there were any extensive developments laterally from the village the cost of municipal improvements and utilities would make them prohibitive for at least 30 years. At this point it should be noted that the village has room for about 20 houses on the present water and sewage lines and because of the lack of industries these parcels will be taken by either retired farmers or families with children. Both groups have always maintained a very high Catholic majority and could well be influenced by the school or the church positions; most likely both.

VILLAGE OF BEISEKER

OFFICE OF
SECRETARY-TREASURER

2.

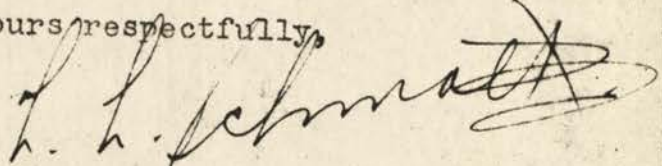
BEISEKER, ALTA.

Therefore, it would appear that with the present church being on a secondary highway 200 yards from a railway crossing, and that the distance from the school being a quarter of a mile from and through this area, and that further large expenditures on the part of the village being unlikely, the village could not develop this area further. The groups mentioned above could not be satisfied and would move on to the city as has happened throughout the continent when modern conveniences have not been supplied.

The village council is forced to take the stand that the general improvement to the village would be both financially and spiritually attractive to future generations and as Catholic gentlemen we can then do no other than recommend the new church site; supporting the village survey completed and turned over to the council. The council recommends a more serious consideration than has been given in the past - even to the extent of postponing the building program for a year or two in the hope of finding a proper solution.

It might also be added here that the council has been informed of the sale of the old school building on the new site and that these three acres can be turned over to the Church as soon as it pleases the Bishop to accept title.

Yours respectfully,



L.L. Schmaltz

Mayor

I c.c./ Mr. F.C. Berke

March 23rd,
1954

Rev. A.E. Tennant,
St. Mary's Rectory,
Beiseker,
Alta.

Dear Father Tennant:-

At the meeting of the Diocesan Building Committee held March 22nd, the question of the site for the new Beiseker Church was again reviewed.

In the previous decision of the Building Committee of June 14th, 1953, the Committee was misinformed on two very important factors, which lead them to reach the decision they did. This is

- 1) that there was official assurance that the water and sewer would be extended to the present site of the church;
- 2) that the purchase of the new site for the church would entail an expenditure of \$10,000.00 besides the cost of moving the present rectory, to the new site.

Since that time, it has been found that the Committee was misinformed and therefore they are obliged to reconsider their decision.

They have received official assurance in writing, by the Mayor of the Village, that the water and sewer will definitely not be extended to the present church site.

They have been unofficially assured that the present site can be purchased for \$500.00 and even told by varying representatives of Beiseker Church Committee Members, that it would be given gratis.

Before reaching a final decision, we wish to have in writing, by the officials of the town, what will be the cost of acquiring the new land. The cost considered is not only what might be charged to the parish, but also what any individual might be obliged to contribute to effect the transfer of land to the "R.C. Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary".

We will await this official information before giving a decision.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Secretary, Diocesan Building Committee.

Copy to: Mr. L.L. Schmalts

VILLAGE OF BEISEKER

OFFICE OF
SECRETARY-TREASURER

BEISEKER, ALTA.
March 30, 1954

Rev. Joseph E. Le Fort
Secretary, Diocesan Bldg. Committee
1010 7a St. N.W.
Calgary, Alberta

Dear Father Le Fort: Re: NEW CHURCH SITE

In accordance with a request made by Father Tennant to advise your Diocesan Building Committee of the cost to the Church and the cost to the individual regarding the above mentioned site, the Council of the Village of Beiseker wishes to advise:

That regarding the latter the following persons have made application to the council for the purchase of the new Church site (Block S):

Messrs. Ed Schwartzberger
L.E.Fisher
Andrew Richter
J.H.Schmaltz
Matt Schmaltz
L.I.Schmaltz
Val Schmaltz
Felix Hagel
Adam Velkor
W.J.Lavoie

The Council has agreed to sell the above land at a cost of \$50.00 per person to a sum total of \$500.00

That regarding the former the above mentioned persons have designated that the title be made in the name of "~~The~~ R.C. Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary", at no cost to the Church, and for the express purpose of erecting the new Beiseker R.C. Church.

The Council hopes that they have been of assistance in this matter and you may feel free to contact them at any time for information.

I c.c.
Father Tennant

Yours respectfully


J.H. Schmaltz, Mayor

April 1st,
1954

Rev. A.E. Tennant,
St. Mary's Rectory,
Beiseker, Alta.

Dear Father Tennant:-

On June 14th, 1953, I wrote giving you the decision of the Diocesan Building Committee regarding the site of the new proposed church.

Since that time, new information has been made available to the Diocesan Building Committee, which must have a bearing on my present decision. Two official letters from the Village of Beiseker, have been received, stating:

- 1) that water and sewer would not be extended to the old church site, contrary to the previous information provided;
- 2) that the cost of the new site would be \$500.00 and would be donated by a group of ten men, without cost to the parish. The previous information indicated that this property would cost \$10,000.00

In view of these circumstances, I hereby approve the new site as the location for the erection of the new church.

I am well aware of the controversy that has existed for the past nine months in the parish. It is impossible to satisfy completely, both factors. For the good of all, I once again appeal to every member of the parish for their co-operation in this matter, so that the long delayed and sorely-needed new church can be constructed immediately.

With sincere regards,

Yours cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Calgary

April 1st, 1954

Mr. L.L. Schmaltz, Mayor,
Village of Beiseker,
Beiseker, Alta.

Dear Mr. Schmaltz:-

We wish to thank you sincerely for your letter of March 30th, regarding the purchase price of the new site for the proposed church in Beiseker, and for the assurance that this property will be obtained, without cost to the parish.

