

Parish Beginnings: Rectory & Convent are built

Part 4 in a 12 part series about the history of our parish. These articles are also being posted to our website at stjoseph-wj@hotmail.com.

While construction of St. Joseph the Worker was completed in 1965, it wasn't until 1970 that a priest actually lived on the church property. Father James Fogarty, the first official parish priest moved into the small apartment that was built in the Social Hall.

In 1972, Father David Goddard became the next priest at St. Joseph the Worker. Fr. Goddard worried that some parishioners might feel reluctant to visit him in the apartment in the hall because it was located in such a public area. He felt that the apartment could be put to better use as an office for the parish sister and her staff. "The work of the parish is becoming more and more demanding and the apartment is not suitable," he wrote in a memo to the parish. What kind of living quarters he should move into was dependent on the will of the parishioners. He said, "I am your servant and will accept whatever quarters you are able or want to provide for me."

He offered several options: 1-Move in with another priest at another parish (problems with travel time and leaving the parish property unattended. 2- Rent a house or apartment ("They are seldom rented to anyone who smokes as does your pastor," wrote Fr. Godard. 3- Purchase a mobile home (problems with zoning laws.) 4- Purchase a modular home or 5- Let out contracts for the construction of a rectory (most costly option). The parish's decision was to purchase a modular home or "Boise Cascade" home as they were sometimes called. It was built at another location, transported to the site and then joined and completed by local builders.

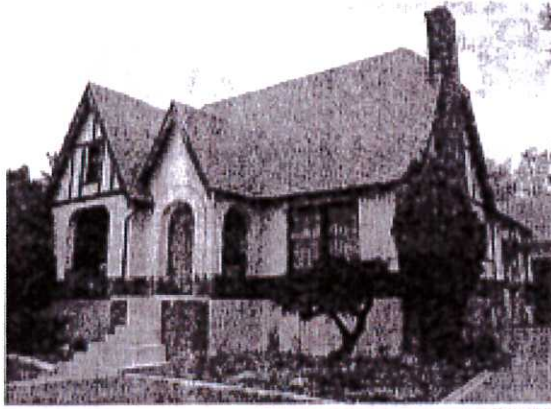
The rectory was completed in 1972. It consisted of a parish office, a small inner office, a bathroom, bedroom, living and dining area, kitchen and garage. It also had a basement.

When Monsignor Daz was the parish priest (1978 to 1987), he added on a small apartment in the back for his widowed mother. This apartment could be accessed through a door in the garage and had a bedroom, bathroom and small living room. This apartment was later used by Fr. Semple when he lived with Fr. Carley.

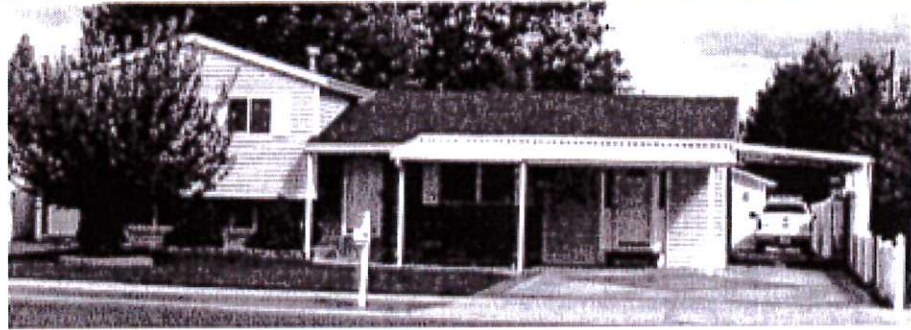
The sisters of the parish at first lived in a house Copperton, then a home located near St. Joseph the Worker. In 1982, under Msgr. Daz, the convent was constructed. It, too, was a "Boise Cascade" home.



Above: The old rectory was constructed in 1972. Father Carley said it was a comfortable place to live except that it was also home to "spiders by the ton".



