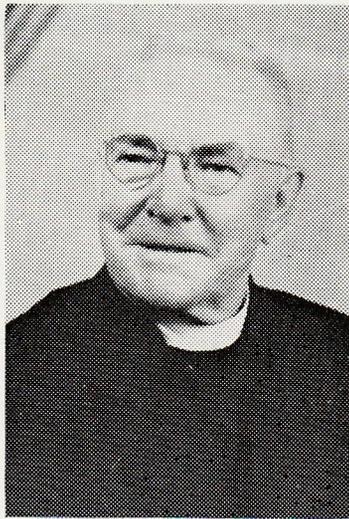


First Resident Pastor at Onawa

In January 1900, Father D. K. Hurley was appointed first resident pastor of Onawa, and the Missions of Blencoe, Hornick, and Whiting were included in this charge. When the new Diocese of Sioux City was erected in 1902, Father Hurley was transferred to the Cathedral of Epiphany at Sioux City as assistant pastor, and was succeeded in Onawa by Father Joseph Murtagh. The latter remained only a month, but in that length of time endeared himself to every parishioner in the parishes. Father T. B. Smith was then transferred from his position as assistant at Boone to succeed Father Murtagh in Onawa late in 1902.



Father Dennis K. Hurley, first resident pastor of St. John's and St. Bernard's.

New Church at Blencoe--1903

Father Smith saw the need of a larger church at Blencoe to accommodate the growing congregation and immediately made plans for its construction. By May of his first year in the parish these plans were complete, and the "Onawa Democrat" for May 14, 1903, carries the following: "The contract for a new Catholic Church has been awarded to J. F. Patterson, a contractor of Council Bluffs, who came up this morning to complete arrangements. If everything is satisfactory, work will commence at once. The contract calls for a \$2,250 structure, not including windows and furnishings. The size of the building is 50x32 feet, 16 foot posts and a 44-foot steeple. This excellent location was purchased several years ago by the directors of the Catholic Church, but not until now have they been able financially to erect a church

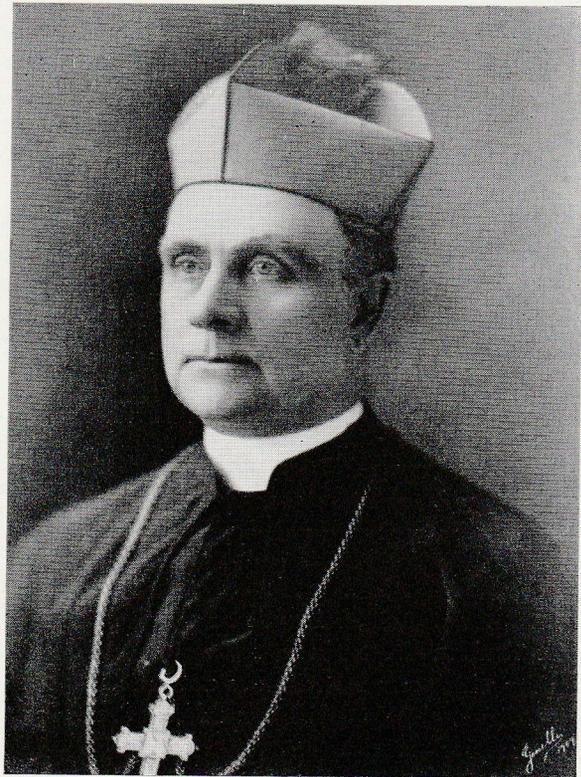
such as was desired. When completed it will be by far the best in this part of the county, and one Blencoe may well feel proud to have."

Work on the building was delayed until early in July and rapid progress was made after that. The cornerstone was laid on July 22, 1903, and of this event the July 23 edition of the "Onawa Democrat" relates:

"The Catholics of Blencoe have for several years contemplated a more modern church building in which to worship. This afternoon at three o'clock the cornerstone of the new \$3,000 church, which will be known as St. Bernard's, was laid with appropriate ceremonies. There was a large attendance of people, including many distinguished members of the Catholic Church and pastors from nearby towns. The Very Rev. J. J. Garland of Eagle Grove laid the cornerstone, and Rev. Father Toohil of Kingsley, considered a very able speaker, delivered the sermon of the day. Rev. J. F. Barron, Chancellor of the Diocese, was present and assisted in the ceremonies."

The new building was completed by the following October and was dedicated on Tuesday, October 20, 1903, by Bishop Garrigan of the Sioux City Diocese. Again from the columns of the "Onawa Democrat" for October 22, 1903, we quote:

"The Catholics dedicated their beautiful church on Tuesday morning, October 20, 1903, Bishop Garrigan



The Right Reverend Philip J. Garrigan, D.D., first Bishop of the Diocese of Sioux City, 1902-1919.