His Excellency today, has written his decision regarding the site, to Father Tennant.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Secretary, Diocesan Bldg. Committee

1911 Jan 10

Mr. J. H. ...
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The ...
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Very truly yours,
...

Secretary, ...



PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA	
ACC.	72.130

ack apr. 7/54

Saint Mary's Church
Beiseker, Alberta.
April 5th. 1954.

Most Reverend Francis P. Carroll D.D.
Bishop of Calgary,
Calgary, Alberta.

Your Excellency:

I received your letter regarding the Diocesan Building Committee's consideration ~~regarding~~ the information from the Village of Beiseker on the sewer and water extension and the price and means of acquiring the new site for a church in town. I have not as yet made your approval of the new site public thinking it better to wait for the transfer of the land in question from the school division to the town to come through which has not as yet been done although I understand that the school division officials have approved of this transfer. Under the circumstances, I do not see how any other decision could have been made by the Diocesan Building Committee and yourself with the official opposition the "old site" was receiving from Village, Municipal and School elected councillors and trustees.

I will pledge myself to do my very best to overcome the resentment that might arise on the part of the "old site faction" which I am hoping will dissolve now. It might be well for the "R.C. Bishop of the Diocese of Calgary" not to be in any hurry to accept title to the property of the new site until there is a real and sincere attempt made now to work for and finance the new church. Acceptance of the title will possibly put us in the position of paying taxes both to the

municipality on the present rectory and land (now ammounting to \$220.00 a year) and also to the village on the newly acquired property which with its new and very important water and sewer might also be considerable. It should spur them on to quickly see to it that a new church and the moving of the rectory ~~xxxx~~ takes precedence in their immediate plans.

On another note.....I have word from Father Thompson that the good Basilians would be able to replace me for two Sundays after Easter (April 25th.& May 2nd) and if you approve, I would like to take some holidays at that time. It might do me good to get away from the "social upheavals" of Beiseker, for a spell. I would be back for Sunday May 9th. at the very latest.

Thanking you for your patience and consideration in this nasty business of a church site, sincerely in Xto.:

A. Tennant



Monarch

BEISEKER MOTORS, LTD.

P. SCHMALTZ & SONS

Massey-Harris Farm Implements · Canadian General Electric Appliances

PHONE R1310

BEISEKER, ALTA.

June 29th. 1954.

The Most Reverend Frances P. Carrol,
Bishop of Calgary,
910- 7 A. St. N.W.
Calgary, Alberta.

Your Excellency:-

A Group of us men from St. Mary's Parish here at Beiseker would like to have an appointment with your Excellency at an early date in regards the new building site of our Proposed new Church.

We are very sorry to bother you about this matter, but as there is so much dissension in the parish at the present time, a number of the parish members would wish to have this matter cleared up, the writer would appreciate hearing from you soon.

Yours very Sincerly,

Peter Schmaltz.

In behalf of a number of the members of our Parish.

July 4, 1954

Mr. Peter Schmalts,
Beiseker Motors Ltd.,
Beiseker, Alta.

Dear Mr. Schmalts:-

I have received your letter of June 29th.

The dissension in the parish concerning the site of the new church is most discouraging. I find it difficult to understand a Catholic parish, with the fine record for religious fidelity manifested by the people of St. Mary's, Beiseker, yet who refuse to accept the intervention I have already given the matter.

You may recall that I was asked in 1953 for a decision regarding the site. Having considered the problem and obtained the advice of our Diocesan Building Committee, I wrote my decision on June 14, 1953. Instead of accepting it, the parish committee voted on it, - a rather peculiar procedure when one considers that I was asked to decide.

Because it was then claimed that the Diocesan Committee was uninformed or lacked information, I allowed the opening of the matter once again. Delegations including both sides of the question were received by the Diocesan Committee. Considerable correspondence took place, petitions were received. Promises were made that my decision would be accepted. The Diocesan Committee took pains to remain neutral and provide me with the best advice for the welfare of the parish. I wrote my second decision on April 1st, 1954.

Evidently to judge from your letter that final decision has not been accepted.

Meanwhile more than a year has passed since this matter was first opened and the parish is suffering from the lack of a suitable church. I am aware as you must also be, that it is impossible to satisfy completely both factors. But the good of all demands the co-operation of all, and in this case, the submission of some who do not agree.

I am always ready to receive any of the people who wish to see me. But as I have given a final decision in this matter after considering both sides to their fullest extent, nothing can be gained by another delegation except to prolong the dissension.

I would dislike very much using the censures on the parish of Beiseker which the Church allows me to use to bring this matter to a conclusion. But unless the new church is begun soon, it will be necessary to take drastic measures. As I have said above, religion and as well charity among the parishioners are suffering. God's blessing cannot be given a parish which allows these things to enter the project of erecting a church in His honor.

I appeal to you with all sincerity, for the good that will result, to break down the existing dissension and to accept the decision which I have already given. Such action would be to your honor and Catholic loyalty, even though you may disagree with my decision.

Realizing that your good co-operation will be given me to end the sorry condition in your parish,

Yours cordially in Christ,

Bp of C.

July 9, 1954

Mr. Peter Schmalts,
Beiseker Motors, Ltd.,
Beiseker, Alta.

Dear Mr. Schmalts:-

I have received your letter of July 8th. I assure you it brought me great encouragement not only in admiration of your spirit of submission but for the good of the parish. Your agreement is the first indication of an end to the problem which has beset Beiseker parish for so long.

I am aware that your objections to the decision regarding the church site are legitimate. Yet all of us, including myself, have to give in, at times, to the opinions of others for the common good. It is only a weak-willed person who can make such a concession. This is why God's blessing will be on you and those whom you influence.

