

# Diocese of New Ulm A Look Back!

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

**In recognition of the upcoming 50th Anniversary of the Diocese of New Ulm (November 18, 2007), *The Prairie Catholic* will be taking "a look back" each month through November on the important history since the conception of the diocese. This month, we reflect on Campus Ministry.**

Campus Ministry in the Diocese of New Ulm began in the fall of 1967. The Religious Center was built across the road from Southwest State University, Marshall, MN, in February 1968. Southwest State University, (SMSU), a four-year public university, was founded in 1963.

How did it come to be? Bishop Alphonse Schladweiler wanted a Catholic presence in the only four-year college in the Diocese of New Ulm. So, Bishop Schladweiler asked Fr. Paul Schumacher to go to the Catholic University at Washington, D.C, to get an advanced degree. This would make him the first Catholic Chaplain at the Campus Religious Center. Sr. Kay O'Neill, a Presentation Sister from Aberdeen, SD, was added to the staff in September of 1970.

The Campus Religious Center is an

ecumenical ministry adjacent to the campus of Southwest State University. The campus ministers represented Catholics, Lutherans and United Ministries in Higher Education (Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Moravian, and Church of Christ churches.

It was an ecumenical building. Fr. Henry Le May was the pastor at Holy Redeemer at Marshall when it was built. The local ministerial group petitioned the church groups for funds to pay for the new building. It was divided for payment with 33 1/3 percent Catholic, 33 1/3 percent Lutheran, and 33 1/3 percent for the other denominations. In the beginning the diocese paid for the Catholic's 33 1/3 percent. When Bishop Raymond A. Lucker came to the Diocese of New Ulm, it was decided that this should be the responsibility of the Holy Redeemer Parish in Marshall to fund and staff the Catholic's portion.

In 1968, Fr. Peter Tintes was assigned by the Diocese of New Ulm to work with Campus Ministry at Willmar Campus Religious Center.

Catholic Campus Ministry is going strong today in the Diocese of New Ulm meeting the spiritual and related needs of Catholic students.

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