A UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC CHURCH FOR BOZEMAN, MONTANA

Part I

Undergraduate Thesis in Architectural Design

By

Douglas D. Baker

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at

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Introduction

In fulfilling requirements for a Bachelor of Architecture degree at Montana State University, I submit this thesis as a proposal for a University Catholic Church, for Bozeman, Montana.

The scope of this report covers all preliminary research which any architect would undertake preceding the design of any structure. The physical, economic, and background considerations are placed in this report to the extent of importance I place on each. They form the basis for design decisions I will make in formulating a solution to the needs of a University Catholic Church, for Bozeman, Montana.
Proposal

I propose that a University Catholic Church for Montana State University at Bozeman, Montana, be built under the auspices of the Diocese of Helena and that it will serve all Catholics on the MSU campus as a parish center.

The facility would provide accommodations which would fulfill their religious obligations, offer aid to intellectual growth, and house social function.
History of the Catholic Church in Bozeman
In the early days of Bozeman, the Bozeman Mission was served spasmodically by visiting priests and army chaplains from the Indian missions and Fort Keogh. These priests were believed to have been preceded by Father Pierre Jean De Smet. In his diary he tells of entering Montana in mid-July 1840 accompanied by 1600 Indians. They pitched camp near Three Forks and set up a lodge, where De Smet was believed to have said the county's first mass. This was the first record of the Catholic Religion in this area.

The first attempt to build a Catholic Church in Bozeman was made in 1879. Two blocks of land close to the present railroad depot was offered to the church for a building site, but for some reason or other it was turned down by the Catholics in the community. At this time services were being held in private homes. Later the hall over the old Chestnut Saloon was rented and mass was said there. Mass was also held in the old courthouse every three months.

On August 29, 1885, the first Catholic Church was built in Bozeman on North 7th Avenue. The church still stands, but not on the original site. It is now occupied by the Country book Shelf. In 1889, when the Rev. Amatus R. Coopman designated Bozeman as his residence, the Holy Rosary Parish, belonging to the Diocese of Helena, was started. Mass was said at the church on North 7th Avenue until 1905.
In 1905 the present site of the Holy Rosary Church, at the corner of Main and Third Avenue, was purchased for $2000 from Nelson Story. Father Thompson, then the priest of the parish, tore down the existing buildings and erected the present church at a cost of $65,000. A few years later the rectory was added.

By 1943 the church had grown to over 1000 members and the first assistant priest was needed. Since that time the church's membership has steadily increased. In 1948 the church interior was completely redecorated. At this time the secondary steeple spire was removed. In 1953 the cellar was excavated for a parish center and just a year later increasing activities demanded the work of three priests. In 1956 the Sanctuary was again redecorated.

The Catholic student enrollment at MSU was 700 in 1963, and each year since it has steadily increased. In 1966 the University Parish was started. This made the second parish in Bozeman. Father Edward Courtney has been the priest of the University Parish since its founding. At the present time mass is held alternately in the MSU Student Union Theater, the MSU Agricultural Auditorium, and the Danforth Chapel.
Conditions Creating A Need
Conditions Creating A Need

General Conditions

At the present time there are over 1.2 million Catholics attending universities. The Catholic Church has made specific recommendations concerning the religious and educational need of their students. They have suggested that there be one full-time chaplain on every resident campus with 300 Catholic students and an additional full-time priest or staff member for each additional 500 to 700 Catholic students. Adequate facilities (chapel, center, and chaplain's residence) are required whenever a full-time chaplain is assigned to a campus (1, 1965).

These needs were specified at a meeting of chaplains in Detroit, in August of 1962, under the auspices of Archbishop John F. Dearden.