With sincere appreciation,

Bp of C.

Yours cordially in Christ,

I appeal to you for all assistance for the good of the
country, to whom there are many difficulties and to whom
I believe with a few simple words, I can do much for the
good of the country, and I believe that you will be
willing to do so.

Yours for the good of the country,

July 7, 1901



Mr. J. H. ...
... ..
... ..

...

I have received your letter of
the 5th and I am glad to hear
that you are interested in the
good of the country and I believe
that you will be willing to do
much for the good of the country.



I am sure that you will be
willing to do much for the
good of the country and I believe
that you will be willing to do
much for the good of the country.

...

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
ACC. 72-130



St. Mary's Church
Beiseker, Alberta.
August 14th. 1954.

Most Reverend Francis P. Carroll D.D.
Bishop of Calgary,
Calgary, Alberta.

Your Excellency:

I am enclosing a letter and report sent to Monsignor Hetherington regarding a financial survey and campaign for funds held in the parish during the past weeks. I trust the letter and the report will be self-explanatory for you. However, if there is any other information you would require, I will give it. The report will give some indication at least of the situation, even though apparently one quarter of the parish still resent the change of site. I am in hopes that they may still come around, even if only some of them.

Sincerely in Xto.:

A. Tennant.

SAINT MARY'S CHURCH
BEISEKER, ALBERTA.

August 14th. 1954

FINANCIAL REPORT OF NEW CHURCH FUND following campaign for Cash
and Pledges (July 1954):

A. Cash on hand previous to Campaign.....	38,000.00
B. Cash pledged as per enclosed form.....	14,441.00
C. Future pledges as per enclosed form.....	36,601.00
TOTAL following Campaign:.....	<u>89,042.00</u>

Information re the above figures:

A.: of the 38,000.00 previous to campaign, about \$20,000. results from donations by parishioners to Building Fund since 1946. The remainder comes from surplus funds of parish (mostly C.W.L. work and interest).

B. and C. The pledges were signed by 103 members of the parish with 24 refusing, evidently in this way protesting the site of the proposed new church. Nobody declared that he would not help once the church was started especially as regards voluntary labour. Of the 24, I feel certain that five or six would not donate no matter where the church might be built. Also, on the other hand \$6,500.00 in "A" above has come from these 24 individuals. Also, there are about six others who are donating through envelopes amounting to about \$300.00 a year but who would sign no pledges.

The Parish committee is of the opinion that considerable saving will result through voluntary labour especially excavating, hauling, cement work etc.

It would also seem that the parish should raise at least \$2000. per year in extraordinary revenue.

In only one case, was grain in storage on a farm taken as a pledge.

The signed pledges are available for perusal at any time.

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•

SAINT MARY'S PARISH CAMPAIGN-BEISEKER ALTA.

Date: _____ 1954

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

As an act of the Love of God and in honor of the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady, and in consideration of the gifts given for the erection of a new Catholic Church in Beiseker, I hereby subscribe what I believe to be my share of this duty:

THE SUM OF:

_____/100 DOLLARS

in cash/bonds immediately upon the beginning of building of said church.

and/or

THE SUM OF:

_____/100 DOLLARS

at the rate of \$ _____ per month/year for a period of _____ months/years

and/or

_____ bushels of _____ as soon as this could be reasonably marketed.

SIGNED BY:

CANVASSER:

A REMINDER TO:

NAME: _____

of your promised contribution to the Building Fund of Saint Mary's New Church

CASH at beginning of construction: \$ _____

PROMISE of \$ _____ at the rate of \$ _____ per year/month

for _____ months/years. ("New Church" side of Sunday envelopes may be used)

AMMOUNT _____ bushels of _____ as soon as this could be reasonably marketed.

DATE _____ 1954 CANVASSER: _____

Make cheques payable to SAINT MARY'S NEW CHURCH FUND.

Official receipts will be given when requested through St. Mary's R.C. Parish by the parish priest.

This is not a promissory note.

GREAT WEST BOND

SAINT MARY'S PARISH CAMPAIGN-BEISNER AREA, DATE: CAN 1951

NAME:

ADDRESS:

As an act of the love of God and in honor of the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady, and in consideration of the gifts given for the erection of a new Catholic Church in Beisner, I hereby subscribe what I believe to be my share of this duty:
THE SUM OF:

100 DOLLARS

in cash/bonds immediately upon the beginning of building of said church.

and/or

THE SUM OF:

100 DOLLARS

at the rate of \$ per month/year for a period of months/years

and/or

as soon as this could be reasonably

marketed.
CANVASSER:

SIGNED BY:

A REMINDER TO:

NAME:

of your promised contribution to the Building Fund of Saint Mary's New Church

CASH at beginning of construction: \$

PROMISE of \$ at the rate of \$ per year/month

for months/years. ("New Church" side of Sunday envelopes may be used)

AMOUNT _____ bushels of _____ as soon as this could be reasonably marketed.

DATE _____ 1951 CANVASSER: _____

Make checks payable to SAINT MARY'S NEW CHURCH FUND.

Official receipts will be given when requested through St. Mary's R.C. Parish by the parish priest.

This is not a promissory note.

Saint Mary's Church,
Beiseker, Alberta.
Aug. 14th. 1945.

