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A glimpse of the past

These news items, compiled by Dorothy Duchscher, were found in issues of the Diocese of Fargo newspaper, New Earth, and its predecessor, Catholic Action News.

September

50 years ago — 1961

Fargo's new Church of the Nativity church-auditorium and school was dedicated Sept. 14 by Bishop Leo F. Dworschak. Celebrant of the dedicatory Mass was Father John D. Mullen, pastor. An open house was held Sept.10, with about 2,000 persons touring the diocese's newest school. The school opened Sept. 3 with 300 pupils. A \$200,000 fund drive was launched on Sept.17. The drive was aimed to reduce the parish debt of about \$660,000, incurred mainly by the construction of the school and church auditorium unit.

20 years ago — 1991

St. Michael's School in Grand Forks celebrated its diamond jubilee Sept. 14 and 15, with reunion festivities for its more than 3,300 graduates, teachers, families and friends. St. Michael's School opened on Sept. 3, 1916, under the supervision of Msgr. Joseph Lemieux, then pastor. Bishop James O'Reilly personally recruited students to start the school to meet the educational needs of St. Michael and St. Mary parishes. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet of St. Paul staffed the school. Enrollment at the end of the first year was 242 for grades one through eight.

10 years ago — 2001

Sullivan Middle School students held a patriotic choir concert as a tribute to the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and in memory of Al March and, a Shanley High School alumnus who was killed in the attacks. Sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders performed songs along with guest performers. Bishop Samuel Aquila, coadjutor bishop for the Fargo Diocese, addressed those in attendance and spoke of his recent trip to "Ground Zero" in New York. He said that 93 percent of the firefighters and police officers that were killed in the attacks were Catholic.