Physical Conditions

Recent growth in the MSU enrollment and the corresponding growth of the Catholic student community are pointed out by the figures below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>MSU Enrollment</th>
<th>Catholic Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1955</td>
<td>2799</td>
<td>465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>3935</td>
<td>630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>5933</td>
<td>1100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>7608</td>
<td>1500 (pro.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>2000 (pro.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figures from Rev. Edward Courtney (2)
The existing facilities for the Catholic community at MSU can be generally described as makeshift. Masses are held in the MSU Student Union Theater and the Danforth Chapel. An upstairs bedroom at the Newman center has been converted into a chapel for meditation. All social functions (dances, dinners, etc.) must be held in the basement of Holy Rosary Auditorium (high school) or on the MSU Campus. The reason for holding functions and meetings at different locations is the lack of adequate facilities.

Psychological Conditions

The accomplishment of the goal of the church would be the uniting of the Catholic community on campus, the students, faculty, and staff, in a common place of worship. The church wishes to be part of the intellectual development of its young, and to be able to meet his specific spiritual needs.

Summary

The growth of the enrollment at MSU each year emphasizes the need for new facilities for the catholics at this university, whose numbers increase at the same relative rate. Inadequate facilities diminish the students eagerness to participate in continuing religious education his church wishes to provide. The future looks very bleak for the church on campus if it does not solve its growing needs.
The University Parish at MSU needs a church to solve its growing needs of the Catholic students on the MSU campus. Without these facilities it doesn't fulfill its obligations to its members and to the community.
Local Conditions

The Gallatin Valley, which is in southwestern Montana, is a rather high intermountain area. There is a wide range in elevation between the low parts of the valley, the higher foothills, and the surrounding mountains. The lowest elevation is about 4000 feet above sea level, while the surrounding mountains raise to the height of 10,000 to 11,000 feet.

Bozeman is located at the base of the Bridger Mountain Range at a point where the valley is about 10 miles wide east to west. The valley is surrounded by mountains on three sides, but the floor is prime farming land, with fine topsoil and easy irrigation from mountain streams.

The climate is similar to other intermountain valley climates in the Northwest. It is subject to extremes of seasonal and daily temperatures. A difference of 30°F may occur within 24 hours. Winds are variable in both movement and direction. Usually in the daytime the wind comes from the west or southwest and at night it is usually from the southeast.

The mean annual temperature in Bozeman is 43°F. Extreme cold weather periods (-20° to -30°) may last for a week or more. In a 30-year summary of climatic conditions there were 4 winter months that averaged less than 10°F and 2 months which averaged below zero. The mean summer temper-
The average annual precipitation in Bozeman is 17.35 inches, much of which is snow. The average snowfall is 73.1 inches. May and June are normally the months of heaviest rainfall, while January and March are the months of heaviest snowfall.\(^3\)

The following pages with their probability curves offer some guide to the choice of design materials.
DAILY PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY COMPUTED WEEKLY
FOR THREE WEEK RUNNING INTERVALS BASED ON THE 50 YRS. RECORD
1909-1958

BOZEMAN, MONTANA
Site Conditions

The site, which is situated at the end of 11th Avenue in Bozeman, consists of 1.97 acres. (see map) It lies in the E½, NE ¼, SW ¼ of section 13, township 2 S, range 5 E, in Gallatin County, Montana. The elevation of the site is 4907 ft. according to Earl R. Best, Registered Engineer.

There are no buildings or residences near the site, and it has grazing land on three sides. Eleventh Avenue and Kagy Blvd. meet at the northeast corner of the site. The fieldhouse parking lot is to the northeast. A stream enters the site on the west end and crosses it about 40 feet inside the property line.

The site is relatively bare and slopes to the northwest at about one foot in twenty feet downward. A few wild shrubs and grasses are the only cover on and around the site. Some cottonwood trees are scattered in the area but none near the site.

The only immediate view from the site is the MSU campus, which is to the north. To the south and east are the high mountains in the Bridger and Gallatin Rangers. The view west is farm land with mountains on the horizon.

Although the site is outside Bozeman's city limits, it will conform with the zoning ordinances set down by the Bozeman Municipal Code, under the assumption that the site will be in the city limits soon. The structure proposed would be classified as Class A use, and the zoning codes are as follows:
The soil on the site is dark-colored, well-drained farming soil. The topsoil ranges in color from dark brown to black and the texture is either coarse loam or silty clay, but the site is dominantly silty.