Right Reverend A.J. Hetherington V.G.
Sacred Heart Church,
Calgary, Alberta.

no estimate of cost

Dear Monsignor:

Enclosed you will find a detailed account of the prospects of the Beiseker New Church Fund following a survey of the financial possibilities made during the past month, together with a blank form used as a pledge during this campaign. Of course, of necessity, this took into consideration building on the proposed new site. If the result is sufficient to warrant beginning the construction of the church we had in mind (I am sending the latest sketches under separate cover), I must leave to the better judgement of yourself, his Excellency and the Diocesan Building Committee. Once the building is started, all opposition to the change of sites might disappear and help from the reluctant may be forthcoming. However, with the attitude of the people here being as unpredictable as it is unreasonable, I would not venture to give a guarantee. The best solution might be to permit the building of the church to proceed as far as the funds go, and then go out after more money. I feel certain that we would get plenty of voluntary labour as far as this kind of help could go.

In the report, you will notice that 24 refused to sign any pledge, likely for the reason given. As a matter of fact, some made it their business to get ahead of the canvassers to dissuade others from considering the donations or pledges. The big trouble with the ones favoring the present site is that they insist on advocating repairing the old church. It is this negative attitude on their part which has done their own cause the most harm. I have repeatedly told them that repairing the old building is the one thing which both the Diocesan Building Committee and his Excellency refuse to permit. But they persist in believing that a failure in raising funds will bring about eventually the fixing up of the old building. Two or three have gone to the extremity of refusing any help to the church through the Sunday collections and even opposing the work of the C.W.L. etc. I guess this "starvation method" was used in the old days but is almost of negligible effect now, outside of not making things any easier.

Contrary to what might be thought, I have certainly done my best. And I do not think it necessary to go into the many ramifications of the parish dispute based mostly on personal grudges and jealousies even to the extent of an attempt being made to have one man fired from his position with a grain company, and other such like actions. I worked hard and spent much time on the enclosed report and if it is considered a failure, I am at a loss to know what other angle from which one might attack the problem. If any further information is needed, I will only be too glad to give it. In passing, I might mention that there was quite a hail storm through here the other day which did not seem to respect opinions on the site of the church.

It seems evident that I will have to struggle through another winter no matter what, with the old building and the worn out heating system but this can be done with a few minor repairs the cost of which I'll keep to a minimum.

I am sorry to have to bother you again with this but I have wanted to make some progress in spite of the difficulties and this method seemed to be about the best. I want to thank you in advance for your help and advice.

Sincerely in Xto.:

A. Tennant.

I am sending a copy of this letter and also the report on the parish campaign to his Excellency, the Bishop.

Saint Mary's Church,
Beiseker, Alberta.
Aug Sep. 2nd. 1954

Right Reverend A.J.Hetherington V.G.
Sacred Heart Church,
Calgary, Alberta.

Dear Monsignor:

I had a recent letter from Father Le Fort as secretary of the Diocesan Building Committee, asking me to inform you as the approximate cost of a church built according to the plans I submitted with the financial survey of cash and promises in the parish.

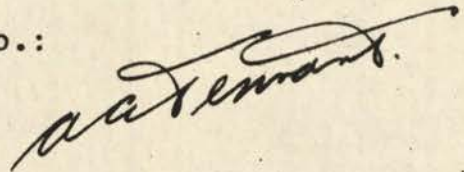
I had a visit with Mr. Bates, the architect, and talked over the cost of such a building according to the sketches. His estimate of such a building of solid brick construction would be \$109,000.00 which is considerable more than our financial prospects as shown in the report I sent to you of \$89,042.00. However, the potential of the parish is better than that, as I had stated in the report about one quarter of the parish was not included. It is hard to figure out just what can be saved by donated voluntary labour of which we would have plenty of that kind of help, as far as excavating, hauling of material and cement work is concerned. Nevertheless, I believe it will be necessary to cut down on the cost either by not completing the whole building or making it smaller (it really is plenty large in my opinion), or we will just have to modify ~~the~~ plans or get in more money.

In the meantime, I can fix up the furnace in the old building (without cost), so at least things will not be any worse than last winter.

It may be the better course then, Monsignor, to postpone the consideration of the plans I sent in until I see if we can present something of less cost but along the same lines, unless you think it might be possible to handle the present plans with sufficient voluntary labour.

I am enclosing a circular on the "Textured Facing Tile" and was wondering what your opinion and that of the Building Committee might be on this as building material. According to the Crown Lumber Co., there would be a saving of \$26.09 per 100 sq. feet (shipped to Beiseker) over brick and of course the labour with these would also be less than brick. I thought I would ask you what you think of it.

Sincerely in Xto.:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. A. Stewart".

Saint Mary's Church
Beiseker, Alberta.
February 24th. 1954.

Reverend Jos. LeFort
Scy. Diocesan Building Committee,
Calgary, Alberta.

Reverend and Dear Father:

Would you kindly bring the following requests and considerations to the attention of the Diocesan Building Committee, and also if necessary to the attention of his Excellency the Bishop, as soon as possible. I believe it is quite urgent.

The parishioners of this parish (at least those interested in a new church at all) would like to start the construction of their new church at once, making use of a maximum of voluntary labour. As no doubt the members of the Diocesan Building Committee must know, it is very difficult to make arrangements with a contractor who is willing to help in this way by using as much voluntary labour as possible. We have been very fortunate in contacting one Nick Yurchevich (at present I believe, the contractor of O.L.P.H. church in Calgary) who is willing to take on the work under these "voluntary labour considerations". I think he is known as one quite capable of this work. He has already met with our Parish Building Committee and they have already worked out many of the details. We have also contacted Mr. Frank Hilbert who is willing to help us with supervision. He is also known as a good man at this and is doing the same work for O.L.P.H. church. It would be very unfortunate for us to lose the services of these two men by not being able to give them assurances at once that we will be permitted to go on with the work as soon as possible.

