

"The architect for the new church was William Beutler, A. I. A., of Sioux City. The general contractor was Weir Whitmore of Onawa; the plumbing and heating contractor was Budden and Sons of Sioux City and the electrical contractor was Maurice Bakke of Onawa. Father B. V. Greteman is pastor."

Dedication -- November 8, 1955

The dedication ceremonies were reported in the columns of the "Onawa Sentinel," as follows:

"The new St. John's Catholic Church here was dedicated to the glory of God and to the honor of St. John the Evangelist in solemn ceremonies on Tuesday, November 8, 1955. Officiating at the ceremonies was the Most Reverend Joseph M. Mueller, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Sioux City.

"The ceremonies began at 9:30 in the morning of a crisp, cool, yet clear autumn day with the blessing and laying of the cornerstone. In a place prepared in this stone went a sealed copper box containing a history of the parish, church reports and bulletins, a set of 1955 proof coins obtained especially for this purpose from the U. S. Mint in Philadelphia, and copies of local and diocesan newspapers which contained articles about the new Church."

The following article, written by Patrick J. Morrow, at the request of parishioners, was included with the above-mentioned items:

"Seemingly no history that we find sealed in a church cornerstone relating noteworthy incidents, personages and facts prior to the construction of the current edifice, recognizes the efforts of the incumbent pastor.

"The parishes of St. John's and St. Bernard's have been the recipient of the services of the very able Father B. V. Greteman since September 12, 1940. This servant of God, devoted to the spiritual needs of his flock, has proven to have additional virtues and abilities that make him an exception in his chosen field.

"Although all material possessions of the Church have one purpose, devotion to God and His ends, the financial status of a parish does have a marked effect on the morale and progress of a parish. In 1941 Father Greteman completed the plans for St. Bernard's Church at Blencoe and consolidated the sentiments of the parishioners in favor of a new edifice that would be a credit to any community. During the post-war years the wis-

dom of building St. Bernard's new church in 1941 has been proven many times.

"In retrospect it is easy to see the pattern of events. But in the twelve months following World War II, contemporaries of that period will remember the sudden and welcome influx of more Catholic families into St. John's parish. This increase forewarned Father Greteman of crowded conditions that were to come.

"Utilizing the ambitious energies of many young men of the parish and the wisdom of the older members, Father caused them to rejuvenate the 'St. John's Men's Club.' In the same year a building committee was drawn from this group and through the cooperation of all parishioners the building fund was given new impetus. During the prosperous post-war period marked by high incomes and the generosity of the parishioners the fund grew in the noteworthy fashion reported in the church history.

"No one can record the many hours of planning devoted by Father Greteman to St. John's new church. No one will know all the labors performed by him during the years 1952-1955 concerning the church. No one knows the skill exhibited by him to the benefit of all in obtaining sound, functional and beautiful church and social hall.

"Undoubtedly each parishioner can relate personal contacts and knowledge of various items with which they are familiar. And we know the high regard of the contractors and workmen who built the church, will be recorded in anecdotes concerning Father's close attention to detail which will live for many years.

"Father's close association and familiarity with the stone, the brick and all other material in the new St. John's Church is best evidenced by the thorough and beautiful description of the church in the news announcements written by him and found in various publications reporting the dedication ceremonies.

"Lest man's memory grow dim, history will record the unusual ability of Father Greteman to foresee the problems of the parish and the demands of the parishioners in minute detail. At the risk of contradiction by the passage of time, it should be recorded that Father Greteman, through his devotion to his family in St. Bernard's and St. John's Parishes, shall always live in their memories as one of the finest of the Cloth.

"Offered in the spirit that he, in his modesty, will not record his activities, the parishioners of St. Bernard's and St. John's parishes salute Father Bernard V. Greteman—a builder of our spiritual life and of our outward sign of community worship—our churches.

Nov. 7, A.D. 1955."