Water, electricity, and sewer utilities are available from Eleventh Avenue and the Montana State University campus.
BOZEMAN, MONTANA

HOTELS


BOZEMAN HOTEL - Cocktail Lounge, Dining Room, Coffee Shop. Open 24 hours. 321 E. Main St. Phone 586-2381. 80 Rooms - 50 with Bath.

KESTER HOTEL - Quiet & Comfortable. 440 E. Main. Phone 586-5451. 36 rooms - 10 with Bath.

MOTELS

ALPINE LODGE - Hwy. 10 East. 18 new units. Tubs, showers, W-to-W carpets. TV. Good Restaurant across street. 1017 East Main. Phone 586-9932. 26 units.


BAIR’S LITTLE 5 MOTEL - On Hwy. 10 West. W-to-W carpet. Air Conditioned. Color TV. Phones. Credit cards accepted. 815 No. 7th - Ph. 587-4431. 13 units.


TANA MOTEL - On Hwy. 10. 5 blocks north of main. Units with showers. 7 kitchenettes with refrigerators. Steam heat. 602 No. 7th. Ph. 586-9867. 13 units.


SIESTA MOTEL - On Hwy. 10 & 191. TV in every unit. Phones. Individually controlled heat. Garages. 5 So. 8th Ave., Phone 586-2337. 21 units.
LOOKING NORTH ACROSS THE SITE

LOOKING SOUTH ACROSS THE SITE
Economic Considerations
Economic Considerations

The site for the proposed structure has already been purchased by the Diocese of Helena with no loan to pay off. This enables all existing funds to go into the structure.

The Diocese of Helena has made available $500,000 for future facilities of the University Parish at MSU. These funds will be available to establish its status as a separate parish. The University Parish doesn't have to pay any of this money back, but the parish must maintain and support itself. The maintenance and support of the parish would come from contributions from members, parents of members, and friends. Another source of income which is important is that which began in November 1959, when the Bishops of the United States gave their unanimous approval to a national fund to help support the work of the Catholic students on the secular campus.

The owner wants first-class modern facilities for the amount he has in his budget. According to the Marshall Evaluating Service the church would be classified Class A construction. For Class A living facilities, the calculator estimating method lists the typical cost per square foot at $20.80. This cost would include concrete or heavy timber structural system, with expensive finishing materials. For Class A church costs, the typical costs per square foot is $24.16. Using the this figure and the amount of funds
available, the building may have 20,000 square feet of floor space. These figures don't take into account landscaping and site work. This cost would again include the best systems of construction on the market. These figures will vary with the height of the building, so it is difficult to give a close estimate at this time.

The University Parish will not operate a grade school, as most parishes do. Therefore, all income will go to the maintenance of the University Parish.
Functions of the Building
Functions of the Building

Church

A vestibule
A narthex - baptismal area and font
A nave - choir area and organ
A sanctuary
A sacristy - confessional area and storage
Other areas - toilets, janitor area, mech., and storage

Rectory

Two chaplain apartments - study, bedroom with bath
Kitchen - laundry
Dining area
Living area
Closets - storage areas

Educational and social areas

Library
Office area
Lounge
Multi-purpose rooms
Kitchen

Exterior Facilities

Bell tower
Garage
Parking
CHURCH

General

The mood or feeling, that must be conveyed throughout the church both inside and outside, is living, dymanic, peace with infinite variety, giving man a sense of awe, content, and security.

Outline of areas within the church

A vestibule
A narthex - baptismal area and font
A nave - choir area and organ
A sactuary
A sacristy - confessional area and storage
Other areas - toilets, janitor area, mech., and storage.

The vestibule

The vestibule will be a small entry' way or small room between the outside door and an inside door at the main entrance to the church proper. The vestibule acts as a transition between the outside and inside. In a northern climate a space like this is also advantageous because of the weather. The vestibule is also used as a coat area or such an area is directly related.