According to the Annual Report recently submitted to the Chancery Office, we now have \$52,356.52 (actually since the report with added donations, now \$53,000.00). It is the opinion of Mr. Yurchevich and our own men that we can put up the building closed in, with this amount. We are not asking to borrow any money but I believe that from there on, we can finish everything in not too long a period of time. As to the savings in voluntary labour, I have only to refer to the year 1944 when in the report of that year the building of the new rectory in Beiseker is given as \$5468.28. This building was estimated by a Calgary contractor at that time, with lower costs of materials and labour of course, as being a \$10,000.00 house. Of the \$5468.28, less than a thousand dollars was paid out for labour. We figure that all the hauling, cement work and much of the carpenter work in the rough, can be done quite satisfactorily by our own men. The brick work would be the main item in bringing in outside help. I might also add that the chairman of our own committee, J.H. Schmaltz is not without some experience in building, having as a divisional trustee of the school division been responsible for the building of new schools and only this fall his own family built a new \$20,000.00 home. There is no doubt that we can build the church and close it in with the funds we have on hand.

~~As~~ As to the building itself, we propose to follow the plans as outlined by the architects, Bates and Hodges and as taken

from the original sketch made so kindly by Father McGuinness. We have had difficulty with these architects as they seem to be under the impression that we are loaded with money or can borrow it to the total amount of their estimate. They are not at all in favour of the "voluntary labour" idea and think it should be contracted out-right. Of course this is simply out of the question. We are tryin to save money and build a nice church within our means. However, we do propose to follow their plans with the laminated arches, brick wall with cement blocks inside, no basement (only for the furnace room), forced hot water heating. Monsignor Hetherington has the latest sketches which I sent to him a short time ago. As to the walls of brick and cement blocks (or tile) the plans show that all the weight rests on the laminated arches, as even an amateur like myself can plainly see. Mr. Yurehevich has worked out all the needed materials and has had a plan of the heating system needed, made by an engineering firm. He has been most helpful, generous with his time and I have complete confidence in him. It would be a terrible mistake to loose his services for the kind of work we have in mind here.

As to the urgency of the matter, I might say that now is the psychological time to make a move. The dispute regarding the two sites has pretty well died down. We now have the title to the new site and it is certain that any long delay will do no good. Besides, we are desperately in need of a church. The only reason the parish has been able to function formally at all is due to the mild winter, so far. Ash Wednesday being our first taste of a normal winter, I had to visit the old broken down furnace in the church at midnight, 3 a.m., 5.00 a.m. and 7.00 a.m. to even have the building half warm enough for the opening of Lent and Mass. I think this is exepcting too much of anyone. I am sure that many Sunday Masses would have been impossible only for the saving grace of mild weather. Retired couples have moved to Calgary for religious reasons. This may be very fine for the city parishes but should our policy be the disintegration of the rural parishes? This is happening fast enough through the lack of opportunities for the young people in the country. We are now unable to hold such functions as a Mission, Forty Hours and so on. This is not good for a parish. I also beleive that the good people here and there are many of them and I myself, deserve to have some faith placed in us. In a financial way, a quick glance over the Diocesan Collections as recently published shows that we are certainly above average.

If the above proposals do not meet with the approval of the Diocesan Building Committee, we will just have to build a cheaper stucco church or do something with the old wreck. The point I want to emphasize, is that we do need a church - now, or at least a decent place to say mass. A decision must be made at once. ~~must be made at once~~. I humbly ask the members of the Diocesan Building Committee for every consideration, help and advice they can give. I think this should be a part of their responsibilities and duties too.

Sincerely in Christ:

A. T. ...

November 19th, 1955

Rev. J. McGreevy,
St. Mary's Rectory,
Beiseker, Alberta.

Dear Father McGreevy:-

I have received your letter of November 18th, in which you ask permission to borrow \$10,000 from the Royal Bank in order to complete the construction of the new church sufficiently to use it.

When permission was granted to proceed with the erection of the church, it was stipulated that construction could proceed only to the limit of the funds on hand. This restriction is based on the principle, laid down by the law of the Church, which I cannot change, that in the financial administration of a diocese, debts must be avoided which cannot be discharged within a short period of time.

I know everyone does not agree with this principle. It is argued that future generations should bear some of the cost. Yet the bitter experience of parishes and dioceses loaded with debt manifests its worth. A parish or diocese cannot do its spiritual work, for which it primarily exists, if it must spend all its energies on discharging financial obligations. It is far better for future generations to benefit spiritually from the generosity of the present than to be occupied solely in paying debts. All the great and famous churches were built as they could be paid for, sometimes many years passed, before they were completed. But when completed they were free from debt.

Your request assures me that this loan will allow you to use the church, and will provide the parishioners with a properly-heated church, even though its interior and furnishings will be incomplete. Further, you are sure that the loan can be repaid within the next two or three years. Canon Law asks more, namely, that a loan be amortised, that is, that a definite amount be paid on the capital, as well as the interest, each year.

These assurances, along with the fact, that the parishioners of Beiseker have already done extraordinarily well both in financing and in voluntary labor and that this zealous interest will continue, allow me to grant you the permission and to endorse your loan by the Diocese. You may, therefore, borrow \$10,000 from the Royal Bank at 4% interest. I enclose the note duly endorsed.

However no new construction, furnishing or further debt is to be incurred until this loan is taken care of.

Kindly ask the Bank to forward to me, a monthly statement of the loan, as is done in all borrowings endorsed by the diocese.

With sincere good wishes for your continued success,

Yours cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Calgary

Beiseker

ACT OF REDUCTION

Since it is alleged, (although no records exist in the diocese as proof) that the Church of the Assumption B.M.V., situated in S.E. 4 4.13.28, 26 W.4, Beiseker, was blessed in solemn form by the Most Rev. E. Legal, O.M.I., of St. Albert or his delegate, sometime between the years 1908 and 1913; and since according to canon 1170, a church cannot be employed for any other purpose than ecclesiastical until an act of reduction is issued by the Bishop, therefore, because the aforesaid Church is no longer required as a church, and by virtue of canon 1187, it is, by this letter, declared unservicable ecclesiastically and permission is granted to place it "in usum profanum non sordidum", provided all church symbols and furniture, such as altars, the Way of the Crosses, holy water fonts, crosses, etc., are removed.

