

# **St. Clare Parish Ninety Years Ago**

*Some Documents From Its Birth*

Compiled and edited by

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**2003**

**INTRODUCTION: We are fortunate to have two parallel sets of documents covering 1913, the year St. Clare parish began its life: the chronicle kept by its first pastor, Fr. Capistran Damek O.F.M (which actually continues into the summer of 1915); and a set of six letters written by Fr. Capistran to his Franciscan superior in California, Fr. Michael Richardt O.F.M. during 1913. To these we can now add correspondence with, and other records from, the Franciscan Sisters of Penance and Christian Charity, of Stella Niagara, New York, who provided the first school teachers. I thank the archivists of the Santa Barbara Province and of the Franciscan Sisters for their assistance. It seems helpful to use the chronicle as the backbone of this publication, interspersing it with the letters as they were dated.**

The Chronicles will be printed in this type-face.

**The letters to California will be printed in this font and bold.**

**The Franciscan Sisters documents will be printed thus.**

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August 12, 1913: Today, the feast of St. Clare, I paid the first official visit to the newly erected parish in Capitol Hill, which adjoins the city of Portland. Mr. Bleckinger, an old resident of the place, gave me some information concerning the number and condition of Catholics who live in the neighborhood. The number is certainly very limited. However considering the magnificent location of the place, we have all reason to hope that in the course of time people will settle around the combination school and church building which we propose to erect in the course of this school year.

With the consent of the Rev. Fr. Provincial Benedict O.F.M. and of His Grace the Archbishop Christie, we called the new parish St. Clare's.

We visited Mr. M. J. Walsh who lives for the present in Dr. Cardwell's place. To our delight his mansion contains a large hall 20 X 25 feet. There we shall hold services for the time being. [ed. Note: Dr. Cardwell's home stood about where the Safeway store is presently.]

August 14, 1913: Today I made a temporary altar and arranged it for the celebration of Holy Mass.

Aug. 17, 1913: Today I said Mass for the first time in Capitol Hill in the residence of Mr. M. J. Walsh (Dr. Cardwell's place). To give the people who live along the electric line [*the Oregon Electric railroad line*] towards Garden Home an opportunity to assist at Mass, we set the time for Mass at 9:40. They will have just enough time to take the home-bound car after services. These were present at the Mass: Mr. & Mrs. M. J. Walsh and children: John (Jack), Albert, Francis, Robert, Virginia  
 Mr. & Mrs. Karl Blechinger  
 Mrs. W. J. Morrow and Frances Morrow (9 years)  
 Mrs. Malor and Mr. Harry Maloy, her son  
 Mr. Matthew J. McGarrigle  
 Mr. Bartholemew Coffee (brother of Mrs. Walsh)  
 Mrs. Strlesbun and Victor (16) and Alan (15) her sons  
 Mrs. Markillie and Miss Mildred Markillie, and Robert (7), Richard (7), Margaret (11), and Helen (9)  
 Mr. & Mrs. Karl Braun, and Joseph, George, and Dorothy  
 Mrs. John Tooley (Tuhe)  
 Mrs. Hansen and Harriet and Peter  
 Mrs. Charles Dice and Mrs. McGuinnis, her mother (Portland)  
 Miss Marcella Larkin (from Portland)  
 George Novak, 12 years old

Mrs. Hansen and her two children received the Sacraments. The people are very appreciative and long for a church.

The property in Capitol Hill comprises one whole block, namely 20 lots 50 X 100, and five lots across the street. It was bought in April 1910 by the then Commissary Fr. Peter Wallischek O.F.M. I was with him. A few days later we bought the property for the Sisters' residence at Tigard.

#### **LETTER OF FR. CAPISTRAN, August 18, 1913**

**Yesterday I celebrated Holy Mass for the first time in Capitol Hill. It is a great help to us that one of the parishioners has a large hall where we may meet. There were 33 souls present, few of them belong to Portland.**

**Only a few Catholics live out here, the main reason no doubt being the absence of school and church. The place has a future. The location is magnificent. Later on most likely the car service [*train*] will be more frequent and people will find it quite convenient to live up here.**

**From the Catholics we can expect very little for the present. They are poor but we hope to get some help from the real estate men and others. Next Sunday I will appoint a building committee which will assist me in building. We are certainly fortunate to have a plumber and steam-pipe fitter and an electric supply store owner as parishioners which will be a great help to me.**

**I have been busy these days with taking measurements of different combination school and church buildings, and I am making the sketches which I shall send to St. Louis**

*[headquarters of the Franciscan Province to which the West Coast still belonged in 1913]*  
according to the wish of Fr. Provincial.

