



# PARISH PROFILE

## Pocahontas parishioners take pride in parish

By KATIE LEFEBVRE  
Globe staff reporter

**POCAHONTAS** – The Catholic community in Pocahontas has a long tradition that dates back to 1875 and is still going strong.

Currently, Resurrection of Our Lord Parish in Pocahontas has close to 350 families and is clustered with St. Margaret Church in Rolfe. The pastor of both parishes is Father Paul Bormann.

He has been in Pocahontas since Oct. 25, 2011, and said he was welcomed with open arms.

“The parishioners have a great deal of pride in their parish,” said Father Bormann. “There is a real strong sense of duty to help the parish.”

He said that the parish has received many bequests. If the parish is going to survive as the population ages, he said, it is important to have a good endowment to help pay the bills.

“That has been started and I think it will continue to happen that people will leave monetary gifts and real estate to the parish,” said the pastor. “It is a must for the long term.”

A few changes have recently been made at the church. The bell tower was renovated in 2011 and this past spring the old rectory was sold. A house across the street from the parish was available and is now the rectory. The new rectory was painted and new carpet was installed.

### Organizations, ministries

There are many active church organizations and ministries at Resurrection Parish, which include Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Knights of Columbus, Men’s Foresters, Missionary Society, Ladies Society, religious education, adult education, RCIA and various choirs.

“The more people who are involved in the parish, the stronger the parish becomes,” said Father Bormann.

The religious education program is shared with Rolfe. The students meet at Pocahontas Catholic School, which allows for larger group gatherings as well as small group meetings.

“The Catholic school takes care of religious education for children through grade five,” said Jan Crowe, DRE and youth minister. “Any child not in the Catholic school, I support the parents homeschooling that child. They receive the sacraments, first Communion and first reconciliation, with the Catholic school children.”

Each Wednesday night about 50 sixth through 12th graders meet for religious education. The students are confirmed when they are sophomores or juniors. They participate in service projects and attend the youth rally each year.

“We are working on changing it up and making it a little more of the youth ministry model. It has been heavily the classroom model,” said Crowe. “We try to get the kids fired up about their faith.”

This summer was the first time that Resurrection Parish hosted Torus Tuus. Crowe mentioned that the program was “a big hit. I am getting a lot of feedback that people liked it a lot.” She hopes to make it a yearly event.

Crowe has been DRE and youth minister for about five years. She said she loves dealing with the people who she visits with and sharing in the faith journey of the students.

“I enjoy watching the young people grow in their understanding and see them figure out that the faith isn’t just in a



Resurrection of Our Lord Church, Pocahontas

box on Sunday mornings,” she said. “We share the good stuff and sometimes the bad stuff. It is a privilege to share those times with young people and support them and feel supported by them.”

There are many adults, catechists and parents, who help Crowe in many ways. She said she couldn’t do this without others.

### Pocahontas Catholic

The church supports Pocahontas Catholic School, a state-accredited kindergarten through fifth grade school that incorporates religious education throughout the curriculum.

“Pocahontas Catholic is a unique Catholic elementary school where we stress the Gospel values of Jesus,” states Maureen Lenz, principal, on the school’s website. “Our students model what is modeled to them by their parents, grandparents and teachers. This is a very loving community that emphasizes positive social skills and kind interactions by all.”

The students pray daily in each classroom and every Monday they pray as an entire school and staff. During these meetings the students are taught positive guidance skills, given awards for Reading Plus and other academic areas.

Mass is offered every Friday at 8:30 a.m. along with adoration of the Eucharist the first Friday of the month.

“There is extremely good support of the school,” said Father Bormann. “It is growing and there are a number of non-Catholic students attending the school. It is a real ministry our parish can provide to the community, to say we don’t care who you are, we want you to have a Christian education.”

He added that the sense of support for the school is very strong. The school’s dinner/auction raised \$75,000 this year.

### History

When the Catholic community formed in early in 1875,

Father T. M. Lenehan of Fort Dodge held the first Catholic service in the school house at Pocahontas.

With the donation of three acres of land in 1882 by Warrick Price for church and cemetery purposes, a church was planned. In 1883, the first regular Catholic service was held in Sts. Peter and Paul Church by Father Matthew Norton.

In June 1891, Sts. Peter and Paul became a permanent mission under Father J. P. Broz, the first resident pastor until April 1895.

The need for a larger church was realized in 1895 when Father W. A. Pape arrived. Sacred Heart Church was established in 1901 with Father W. A. Pape, then pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish. Bishop Garrigan, assisted by 26 priests, dedicated Sacred Heart Church on Nov. 26, 1902.

Father Pape initiated plans for a parochial school which opened on Nov. 30, 1896. The school was staffed by the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Family of Dubuque.