Further in accordance with canon 1187, the appurtenances of the parish church of the Assumption B.M.V., Beiseker, including the title and baptismal font, which hitherto belonged to the above-named church and hereby transferred to the new church, situated in Blk. 5 Beiseker, Plan 8292 C.H., which will be solemnly blessed in due course.

Bishop of Calgary

Chancellor

Given at Calgary on the 30th day of January 1956.

March 12th, 1956

Rev. M. McGreevy,
St. Mary's Rectory,
Beiseker, Alberta.

Dear Father McGreevy:-

I have received your letter of March 7th. Thank you for settling Mrs. Leyton's request for Acms.

You can have permission for afternoon Mass on June 28th, but it should begin not later than 8 o'clock. The blessing of the church, if it is done with proper decorum and singing will take a full half-hour. Hence if you are going to begin the ceremony at 7:30 p.m., it will have to begin on time or even earlier.

You have done well in financing the new church. But I do not like to grant the permission you seek to spend \$7000 on pews paying for them by a special effort yet leaving a probable debt of \$10,000. The original permission granted the Beiseker parish was that they could build to the extent of their funds. They have hard pressed me beyond that, and in practically every other permission I have given them. You are not familiar with the long contest to get the church started, the delegations, and counter-delegations, etc. I think they should abide by some of my decisions.

To completely furnish a church even when furnishings are paid for and leave a debt is psychologically wrong. I have yet to see it a success. We have had some outstanding examples of it in this diocese, which have proved headaches to everyone but the people themselves.

The only reason the people want new pews are that they will "enhance the interior" and give "proper seating". Proper seating may be a reason, but enhancing the interior is not. They have the new church (with a debt). They have old pews which will serve them until they pay for the church.

Just as soon as you put in the new pews, the debt will be forgotten. You will have to keep harping, etc. It is the same as St. Patrick's, Lethbridge - putting in stained glass windows - paid for by individuals - without paying for the frames of the church which hold them. Yet the donors of the windows, and the pews also, will regard themselves as free from all further obligation. Let future generations do the job. It is more logical to pay for the church and let future generations buy the pews. And it would be more logical, and in a sense, honest, to make a real effort now to clear off the debt on the church and then borrow for the pews.

Besides the whole hope of paying for the pews rests on the sale of grain next summer.

For these reasons, I do not like to grant the permission. It is not because I do not think Beiseker has not done a fine job of financing, or cannot meet the debt. It is because the plan is upside down. It is like making a huge effort to pay for a new church when the church should not be paid for first. New furniture and furnishings can come later. Pay off the church debt as soon as possible, and I will be ready to permit further borrowing for new pews.

With sincere regards,

Yours cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Calgary



PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
OF ALBERTA
EDMONTON, ALBERTA

The following information was obtained from the records of the
Department of the Interior, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, on
the 15th day of August, 1954.

The records of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa,
Ontario, Canada, show that the following information was
obtained from the records of the Department of the Interior,
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, on the 15th day of August, 1954.

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Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, on the 15th day of August, 1954.

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
ACC.

DECLARATION

I, the undersigned Bishop of Calgary, declare that on Wednesday, July 4th, 1956, the fourth feria after the 6th Sunday after Pentecost, in the presence of Rt. Rev. J.S. Smith, P.D. Dean of Calgary, Very Rev. J.Q. Killen, Dean of Lethbridge, Very Rev. R. Lehman, Dean of Drumheller, Revs. A. Tennant, pastor, M. McGreevy, administrator "pro tem" of the parish, other members of the clergy and a large congregation of the laity, blessed with the "Ritus Benedicendi Novam Ecclesiam" from the Roman Ritual (Tit. VIII Cap. XXVII) the church situated on Block S in the village of Beiseker, under the title of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the feast of which occurs, in the universal calendar, on August 15th.

In testimony whereof, I have caused this declaration to be written in duplicate, of which one copy is to be kept in the parish archives and the other in the diocesan chancery.

F. P. Carroll

Bishop of Calgary

Joseph C. Le Fort
Chancellor

Dated at Calgary on the 5th day of July 1956.

ERECTION OF WAY OF CROSS

PETITION:

to Most Rev. Francis P. Carroll
Arch-Diocese Ordinary
by Rev. A. C. Penmont
Pastor/Superior/Superioress
St. Mary's Church
(Name of Church/Chapel)
Beiseker, Alberta
(Where located)

CONSENT in writing given by

Most Rev. Francis P. Carroll
(Name of Ordinary)
Calgary, Alberta
(Arch-Diocese or Diocese)
September 19, 1956
(Date)

DECREE OF ERECTION issued by

Very Rev. Francis Edic O. D. M. Conv.
(Name of Provincial)
September 30, 1956
(Date)

EXECUTION OF DECREE by

Rev. Desmond Dunn O. D. M. Conv.
(Delegate)
September 30, 1956
(Date)

FURTHER REMARKS:

.....
.....

October 19th. 1956

The Reverend A.E.Tennant,
Saint Mary's Church,
Beiseker, Alberta.

Dear Fr. Tennant,
New Church at Beiseker

It was interesting to see how work at the above had been carried out. On the whole the job seems to have been well done, especially the interior which looks very nice. The exterior seems quite good except for certain alterations to the tower. It was interesting to hear that the Church is now practically free of debt.