We have to hurry, since we ought to have the building under roof before winter sets in, and because lumber and labor is not very high at present.

Fr. Provincial will lend us some money at low interest.

I am writing today to Ven. Mother Leonarda [*Superior of Franciscan Sisters in Buffalo, New York*] asking her whether she will be able to send us three teaching Sisters in Aug. 1914. If not, we shall need to apply to another sisterhood. Fr. Provincial agreed to me writing her.

I have received the sketch of a plot of land in Capitol Hill, and thank you for it. I thought it came from Fr. Theodore, since I had asked him to send it to me.

It would certainly be a great help to us if you could loan us say \$2000 without interest up to Jan. 1915. After that we shall be on our feet and we shall be able to pay a low interest. Would you please let me have about \$500 right now?

My head is full of plans and ideas, since we wish to erect a convenient and neat appearing building. I have inquired and daily do so concerning the best means and ways of being successful in the undertaking.

Hoping that you are well, I remain sincerely yours in Christ,  
Fr. Capistran

Letter of Fr. Capistran to Ven. Mother Leonarda, Buffalo, Aug. 18, 1913  
Ven. And Dear Mother,

I am opening a new parish at Capitol Hill, which for the present adjoins the city of Portland, Ore. In the course of this school year we shall erect a combination school and church building. By the end of August 1914 we intend to open two classrooms in which 7 or 8 grades will be taught. The parish is very limited in number of persons belonging to it. But we expect the number to increase.

Now we need two teaching sisters by the end of August 1914. And it was proposed that the sisters be engaged from one of the sisterhoods in Portland because we would not have to erect a convent for the present. The fare is five cents. I was against this proposition, since I would like to see your community come into the diocese. Also His Grace the Archbishop would like to have you take the place.

With the permission of our Father Provincial Benedict, I ask you to accept this offer, and to promise us two teaching sisters, who will be able for the time to teach the eight grades. We shall erect a small building for the sisters which later can be enlarged.

Capitol Hill lies in an elevated portion of Portland with a beautiful scenery, and we certainly shall have a nice parish in the course of time.

I know your sisters from Sacramento and have always endeavored to spread their good name. Please inform me within a short time whether you will be able to accept the offer, for, although with reluctance, we shall have

to apply to another sisterhood, since the Archbishop is bent upon us opening the school next year.

With feelings of deep respect, believe me, dear Ven. Mother,  
Yours sincerely in Christ, Fr. Capistran O.F.M., Tigard, Ore.

August 24, 1913: The second Sunday in Capitol Hill. Forty-five persons were at Mass. Last week I finished drawing the plans and sent them to St. Louis.

#### Letter of Fr. Capistran to Fr. Commisar August 24, 1913

Your very welcome letter reached me yesterday. You may rest assured that we appreciate your kindness by sending us \$500.00 very much. The money will be spent very economically.

Yes, I have made the plans of a modern structure suited for church and school. Last Thursday I sent them to St. Louis, and I hope that the brother architect will draw the definite plans and send them soon. We hope to be building within four weeks. Labor is not so high now as usual, and we desire to have the building under roof before the raining season sets in heavily.

This morning we had 45 persons at Mass. Things look encouraging. Of course, it will be uphill work, but our parish is bound to grow. At present we cannot approach all the Catholics about money. It would probably drive them away, and most of them are poor. But I guarantee that I shall be able to pay the interest on the borrowed money, and support two Sisters, even if I had to go begging through Portland for one year or two.

Our parish has a name and has been advertised through our papers as St. Clare's parish Capitol Hill. The boundaries towards Tigard are also agreed upon. In the course of this week I shall approach the Archbishop [*Christie*] for a definite decision concerning the boundary line towards Portland.

The note for the \$500.00 I shall send you within two weeks.

The reason why we bought the five lots (not six) across the street was to have the Sisters not on the same block with the Fathers. We shall erect a small building on those lots next Spring for the Sisters. I am sketching the specifications until the plans arrive. We plan to place the buildings in this way.

Thanking you for your favor, I remain, Respectfully yours, Fr. Capistran

August 25: Fr. Commissary Michael Richardt O.F.M. sent me a check of \$500.00 (five hundred) which we may use as a loan without interest until the Franciscan residence in Capitol Hill will be built, when the \$500.00 are to be used as a present from the Commissariat.

