

FATHER MARTIN MUELLER - St. Monica's Augustinian Fathers
Catholic Church

INTERVIEWED: February 28, 1975

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Father Martin came August 1953, remained until September 1956.

Present building not original.

First Rectory 1230 Cambie, first Mass celebrated in St. Thomas Hall (Community Hall) December 21, 1947. December 13, 1947 - Father Cajetan Riedmeier took mass at 1230 Cambie (house) to 50 - 60 people.

Origin of Congregation

Archbishop Duke of Order of Saint Augustine invited Father Cajetan to come from Ladner to start a German-speaking church on Lulu Island. Father Cajetan went round area inviting German Catholics to his mass. Good number of German-speaking immigrants "volksdeutschen", some had come from Europe and some from Prairies.

Order of Saint Augustine

Came from Europe through New York. At time of Washington, Irish Augustinians came over. Very old order.

April 19, 1948

Building started on Woodhead Road. Mr. Leonard, builder and carpenter, plus parishioners built church. Lot was paid for by Diocese, Father Cajetan making loan from bank. September 1948 church finished.

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1950 Order built Parish Centre next door as Rectory and Meeting place.

1972 Property sold by Order to Dioscese.

Building Committee - Mr. Mike Miller presently living on Garden City Road.

Plans

Used for Crescent Beach Church originally. Architect - Mr. Boughen. Same architect of Immaculate Conception Church in Strawberry Hill in Surrey. Square building, organ loft, sacristy. Not outstanding architecture. Bell tower - no bell. No memorial windows, no memorial plaques.

Upkeep

Recommend one hour's wages per week. Still up to individual.

Background of congregation

Still predominantly German, many Dutch. "Volksdeutsche" came of German origins of Germans scattered around Europe, many not from Germany. "Reichsdeutsche" want to be assimilated into community from Germany.

Services

At present held in English. Originally in German. No German language school.

Women

Catholic Women's League (Canada wide) -

- Help cleaning of church & rectory
- Instruction Saturday morning for Grade School ages
- High School ages come Tuesday evening

Holy Name Society now disbanded so men called in by Priest to help in working around church.

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Name of Church

St. Monica's church name chosen by Archbishop Duke after the mother of St. Augustine.

Other Ministers

September 15, 1956 -
September 9, 1965 Father Conrad Renneisen

September 1965 Father Martin A. Mueller returned after going to Ladner, suffering a stroke and recuperating in Wisconsin.

Special Events

Bishops visit for confirmations, marriages, bazaars.

Plans for future

Had intended building Parochial school but plans dropped. Industries creeping in. Land being held.

MURIEL NOBLE