The activities within the vestibule will be limited to small groups of people removing overshoes and coats and hanging them up in the available space. It is also the area
where the church member receives a church bulletin or if the church is used for another purpose, such as an organ recital, the program will be handed out in the vestibule. The area will also be used for small group conversation after mass or other functions. At the outside door the chaplain usually meets and shakes hands with the members after a mass.

Furnishings within this area will consist of one or two moveable chairs, a small table and/or an information rack, for holding church news and materials, pictures or plaques and coat hooks or holders.

The people using this area will usually be members of the University Parish, namely MSU students and faculty. However anyone may use the facilities for any of the functions which will be going on within the church.

The mood in the vestibule will further express the mood of the whole church. It will be the transition in mood from the exterior of the church to the interior. The vestibule will be directly related to the Narthex area of the church and the outside.

Narthex

The narthex is the area between the vestibule and the nave. It is directly related to both areas, but by some means it must be able to be completely closed off from the vestibule and be able to be screened off from the nave. Within the narthex there will be a baptistry area, a font, and a small
vestment area.

The activities within the narthex will be limited to people moving from the vestibule to the nave and back, and the administration of the Sacrament of Baptism. A font holding Holy Water, will be available here for the use of the members of the parish. The Sacrament of Baptism will also be administered in the narthex. During such ceremony the font will be within view of the nave. It is seldom that more than two or three people get baptized at one time, thus this activity will not effect the size of the area. The activity in the vestment area will be left entirely up to the user.

The furnishings within the narthex will consist of a Holy Water font, and a Baptismal Font, which possibly will be on in the same. There will also be a sound proof wall between the narthex and the vestibule.

The people using this area will usually be members of the University Parish, which will consist mostly of MSU students and faculty.

The mood in the narthex will be dominated by the baptism simply because of its presents in this area, but it also must reflect a comfortable feeling to those entering and passing through it.

Nave

The nave will be the main part of the interior of the church. It will be directly related to the narthex and the
sanctuary. The nave must be large enough to accommodate a congregation of 500 worshippers at a mass or 500 people at another function. Although this area's main purpose is to be occupied by lay worshippers at mass, other activities, such as marriages, funerals, organ recitals, theatrical plays, lectures, work shop, etc., will be performed here. In this case the nave will be a multi-use area, but will not lose its basic purpose as a place to worship.

People will usually be sitting in this area but while mass is going on, the worshippers will be kneeling part of the time. The aisle must be able to accommodate the movement of these 500 people as they file in and out through the narthex. All seats in this area will be movable so that the whole area or any part of it may be cleared. This will necessitate a storage area close to the nave and large enough to store these chairs and possibly a few tables.

The people using this area will usually be members of the University Parish, namely MSU students and faculty. However anyone may use the facilities for any of the functions which will be going on within the church.

The area should convey the same mood set forth in the beginning of this section, under General.

**Sanctuary**

The sanctuary is the main altar area of the church, it is also the area where the lectern stations and the communion
stations are... The chaplain of the parish conducts the mass from the sanctuary. He uses the altar when he blesses communion and offers prayers. He delivers the sermon and reads scripture to the worshippers from the lectern stations and he gives communion to the worshippers at the communion stations. During mass, marriage, or a funeral is the only time the sanctuary will be used and than it is only used by a few people, such as the priest, celebrants, and altar boys.

Furnishing for the sanctuary will be an altar and altar reservation, two lecterns, two communion stations and two chairs for the celebrants. This area will be directly related to the nave and indirectly related to the sacristy. The sanctuary may be completely screened off from the nave, while other functions are going on in the nave.

Because the sanctuary is the center of the worship service the mood in this area must be or give a most reverent feeling. It must convey to all who enter, that it and it alone is the most important area within the church.

A choir area, within the nave or closely related to it, will also be provided. This area will be used for choir practice and singing in mass. The area must have an organ and moveable seating for at least 20 people. The area doesn't have to be in plain sight of the worshippers, but it must be audible by all. The organ should be situated where all may see it, for it will be used for other functions.
Sacristy

The sacristy is the area where the church vestments and sacred vessels are kept. It will also be used for a small prayer chapel. It is here where the presence of Christ in the Holy Vestments will be kept.