August 29: We rented four dozen folding chairs from Mr. Edward[s] of the furniture com[pany], Portland.

#### Letter of Fr. Capistran to Mother Leonarda, Buffalo, September 3, 1913

It would certainly grieve me to hear that you would not accept our school at Capitol Hill. Still I know in what position you are, and how you would loath to refuse my offer. We in the West had to refuse places that had been presented for acceptance.

I hardly think that the Archbishop wrote concerning our place. As far as I know, he has your promise that you will provide sisters for him in 1914. I believe one of his places is called Lenz [?Lents?] We are situated in Capitol Hill, the South West, Portland You passed through it on your way to Tigard. It will be hard uphill work for me, a sacrifice, but I promise to support two teaching sisters, and build a little house for them, for the beginning. They would have to teach all the grades, or at least be able to do so, for we shall have quite a handful of children in two classrooms. Our place is located in hilly grounds, with healthy pure air. Three years ago I bought 5 lots [and] a piece of 250 ft X 200 ft. for the sisters' place. This will be a nice plot for them.

It is very charitable of you to offer your assistance in obtaining another sisterhood. Please inform me concerning them, what they are, who they are, and where their houses are, etc. But I sincerely hope that it will not come to this. I want your sisters. Let us pray for a happy issue.

September 7: Today 60 at services. The congregation is growing.

September 12: Today I called on His Grace, Archbishop Christie, and petitioned him to outline the boundaries for St. Clare's parish. He determined the following: the Multnomah county line forms its western boundary. Consequently Barstow, Maplewood, Shahapta, Multnomah, and Ryan Place are included. In the north the boundary commences on the Multnomah County line, then along the S[outhern] P[acific] R. R. includes Bertha, then along Slavin Road and on Nebraska Street down to Virginia Street. In the East Virginia Street is the boundary from Nebraska St. southward.

September 15: His Grace came up to View Point this morning and corrected the boundary line for St. Clare's parish. The Multnomah County line forms the Western boundary. Then starting in the North where the S.P.R.R. crosses the County line the boundary runs along the S.P. Railroad to Bertha, it includes Bertha, and runs along Slavin Road to the railroad crossing. Then South along the Oregon Electric Railroad to Nevada Street, along Corbett to Custer Street to the River. The Southern Boundary is not yet established. But it is to be about half ways to Oswego. P. S. I spoke to Fr. Hughes, pastor of St. Lawrence, the adjoining parish. He is satisfied with the decision of the archbishop concerning the boundary line.

**September 16 [Letter of Fr Capistran to Fr. Commissary]:**

**We shall have to be very thankful to you, if you succeed in providing Church goods for us from the East. You know how difficult it is to start a new place where people are few and not blessed with temporal goods.**

**The people whom I have gathered here are of a well-meaning sort, but we cannot get much money from them, especially now. If only they pay their church dues we may and**

might be satisfied. Things will turn out allright in the course of time. We have a much better start than many others had, the Redemptorists, for instance, or the Jesuits, etc. I am not at all optimistic in the statements I made to you. We can count on 60 surely at services on Sunday, about 80 belong to the parish. And I am sure that when the chapel will be completed, more will show up. Certain people have always had some prejudice against a private house as a chapel.

If only Fr. Provincial would send the plans. Here I am in the nicest of weather. The people expect us to build now in the fall which is the best practical way, and now two weeks ago Fr. Provincial seemed to indicate that we should wait until spring time. I wrote him that that would have no good influence in all of us, and I am waiting for an answer. We cannot expect to be a bother to the people from whom we have the present room; we must not abuse kindness. I have asked for a few months. Besides, that house may be demanded back by the owner for certain peculiar reasons which are known to me. We will be in a sad plight if that should happen.

The residence would not be built this year. In my plans there is an office for the priest and bedroom. He would live in the building and take his meals at the Sisters. The Archbishop wants the priest to reside near the church and this will have to be done. Our territory is quite large and the priest ought to be easily accessible.

It worries me a great deal what sort of Sisters we will have, if any at all. Mother Leonarda gives me little hope; she expects a definite answer from her Superior. What do you think about the Holy Names or especially the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart? They teach in our adjoining parish and are very efficient teachers. However, I doubt whether we will be able to get them. I shall ask Fr. Provincial what he thinks.