In 1951, due to the shortage of priests, Sts. Peter and Paul was served by the priests of Sacred Heart. Under the leadership of Father John Turza, who was appointed pastor in 1954, the parish joined with Sacred Heart in the efforts to construct the new Pocahontas Catholic Grade and High School.

The need for a new school building was voiced as far back as 1924 when Sacred Heart School was accredited. In 1944, the first drive to raise funds was started. Between 1950 and 1953, an additional drive was held with both parishes contributing. Construction on the new grade and high school building began on Aug. 3, 1953.

The original school served faithfully until 1954. Due to many factors, including population changes and staffing difficulties, the junior and senior high school closed in 1970.

In 1973, the Pocahontas Catholic Elementary School was moved to its present home, a modern building with a multi-purpose parish center.

Services were occasionally held in Sts. Peter and Paul Church until shortly after its 100th anniversary in 1983. The church was placed on the National Register of Historical Places in 1994 and is currently being preserved by an independent preservation commission.

A complete renovation and restoration of the Sacred Heart Church building was done during Father Alvey’s pastorate. He became the first pastor of the newly created Resurrection of Our Lord Parish in 1973.

Resurrection of Our Lord Church was again renovated in 2000 and significant repairs were done on the pipe organ.

Pastors who have served the Catholic community in Pocahontas over the years are Father J. P. Broz, Father W. A. Pape, Father V. A. Duda, Father A. J. Wagener, Father G. F. Wessling, Msgr. H. B. Karhoff, Father Sylvester A. Grady, Father Alois Gryc, Father Bohumil Kramolis, Father Raphael Kubat O.S.B., Father H. B. Kramer, Father Michael Kolvek, Father William Hyland, Father Walter Bruch, Father Thomas Nash, Father Alfred E. McCoy, Father J. Paul Alvey, Msgr. Lawrence J. Hoffman, Father David Hogan, Father Merle Kollasch, Father Andrew Hoffmann and currently Father Paul Bormann.

The parishes have had many religious vocations including 10 priests, one brother and 27 sisters.

## Ladies Missionary Society makes, donates quilts

By KATIE LEFEBVRE  
Globe staff reporter

**POCAHONTAS** – Women of the Pocahontas Ladies Missionary Society come together throughout the year to make quilts and provide other services for the community.

There are about 30 members from Resurrection of Our Lord Parish in Pocahontas who meet once a month for a general meeting and once a month for a work day.

“They are faithful,” said Donna Bunda, current president of the society. “They don’t think of not coming to the meetings.”

Along with the president, the other officers include Adele Nagengast, secretary and Marlene Flaherty, treasurer.

Bunda commented that the women enjoy the camaraderie and for some of them it is their “social event.”

The members make quilts and pretty much anything that needs to be sewn. In addition to quilts, they make aprons, table runners, table cloths, pillow slips, wall hangings, items for holidays, etc.

The ladies take on certain tasks such as cutting blocks, laying out patterns, sewing blocks together,



Members of the Pocahontas Ladies Missionary Society tie a quilt in the basement of Resurrection Church in Pocahontas.

er, tying, binding and much more. Some of the women take projects home to bring to the next meeting.

“It takes everyone to do it,” said Bunda. The women can go down to the church basement to work on the quilts anytime they want to.

Most of the quilts are donated. Last year they donated about 35 quilts and the number will be more this year, noted Bunda.

“Last year we donated 12 quilts just to storm victims, people who lost homes in the tornado,”

she said. “We donate to fire victims, cancer victims, children and every benefit in the community. It does not have to be from our parish. It is whoever is in great need.”

All of the material for the projects is donated. Bunda pointed out that a young person, who is a lawyer in Omaha, continues to donate sheets to the society that are used as backs for the quilts.

“We get many donations, primarily new material, thread, batting,” said Sylvia Onken, who has been a member since the late 1980s.

“Everything is donated. It is just marvelous,” said Bunda. “We do a lot of good things.”

Some of the quilts and other sewn items are available at a yearly sale held at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, a historical site in Pocahontas. The money raised is donated to Pocahontas Catholic School and to the church.

A special saying appears on each quilt. It reads, “A New Quilt – I was made with loving hands. I’m for your bed, a chair or grandma’s quilt stand. Have me for yourself, a child or spouse. I’m a warm addition for anyone’s house. You’ll feel the love as you wrap up in me, the love of our Catholic Missionary Ladies Society.”

### PARISH INFORMATION

**Pastor:**  
Father Paul Bormann

**DRE and Youth Minister:**  
Jan Crowe

**School Principal:**  
Maureen Lenz

**Mass times:**  
Saturday – 5 p.m.  
Sunday – 8:30 a.m.

**Confessions:**  
Prior to Saturday Mass

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