The sacristy will mostly be used by the chaplains, but anyone is welcome to come and pray. Sometimes small prayer services will take place here. Furnishings for the sacristy will consist of storage for the vestments, moveable chairs for small services, and storage for other sacred vessels, candles, and books. The confessional booths where a repentant sinner comes and gives penance, will be directly related to the sacristy. There will be two such booths in this area, each booth will be in two parts, one for the confessor and the other for the repentant sinner. The two parts will be concealed in some way from each other.

The sacristy may open up to the nave but doesn't have to, it doesn't have to even be related directly to the church. The mood, however, must reflect that of the whole church.

Other areas

There should be an area with storage where the priest and altar boys can prepare for mass. This would be where the priest robes himself. In this area extra candles and holders would be kept along with the priests robes. This area doesn't have to be directly related to the sanctuary, although if it
did it would be a convenience. The area should have storage facilities, a closet, three chairs and a small table.

Two small toilet areas, one for women, one for men, should be incorporated into the church. Their placement doesn’t have to be directly related to any other area. Each toilet area must have a water closet and a lavatory. The janitors area should be placed near the toilet areas for plumbing reasons. The janitors area must have storage enough for a vacuum cleaner, mops, and cleaning supplies. The area should also have a large wash basin.

A mechanical area for the whole complex will also be provided. This area will house the heating system and hot water heater.

RECTORY

General

The mood, that must be conveyed on both the interior and exterior of the living area, is delightful, relaxed, privacy giving its residents comfort and security.

Areas within the Rectory

Two chaplain apartments - study, bedroom with bath, guest room
Kitchen - laundry
Dining area
Living area
Closets — storage areas
Chaplain's Apartment

The apartment will be the chaplain's own private living area. Each apartment will be divided into four areas. The first of which is the study. Here the chaplain will have his books, his desk, a file, desk chair and two lounge chairs. He will read and prepare sermons in this area, so it should be quiet. It should also be related to the rest of the apartment.

The second area is the sleeping area. Here the chaplain will sleep, keep his personal clothes, and other personal articles. A bathroom, with toilet, bath, with shower, and lavatory, will be related to the bedroom. A guestroom to accommodate one guest will be provided in the apartment. The guestroom will have a bed, two chairs, a small table, and storage closet of its own, but will share the bath facilities.

Kitchen

The kitchen will be the area where food is stored and prepared, for the use of the residents. A part time cook or housekeeper will use this area for preparing meals. Furnishings for this area will consist of a stove, sink, refrigerator, oven, cupboard space, small table and chairs, washer and dryer, and storage. The kitchen should be directly related to the dining area and should have an exterior door closely related. The kitchen should be in keeping with the mood of the rectory.
Dining area

The dining area will be where the residents eat their meals. It should have a table large enough to seat eight people, chairs, and storage for dishes. In this area the residents will entertain guests as well as use the area for everyday meals. The area should be directly related to the kitchen and should be in keeping with the mood of the rectory.

Living area

The living area will be an area where the residents will entertain guests or will relax in their own private room. The area should have a couch, lounge chairs, lamps, book shelves, a small table, etc. The area should be related to the dining area and should have an exit to the exterior. The mood in this area should be in keeping with that of the rest of the rectory.

EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL AREAS

General

The mood that will be conveyed on both the interior and exterior of the educational and social areas is relaxed, informal, comfort in a light, airy, surrounding.

Library

The library area will be able to hold some 5000 volumes
of books, including categories of philosophy, theology, church, history, church literature, and reference books. It will serve as a reading room and study area for its university students. The area will be furnished with reading tables and chairs, lamps, book shelves, and filing card cabinets. The library will be open to all university students and faculty who wish to use its facilities. The library area doesn’t have to be related to any other areas, but if it were placed near the offices there would be more control over it.