The Archbishop has yesterday definitely fixed the boundaries for St. Clare parish. Friday he outlined them in his office, but yesterday he came up with me to View Point and we had to correct the outlines. The Multnomah County line forms the western boundary, that is, towards Tigard. It therefore includes the territory almost to Garden Home, about 2 and ½ miles. Then towards Portland it takes in all the hills until where the Electric line turns and one can see Portland, it is one mile from Capitol Hill. The parish therefore contains a great territory and no doubt in the course of time we shall have a nice parish. Every priest tells me that. At first Fr. Victor did not believe in it. Now he begins to agree with me. (That is a private matter, between you and me!!) He thinks a little different of Tigard since I am here. The people has no doubt done a good deal for the church and you need not worry concerning the debt. In the course of time things will turn out allright.

In the last few weeks two new parishes were established on the East side and they are going to build soon. I hope that you are well.

Yours sincerely in Christ, Fr. Capistran

[Second] Letter of Fr. Capistran, September 16 *[written after receiving the day's mail]*

I received my plans today with permission to build. I shall commence tomorrow. Fr. Provincial sent me \$2000. We intend to carry the building under roof, and then let it settle for two or three months and then do the plastering. This process will insure a good job.

The basement will contain a hall, room for furnace (hot water system), two playrooms, toilets. The I floor contains four classrooms, of which we intend to use two next year, the other two combined we propose to use as chapel for one year. The II floor which is intended for chapel floor for several years will be one hall which later will be used for four classrooms. Besides it will contain one large room for assemblies, and one room for the

priest's office, in which a small apartment will be used as bedroom. The building finished will cost about \$14,000. The chapel floor we shall not finish, nor the hall.

The whole building will be of modern construction. Of course we cannot afford to put in a ventilation system as in other schools. But the rooms will be high with large windows and transoms. Begging your blessing on the work,

I remains Your sincerely in Christ, Fr. Capistran

September 16: The plans were returned to me today from St. Louis Missouri with the permission to build. I shall commence tomorrow. Fr. Provincial Benedict Schmidt O.F.M. sent us a loan of \$2000 without interest.

September 17: The feast of the Stigmata of our Seraphic Father. Today we broke ground for the new building. It took place at 6 P.M. Mr. M. J. Walsh, Mr. Coffee, Mr. Bleckinger Sr., Mr. M.J. Campbell, the builder, and I upturned the soil. I blessed the ground.

#### Letter of Fr. Capistran to Fr. Commissary, September 24, 1913

You seem to be joking when you speak of a Sisters' house that will cost \$10,000. We intend to put up a small house for about \$1,500, which later on may be added to.

I am pleased to hear that you are so kind to provide church goods for us. The monstrance will not be too heavy, no matter how large or bulky it is.

We broke the ground for our new building on the feast of the Stigmata of our Seraphic Father. The night before, the plans arrived, so I hurried up and arranged matters for the ceremony.

The boundaries of our parish are very far apart, from East to west a little more than 3 miles. There was no question of us getting the Germans in Fulton etc. And it is well so. I had hinted to some that they might belong to us, and I got to hear that they would cling to St. Joseph's/ The Germans of Portland have a right, if not a duty, to belong to their German National Church. Most of these people who attend church go to St. Joseph's. It is mainly the St. Joseph's Unterstuetzungs-Verein that keeps them together. Again our church is to be a mixed congregation. And again it is absurd to expect the people from Fulton to come up the hill. They would have either to drive a tremendous hill (which they would not do) or they would have to pay double carfare. Our boundary towards Portland includes the plateau where the Oregon Electric turns. The boundaries are being advertised in the diocesan paper three times. I have taken note of the boundaries in the records. From the first day I have started a little history, into which I record every important event of the parish.

The excavation for the basement will be completed this week. Next week the concrete will be put in. The building faces the Electric line. We are leveling a part of the lower grounds and I am sure the building has an attractive position.

We have one red and one white chasuble, both threadworn. We have no cope. Only one alb. No boys' surplices and cassocks.

Last Sunday I had 70 souls at service. Isn't that splendid? Of course in winter time you cannot expect them all to come.

Last Sunday I spoke about money and I wonder how many will put in their appearance the next Sunday. They are almost all of the poor class. But I do not give up hope. We will be able to make more by fairs and socials to cover the expenses of conducting the school next year and of paying the interest on the borrowed money.



