



## House of History

This week's House of History is the Roman Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, at 601 Clark St. This building replaced the building several doors south which had served as the church since 1875, and is now known as St. Mary's Hall.

Ground for this church was broken in July 1911. A. Godin was awarded the contract for the wood work, and Tim Calnan got the contract for the stone and brick work for the 44 by 100 foot building. The cornerstone was laid Sept. 24, 1911, with Bishop Carroll presiding. At this time Fr. Thomas Landy was officially appointed pastor, replacing Fr. DeRyckere, who had retired back to Belgium after serving western Montana from Deer Lodge for over 44 years.

Albert O. Von Herbulis was chosen as architect for the church, built in Decorated or Geometrical Gothic style. Von Herbulis was born in Budapest in 1860 and studied architecture in Vienna and the United States. He had designed the Cathedral of St. Helena in Helena several years before, and was responsible for designing many other churches, schools, hospitals and public buildings. Among these are the Arts and Sciences Building at the University of Ottawa, Canada, several buildings at the University of Notre Dame, at least four buildings at the Catholic University in Washington D.C. and at Georgetown University, and St. Joseph's Church in Butte.

The church was dedicated February 22, 1913. At that time the twin front towers were flat. Later the north tower was built as a bell tower, and the south tower was enlarged for balance. In December 1935 a new carillon was installed in the tower. Consisting of twelve hollow brass chimes, each weighing

about 500 pounds, this was reported to be the first carillon installed in Montana, and can still be heard daily. It was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Pauly in memory of their daughter Elise Pauly Doherty, who had died May 27, 1935 at the age of 31, and had been an accomplished musician. The carillon can be played by the

time clock or from the keyboard, and was dedicated at midnight Mass, Christmas 1935.

The stained glass windows in this building are especially attractive. The first one installed was an irreplaceable Rose window, installed by the Tiffany Studios in 1916, in the choir area. This was donated by Mary Mills Morony in memory of her husband John, one of the founders of the Montana Power Company. It is an exact replica of a window in a cathedral in Munich, West Germany. (Mrs. Morony also donated the mausoleum at Hillcrest cemetery for her husband.)

The three fine windows in the sanctuary were installed by the Rambusch Studios in 1949. In 1976 stained glass windows were installed by the Hauser Studios of Minnesota in the remaining thirty windows, in the body of the church, vestibule and sacristy. At this time a large new organ was also installed.

The present rectory next door was built in 1929 replacing the stone one built in 1875. It was remodeled in the 1940's. The nearby St. Mary's School was completed in February 1963.

This series is prepared as a public service by the Historic Buildings Committee of the Powell County Museum and Arts Foundation. Information and pictures are welcomed.

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