Office area

The office area will consist of four parts. There will be two chaplain offices. Each office will be for one chaplain to study, to council, and to carry on the business operations of the parish. The furnishings for each office will consist of a file cabinet, desk with chair, extra chairs, book shelves, and storage cabinets. The two chaplain’s offices will be served by one permanent secretary with a workroom. The workroom will have a desk and chair, a filing cabinet for church records, and mimeograph facilities. The secretaries workroom will be directly related to the chaplains offices. The secretary will also act as a receptionist for the chaplains.

The fourth area will be a conference room or multi-purpose room. This room will be used by the chaplains and members for small meetings and workshops. The area will be furnished with a large table and chairs enough to seat 12 people.
The mood in these areas will be in keeping with the rest of the educational areas. These office areas should be related to an entrance from the outside.

**Lounge**

The lounge will be a social area used for small social functions and conversation, for the members of the University Parish. Activities which will go on in the lounge will be small parties, group conversation, listening to records, watching television, meetings, and entertainment of guests.

The furnishing for the lounge will consist of a television, stereo-record player, lounge chairs and couches, small end tables with lamps, and magazine racks. A fireplace will also be provided, which will help bring a warm private feeling to this area. The lounge should be closely related to the small kitchen so that refreshments may be served.

**Multi-purpose rooms**

Three multi-purpose areas will be provided for classes or meetings. These rooms will be able to open up to make one large area. The activities in this large area will be social and educational functions, such as dances, dinners, and art shows. The area must be large enough to seat 300 people at tables.

The furnishings for these areas will be some moveable sound proof partitions between areas, and chairs and tables to seat 300 people. There must also be storage for these chairs.
and tables. The multi-purpose areas should be related to the kitchen and service bar.

Kitchen

A kitchen which will be capable of serving groups from a catering service and small groups with its own facilities will be provided. Furnishings for the kitchen will consist of a stove, oven, sink, refrigerator, cupboard storage, steam table, and serving bar. The kitchen should be related to both the lounge and the multi-purpose areas. It should also have an exterior entrance.

Other areas

A coat room near the social and educational area will be provided. The room will be used mostly when large functions are going on.

Two toilet areas, one for women, one for men should be provided near these areas. Their placement doesn't have to be directly related to any other area. Each toilet must have a water closet and lavatory. The janitors area should be placed near the toilet rooms for plumbing reasons. The janitors area must have storage enough for a vacuum cleaner, mops and cleaning supplies. The area should also have a large wash basin.
EXTerior FACILITIES

General

All exterior facilities will be in the same character as those areas which they serve.

Bell Tower

A bell or identifying tower will be placed somewhere on the site. It will function as a bell tower, which will ring Sundays and evenings. The tower will express the same mood as that of the exterior of the church.

Garage

A 3 car garage, that will be related to the rectory, will be provided for the chaplains. Storage for maintenance tools will also be in the garage.

Parking

On site parking will be limited to 10 cars. The MSU fieldhouse parking lot is directly across 11th Ave., which will be sufficient parking for those who drive to church. Permission to use the parking lot has already been secured.
Aesthetic Considerations
Aesthetic Considerations

There is no place for the discussion of aesthetics in a report such as this. Therefore I have omitted my previous aesthetic consideration paper from this report.
Summary

My basic design goal was a simple but strong concept that would create a peaceful feeling to the user. I believe I achieved this in my designing a Catholic Church.

I believe that a church must be simple and understandable. Religion has a different meaning for everyone, to some it is simple, to some it is complex. A complex structure could confuse and distract. Therefore I used simple forms and placed them in such a way that they would be easily understood, in meaning, in form, and in placement.

While being simple the church must also be strong. The strength of the church comes from the placement of forms. If the placement is right the concept is understood and known to be right. The user then feels secure. It is this security which gives the user a peaceful feeling.
Footnotes


2 Interview; Father Edward Courtray, Chaplain University Parish MSU.

3 James McArthur, Thesis Report for Arch. 489, 1965

Dictionary

Reports


Pamphlets


Interviews
Rev. Edward E. Courtney, Chaplain University Parish MSU