**Yours respectfully, Fr. Capistran**

September 27: The excavating was done by old Mr. Rutherford who lives two blocks from us. He did a fine job. Today he finished.

September 30: Today the footings for the concrete walls were laid. We enjoy magnificent weather. Last Sunday, Sept. 28, it rained.

**Letter of Fr. Capistran to Mother Leonarda, October 9, 1913:**

Since your last letter I have tentatively inquired about Sisters in Portland as you advised me to do. But the only Sisterhood whom I would care to have if you must refuse is also overburdened with work. What then shall we do? I am building the combination School and Church and I promised the people I would get them Franciscan Sisters. It would be too bad, if you would have to refuse. It is so near to Cowlitz, and our school will be a nice one within a few years.

The building I am erecting is an up-to-date modern structure, copied from a building in Portland. I am anxious for your Order to have it. Please urge the matter, even if you had to postpone our school for a month or so. We need two good teaching Sisters, and I suppose one other. We have sent you some candidates from the North, and you might get some more from here in the course of time. This ought to be an incentive in our favor.

With regard to Lenz [?Lents?] for which Rt. Rev. Archbishop has applied to you, I might say that you have promised us before them, as is really the case; for Fr. Peter, Provincial, applied for us four years ago, when I started Tigard and Capitol Hill. By the way, Fr. Victor is building a school at Tigard. I live here at Tigard until my place is finished.

**Yours sincerely in Christ, Fr. Capistran O.F.M.**

October 12: Today the concrete walls were finished. We intend to leave them in the cribbings for about one week. Then we shall finish the tiling around the footing, and suspend building until next spring, since an early winter seems to have set in.

October 13: It rains hard. Just what we desire for our walls.

**Letter of Fr. Capistran to Mother Pacific, October 13, 1913: [higher superior]**

I suppose soon it will be decided whether Mother Leonarda will be able to accept our place or not. Would it not be too bad if she had to refuse it. Pray and have your Sisters pray that we succeed in getting your Province to come up to Capitol Hill. I have called the new parish St. Clare's. Ask her to assist us.

I commenced to build a large combination school and church building which will cost about \$15,000. Of course, I have to borrow all the money, since the parish is very small and poor. But in the course of time it will be a good parish. The location is beautiful, in the hills. Part of my parish is in the city limits of Portland, the larger part outside of it. The building is a large 8 classroom structure. But the upper four rooms will be used for a chapel for some years to come. Next year we hope to open two rooms.

Mother Leonarda gave me to hope yet she has to wait for the decision of Mother General. Let us hope and pray that Capitol Hill be accepted by you. I feel fairly well and strong. Please express my sincere good wishes and regards to your entire community.

Yours sincerely in Christ,  
Fr. Capistran O.F.M.

October 16: The heavens are brightening. Therefore we began to take down the entire cribbing.

October 18: Today we commenced laying the 4" draining tiles in the footings. The entire walls from the footing to the grading line receives a solid coat of cement plaster.

October 20: We are painting the walls on the outside from the footing to the grading line with a coat of waterproof paint called Toco Bond.

October 21: On the tiles we lay 6 or 7" of gravel.

October 23: The last three days I had two teams going filling up around the walls. Yesterday and today the upper walls from the outside received the coat of finishing cement plaster.

October 24: It rains. Again just in the right time. During 8 days we enjoyed the most splendid weather. We should be thankful to our holy patrons.

#### **Letter of Fr. Capistran to Mother Pacifica, October 27, 1913**

**Ven. And Dear Mother Pacific,**

It was certainly very kind of you to think of me on Oct. 23 [his feastday?] and how generous to remember my new parish! Your letter gladdened my heart for various reasons. When the Sisters of St. Francis send me \$5.00 and pray for our success we cannot but be successful in building the new church and school. Many thanks then for your kindness.

No definite answer from Mother Leonarda as yet.

I believe I told you that I have suspended building until next spring. Now I shall have more leisure time for planning. I feel well. We are enjoying a magnificent autumn just now. Lovely. Thursday my Altar Society will give a

**card party. It is the first social affair in the parish. The enthusiasm of the ladies augurs a grand success.**

**With best regards to your entire esteemed community, I remain  
thankfully in the Sacred Heart, Yours Fr. Capistran O.F.M**

October 30, 1913: The Altar Society entertained today a goodly number of friends at a card party. Although the weather forecast predicted rain and it looked like it, we enjoyed a lively evening. More than seventy person were present and they enjoyed themselves splendidly. Everybody was satisfied. About twenty friends from Portland were there, whom we conducted from and to the depot of the Oregon Electric at Capitol Hill. The social was given in the hall of Dr. Cardwell's place. The Society made \$27.25, quite help for us.