You will remember that slightly under half of our account has been paid. In your letter of June 24th. 1955 you mention an understanding that further adjustment regarding our fees will be made if necessary upon the completion of the Church.

As we understand it you wished to take the large reduction in cost, due to volunteer labour, into account and base our fees on this reduced cost. Our fees, however, are based on what work would cost when built by a contractor using professional trades and paying standard wages. There is the same amount of work for us in either case.

In doing sketches for the Church you will remember that a number of schemes and revisions were necessary before the final sketches were prepared. We never object to this, and are always willing to do as many schemes as are necessary at this stage. On the other hand we expect to be paid the 1.2% fee which is the minimum allowed by The Alberta Association of Architects.

However, in order to clear this matter up quickly and satisfactorily, we will be willing to base our fees on \$90,000.00 instead of our estimated cost of \$109,000.00 thus allowing some \$19,000.00 voluntary labour.

Our outstanding fee would then be:

1.2% of \$90,000.00	\$1080.00
Received on account	600.00
Balance due	<u>\$ 480.00</u>

Trusting that you will find this arrangement satisfactory.

Yours very truly,

M. B. Bates

Beiseker



*Sebastianus Pappis
Dei et Apostolicae Sedis Legatus
Archiepiscopus titularis Ephesus
Sive Canadensis
Delegatus Apostolicus*

Susceptis precibus ab Exc.mo ac Rev.mo Ordinario Calgariensi rite commendatis quibus Patricius HAGEL et Margarita MILLER, catholici parociae Sanctae Mariae, Beiseker, Alberta, in dioecesi Calgariensi, matrimonium inter se contrahere cupientes, humillime petunt dispensationem super impedimento consanguinitatis in secundo lineae collateralis gradu ob periculum incestuosi concubinatus et angustiam loci;

Omnibus ad rem facientibus debite perpensis et gravibus rationibus ad gratiam consequendam mature consideratis;

Vigere facultatum specialium Nobis ab Apostolica Sede concessarum, dispensationem de qua precibus benigne concedimus in ordine ad matrimonium valide et licite contrahendum.

Servatis in reliquo omnibus de iure servandis.

Datum Ottavae, ex aedibus Delegationis Apostolicae, die 1 junii 1963.

N.8986



Sig^o

Delegatus Apostolicus.

Swalwell

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
BOX 95
BEISEKER, ALBERTA

March 23rd, 1965.

Most Rev. Francis P. Carroll, D.D.,
Bishop of Calgary,
910 - 7A St. N.W.,
Calgary, Alberta

Your Excellency:-

I hereby request permission to BINATE on the following occasions:-

1. When a funeral or marriage takes place so that I can retain the parish Mass.
2. On First Friday's of the Month. (Approximately 50 attend both the morning and afternoon Mass.)

In regard to TRINATION, my only purpose for this faculty is to say a third Mass at the Mission of Swalwell. In conscience, I do not feel that there is a valid reason for this permission any longer. The situation there is as follows:-

Out of 11 possible family units who might attend, this is their situation:-

1. Young couple with one child - one or other attends regularly.
2. Young women married to Prot. - one child - always attends Three Hills.
3. Family - 2 children - rare attendance by wife - selling out.
4. Family - 1 child - never attend. Child attends at Three Hills
5. Portuguese Family - attend rarely - moving soon - on Railway Section.
6. A widow - mainstay of Mission - sold out and moving end of month.
7. Young couple - 2 children - prefer to attend Three Hills.
8. Young couple - 5 children - prefer to attend Three Hills
9. Old couple - 1 adult child - mid-way between Swalwell & Beiseker.
10. Old Couple - 2 school age & 2 adult children - just as easy to come to Beiseker.
11. Old Couple - no children - can just as easily come to Beiseker.

The town of Swalwell itself is becoming a ghost town. The Hotel (and Bar) have been closed for over two years. The school is closed and children vanned to Acme. The Station was closed over a year ago. The United Church closed this winter. The owners of the one and only grocery store are trying to sell, but will not be able to. They are closing up soon because they are loosing money on it.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH
BOX 95
BEISEKER, ALBERTA

-2-

This is the situation at Swalwell, Your Excellency, and the people themselves are resigned to the fact that the Church will be closed soon. In fact, they have registered surprise that it was allowed to stay open as long as it has.

One reason it has been necessary to go to Swalwell is the fact that the Church at Three Hills could not accommodate any more than the Three Hill people themselves. They are in the process of building and hope to be completed by Easter.

Therefore, Your Excellency, with your permission I would like to close Swalwell Mission. Also I would like your permission to TRINATE so as to say Mass there until such time as the Three Hill Church is opened and then will be able to accommodate those who would go there from Swalwell. It is 12 miles from Swalwell to Three Hills. And several of the families belonging to Swalwell are much closer than that to Three Hills and living next to the Hard Top, making their trip to Three Hills easier than over gravel to Swalwell.

I hope I haven't confused you with the length and detail of this letter, but I wished to give you the exact situation as it is at Swalwell.

I hope this letter finds you in good health, Your Excellency. I have found that country life is the best thing for good health. It is a chore to go into the city now.

With kind personal regards,

Respectfully yours in Christ,

D. J. Vanbrock

Pastor.

Swalwell

March 24, 1968.

Rev. D.J. Vernbrock,
Box 95,
Beiseker, Alberta.

Dear Father Vernbrock:

I have received your letter of March 23rd. Thank you for the information about Swalwell Mission. As you know, I have no objection to closing a mission church if it is no longer needed. The problem comes from the parishioners who rebel against its closing. The Swalwell people, from your report, seem to be disposed towards that event, although, I am surprised that Father Tennant did not act on it several years ago.

