

A glimpse of the past

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

January

50 Years Ago -- 1960

In a secret consistory following the conferring of the red hats in St. Peter's in Rome, the Holy Father formally assigned the Church of St. Bernard alle Terme to His Eminence, Aloisius Cardinal Muench as his titular church. Every cardinal priest is given a titular church because the pastors of important parish churches in Rome were the first cardinals during the earlier centuries of Christianity. The modern cardinal priests are honorary pastors of these churches. There is a touch of personal interest here. Cardinal von Galen, Bishop of Muenster, Germany, was assigned to this church in 1946, when he received his red hat in the consistory of February 1946, the first consistory held after World War II. Cardinal Muench was a member of a group that accompanied the late Cardinal Stritch when he went to Rome to receive his red hat in 1946. Cardinal Muench met Cardinal von Galen a few days before the consistory and learned that the great German patriot, who had won international fame for his resistance to Hitler's persecution of the Church, was completely impoverished by the war to a point where he had no funds to pay for the "cappa magna" which is an integral part of a cardinal's wardrobe. Cardinal Muench asked to receive and paid the bill for the same. Little did either of them dream that 13 years later the young American bishop would succeed the great German Cardinal to the title of St. Bernard's.

20 Years Ago -- 1990

St. Mary's Cathedral in Fargo has its steeple back, all refurbished and looking like new. Father Al Bitz, pastor, with the help of a crane, put the cross atop the steeple, and then the crane lifted the steeple to its perch. The steeple was removed for several months because of the roofing being done to the Cathedral.

10 Years Ago -- 2000

Bishop James Sullivan hosted an ecumenical gathering focusing on the Incarnation on Jan. 21 at Nativity parish in Fargo. This was the first of two ecumenical services planned for the Jubilee year. Bishop James Sullivan invited six leaders of different denominations in North Dakota to join him in explaining the Incarnation as described in their own religion: Bishop Rick Foss of the ELCA Eastern North Dakota Synod; Bishop Andrew Fairfield of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota; the Rev. Walter Truex of the Church of God, Grand Forks; the Rev. Jack Seville Jr. of the United Church of Christ, Northern Plains Conference; Bishop Michael Coyner of the United Methodist Church, and Joanne Spears of the Religious Society of Friends.