November 13: Today I received from Mr. Wilson, real estate man, one lot (block 37, lot 18) in Capitol Hill, one block from church site, for the benefit of the parish. We intend to raffle it.

November 25: Second card party. Although it was rainy, a pretty large crowd assembled. \$20.00

December 9: A large box with church goods arrived today from the the Sisters of Notre Dame, San Jose, Calif. God is good to us.

December 10: Two weeks ago the Oregon Electric conceded to us the privilege of flagging two trains. One leaves Garden Home 8:05, the other leaves Jefferson St. 11:05 on Sundays. It is a great thing for us.

December 28: Dr. Fred Blegg took a picture of some of the congregation in front of Dr. Cardwell's place, under a tree, and another of myself at the altar of the temporary chapel in Dr. Cardwell's mansion. In the afternoon Mr. And Mrs. Borsch and children entertained our catechism children at a Christmas party in their new home at Shahapata [present-day S.W. 45<sup>th</sup> & Multnomah Blvd.].

**Letter of Fr. Capistran to Father Commissar, December 29, 1913**

**A thousand thanks for the new donation. It makes me feel happy. I shall take good care of it. It is my wish and prayer that the new year be a happy one for you.**

**The weather is really pleasant in my eyes. I like it. On Christmas Day however it was foul. Yesterday we gave my catechism class a Christmas party. The weather was simply delightful, and the youngsters enjoyed themselves splendidly.**

**I opened a vote contest [ ?? ] in order to make about a thousand dollars.**

**After long begging I got a desirable lot in Capitol Hill, which will be the first prize; there will be some other prizes which we shall buy, namely, one sewing machine \$25.00, one 15-jewelled Lady's watch, \$18.00; one Morris chair, \$10.00; one pair of all-wool blankets, \$6.50; one razor, \$3.00; one flash light, \$1.80. Only very few persons take part since they are**

poor, and the contest consists in this, that the contestant asks his or her friends for contributions for our church. At least \$40.00 every contestant must be able to show at the end of the contest. The highest number of dollars carries the lot. I take part also, in order to encourage the people, and hope to be able to get \$40.00.

St. Clare and St. Joseph and the Poor Souls to whom we pray every Sunday for the success of our parish are certainly helping us. When I think that we received those vestments and monstrance we must be grateful. One friend gave me money for a censer, another for a \$5.00 missal stand, another for a nice holy water pot, another for a box for altar breads. We thus are getting our things for divine service gradually.

We hold a social every month or so, whereby we hope to be able to get an altar for about \$150.00. I have applied to an eastern altar society and hope to get a chalice and some other articles.

I feel quite well. The cold I contracted some weeks ago is gone. A Happy New Year from Yours sincerely in Christ, Fr. Capistran  
Rev. Fr. Victor and Brother send their congratulations.

## 1914

January 3: I received today from Rev. Linus, O.F.M., Rector of St. Anthony's College, 1 box with 32 second-hand books.

February 19: Today I received word that my proposal to arrange one part of the new building for a temporary residence for us was accepted.

March 1: Commencing today two Masses will be celebrated every Sunday, at 8:30 the children's Mass.

March 16: Monday—a splendid spring day. The contractors, Prus, Lehberg Co. commenced work at the building today. They laid the wall plates.

March 19: The Very Rev. Benedict Schmidt, our Provincial, visited

Capitol Hill today. It was the first time he saw the property and he considers it a beautiful place. His suggestion is that we build the Sisters' house in the south-west corner of the main block. This is a splendid suggestion.

March 26: Today I planted 16 fruit trees on the spot that is to be used as our garden in the future residence: apples, pear, plums, nuts, apricot, cherries, prune.

April 24: At three o'clock this afternoon we finished the large chimney. Mr. Karl Braun built it (donation labor). Mr. Simon Novak slacked the lime and prepared mortar. Mr. Harry Malloy pulled the material up the scaffold. I myself handled the materials on the scaffold. I am glad the work is done.

June 13: Today I moved into the new building. It will be easier to superintend the work. Only my room is finished. No floor or wainscoting are in.