Hence if you think that there will be no untoward reaction, you may close it. However you should be settled on what is going to happen to the church. If it is left standing in its old position, any reaction will continue. I do not know its age or condition, but as it was an Extension Chapel, it no doubt needs repair. Demolishing it, may be the solution. Sale (not for another church) is another solution. In any case, action on its destination should be taken, as soon as you close it, if for no other reason than to avoid insurance, etc.

The people who plan to attend Three Hills should not be given the impression that they belong to Three Hills. They still remain under the jurisdiction of Beiseker. It is true we have Didsbury, Merrin, etc. parishioners attending Calgary churches. Yet I sometimes wonder about marriage validity etc. The Edmonton priests on the border have faculties for everything else. Perhaps your best plan is to say nothing on this.

A priest in the south, wishing to close a mission, is thinking of beginning the process by providing a bus or auto transportation for the few who have no conveyance. This may ease his situation.

I would like to hear what you decide on doing and when-- chiefly for the records.

Success to your efforts and kind regards,

Yours cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Calgary



1911-1912

1911-1912

1911-1912

I have received your letter of the 11th inst. and am glad to hear that you are well. I have not yet had time to write you more fully, but I will do so as soon as possible. The weather here is very pleasant at present and I hope you are enjoying it. I have not much news to write at present.



I have not much news to write at present. I have not yet had time to write you more fully, but I will do so as soon as possible. The weather here is very pleasant at present and I hope you are enjoying it. I have not much news to write at present.

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PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES OF ALBERTA
ACC. 72.130

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

BOX 95
BEISEKER, ALBERTA

July 28th, 1965

Most Rev. Francis P. Carroll, D.D.,
Bishop of Calgary,
910 - 7A St. N.W.,
Calgary, Alberta.

Re: Swalwell Church

Your Excellency:-

This letter is long over-due, Your Excellency, to inform you of the closing of the Swalwell Church. I said the last Mass there on Sunday, May 23rd.

There ~~were~~^{are} no comments or regrets since the closure. In fact, it seemed to me that the few families there were too happy over its closure. Of the three families most closely affected by the closing of the Swalwell Church, two preferred going to Three Hills, as they has a paved road all the way to the Church, whereas coming to Swalwell meant 3½ miles of gravel. (They realize, even though they attend Three Hills, that they belong to Beiseker Parish). The other families find no difficulty in coming to Beiseker as they were located mid-way between Beiseker and Swalwell and had come to Beiseker every second Sunday anyway.

The sale of the Church is presenting somewhat of a problem. I had several interested in buying - former parishioners - but on investigation, they discovered that the moving of the building would be costly due to the number of power lines, telephone lines, etc., which would need cutting. The only solution may be to sell it for the lumber that is in it - which of course means at a much reduced price. I was offered \$500.00 for the building if it could have been moved - which would have been a good price. But as lumber, I am sure I couldn't get much more than \$100.00, if that much. However, if any of these deals had gone through, I would have asked your permission and reduction of the Church first. I have disposed of a few articles, such as fuel tank, and furnace burner.

As for the rest of the furnishings, the altars, etc., are not really worthy trying to sell and I am going to burn them. The pews might be used as a temporary seating for some small church, although they are not in good shape. The vestments were old and dirty and I don't think even an Indian Mission would want them. I am keeping them in storage in case someone may want them later.

I hope the above meets with your approval, Your Excellency. Wishing you good health and survival through this "heat-wave" of ours.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

D. J. Vainbrock

July 30, 1965

Rev. D. Verabrock
Box 95
Beiseker, Alberta

Dear Father Verabrock:

Thank you for your letter of July 29th. It is good that you have succeeded in reaching a decision on the closing of the Swalwell church with so little difficulty. To prevent future difficulties, the quicker you dispose of the church, the better, even if you have to do so at a loss.

The new boundary between Edmonton and Calgary dioceses, promulgated last Sunday by Archbishop Jordan does not effect the boundaries of your parish. Swalwell station is still within the diocese by about 5 miles. The old diocesan boundary continues in this area.

Is there a Catholic cemetery at Swalwell?

I heard only this morning from the Seminary regarding Gerald Lavoie. The rector said that he was writing him. He had only Beiseker as an address. Probably he will have his seminary acceptance by now.

Kind regards,

Yours cordially in Christ,

Bishop of Calgary

Diocese of Calgary

TELEPHONE:
(403) 263-3371

BISHOP'S OFFICE
219-18th AVE. S.W.
CALGARY 3, ALBERTA
CANADA

BEISEKER SCHOOL

Correspondence covering the attempt to set up a Separate School District in an area covering two school districts but recently consolidated - Beiseker and Odessa. Beiseker had a Catholic minority, Odessa a Catholic majority.

Various correspondence between Dept. of Education, parishioners, Father Michael McQuaid, etc. and Bishop Kidd, Archbishop O'Leary, M. O'Brien, Tighe, KC.

The proposal was examined during a period of about four years and was finally dropped.

*Doc's pertaining to this are all
in Diocesan Arch's of Calgary - file/3)*

History of Calgary

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1875-1880

The first settlement covering the site of Calgary was made in 1875 by James Smith, a Canadian settler, who established a trading post. The site was known as "Smith's Landing" and was situated on the north bank of the Bow River. The settlement was small and consisted of a few tents and a few buildings. It was the only settlement in the area at that time.



In 1876, the Canadian Pacific Railway was built through the area, and the settlement was renamed "Calgary" in honor of the city of Calgary in Ontario. The railway was a major factor in the growth of the settlement, as it provided a means of transport for goods and people.

The settlement was a small and isolated one, but it was the only one in the area. It was a place where people came to trade and to rest on their way to the west. The settlement was a small and isolated one, but it was the only one in the area.



PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES
OF ALBERTA
ACC. 72.130