Left- This home in Copperton was built for the copper company's doctor and his family. It later served as a convent for the Catholic sisters. St. Joseph the Worker sisters later moved to the home pictured below, located at 1560 West 7575 South. Sisters lived here until 1982 when the construction of the convent was completed on St. Joseph the Worker property.



The first residents of the convent were Sister Fabian (who was newly transferred to Utah). Sister Teresa Schlereth and Sister Teresa Doucet. The convent had 4 bedrooms and a small chapel. Monsignor Daz used to say daily Mass in this small chapel. The daily Mass would be followed by a breakfast served in the convent kitchen.



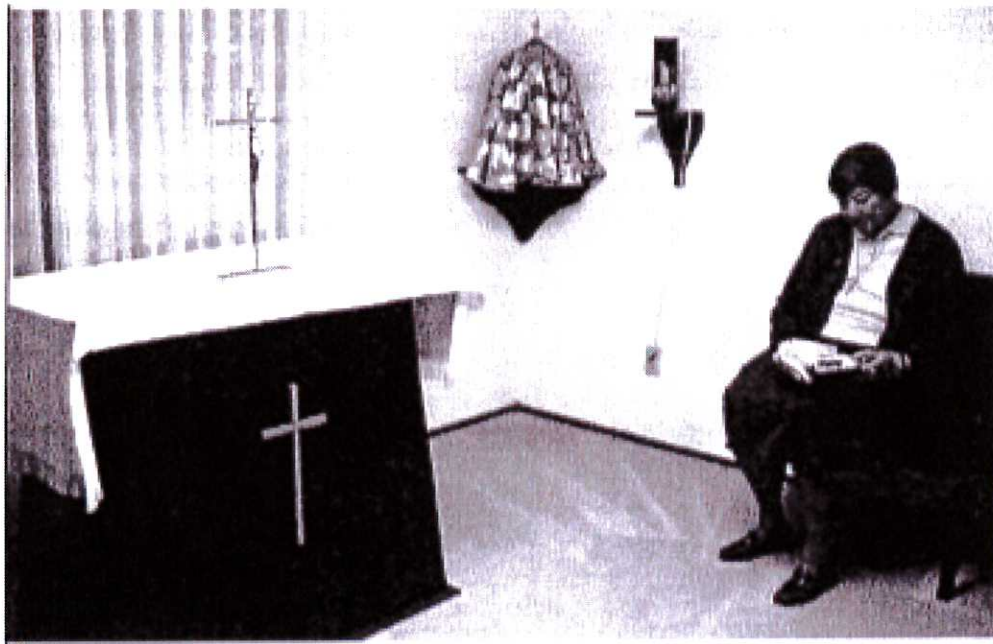
Above: These photos taken over 30 years ago show the manufactured units that make up the convent (now a rectory) being lowered into place.

When plans were underway to build a new church in the late 2000's, the architects Sparano + Mooney advised us that the city required that we provide a certain amount of parking spaces. Removing the rectory would be needed to meet the minimum requirement. We weren't sure at first when we would move the rectory or where Father would live and a variety of options were discussed. The problem resolved itself when Sister Fabian took ill in September of 2009 and returned to her Mother House. Father then moved into the convent and the rectory was the first building to be torn down in the demolition of December 2009.

Father Carley made a number of changes to the convent/rectory after he moved in. Since we now had a Day Chapel, the small convent chapel was no longer needed. Father had the wall removed and enlarged his living room area. This enables him to host larger meetings/classes and social events in his home. He also converted 2 bedrooms into one large room.

Having a rectory and a convent located directly on the church property has been very convenient for the priests and sisters of the parish. It has also provided a great sense of security and comfort to St. Joseph parishioners knowing someone is living directly on their beloved church grounds. In the summer of 2008 Father Carley was awakened at 4 am by a passerby who noticed flames in the old church. Father ran over and doused the fire with Holy Water!

Read all about this amazing feat in the article posted in the Gathering Space.



Above: This photo shows Sister Fabian in the small chapel that used to be located in the convent. She used to pray in this room three times a day.

Below: The rectory was demolished December 2, 2009.