July 2: Received from Father Henry Kuester, pastor of St. Peter's Chicagoo a loan of \$4,000 at 4%.

July 12: Sunday. The parish enjoyed today its first annual outdoor social. It was given on the charming grounds of Dr. Cardwell's place. It was a success. We cleared a little more than \$60.00.

July 13: This morning received word from Buffalo that the Franciscan Sisters will accept our school. Deo gratias!

July 21: Today we set the concrete piers for the foundation of the Sisters' residence. Received from Very Rev. Fr. Provincial Benedict Schmidt O.F.M. a loan of \$2000 without interest.

***COPY OF CONTRACT BETWEEN PARISH & SISTERS JULY 29, 1914***

**For the Greater Glory of God and the Salvation of Souls the following agreement has been made between Rev. Capistran Damek, O.F.M., Pastor of St. Clare's Church, Capitol Hill, City of Portland, Archdiocese of Oregon, for himself and succeeding Pastors on the one part, and Mother Leonarda, the Superioress of the North American Mission of the Sisters of St. Francis, whose Motherhouse is at Stella Niagara, N.Y., as the second part, viz.**

**The Rev. Pastor of St. Clare's Church with previous sanction of Most Rev. Alexander Christie, D.D., Archbishop of Oregon, offers the Sisters of St. Francis charge of his school from September 1914.**

**Mother Leonarda with previous sanction of Mother Ludmilla, Sup. General and her councils, accepts the offer and will send the requisite number of Sisters under the following conditions:**

1. (a) **The Rev. Franciscan Fathers provide for the spiritual wants of the Sisters, for daily Communion and Holy Mass at least once a week in their chapel and Benediction as allowed by the Bishop.**
- (b) **The congregation gives the Sisters a furnished house, fuel, light, and water, and pays for the insurance, while the Sisters provide for the sacred vessels and vestments for use in their chapel.**
- [c] **The congregation gives each of the teachers actually engaged for and teaching in the parochial school, a salary of \$250.00 a year, payable monthly.**

**2. (a) The teachers will teach all school days, conduct the children to church on Sundays and school days, and will do their utmost to raise the standard of the school to the requirements of the present time, and to educate the children under the direction of the Rev. Pastor to lead a thorough catholic life.**

**(b) For the benefit of the school, the sisters will gladly lend a helping hand, though without binding themselves formally to it, in preparing one yearly entertainment with the children.**

**{c} At the end of the term, any teacher may be changed by her lawful superioress; during the term, the superioress will confer with the Pastor before changing a teacher.**

**This contract shall continue unbroken as long as neither party gives notice at least five months before expiration of school of an intended dissolution at the end of the term.**

**Should the sisters at any time surrender this school for reason not of their own, then the congregation must bear the expense of sending the community of Sisters, teachers as well as others, back to their motherhouse at Stella Niagara, N. Y.**

**In case of removal the Sisters shall be free to take along whatever furniture or utensils they purchased or received as personal donations, while the house and furniture which the congregation provide for, will be delivered up in the condition as wear and tear of time and use will allow.**

**For the mutual satisfaction and due information of successive officials on both sides, this contract has been approved, agreed upon, signed and delivered and declared binding for both parties and their successors in office, this twenty-ninth day of July 1914.**

August 23: The first Mass in the new building was celebrated today. It is Sunday. A large crowd had assembled for the eight o'clock Mass. Usually it is a Low Mass for the children. But today High Mass was sung. The church looks very neat. Only the chapel floor is finished. It will take some time before the rest of the building will be completed. The formal dedication might take place some time this fall.

August 24: Received from Fr. Henry Kuester St. Peter's Chicago another loan of \$2000 at 4%.

Sept. 5: Today the steam fitters built fire in our furnace for the first time and tested the steam system. It does a person good to see the big chimney aging.

Sept. 10: Ven. Mother Willamine our superioress arrived here today and took possession of the little convent. She is accompanied by Rev. Mother M. Pauline, superior at Cowlitz. She appears to be an agreeable person and likes the place.

Sept. 12: Late in the evening Ven. Sister Virginia O.S.Fr., the second teacher, and Ven. S. Edelhard the housekeeper arrived from Buffalo N.Y.

Sept. 14: Monday, opening of St. Clare's school. Certainly God is good to us. Beyond expectation 31 children were enrolled. . . . [*he lists all the names*]. . . I celebrated High Mass in honor of the Holy Ghost at 8:10. May God bless our school.

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