

CHURCH SACRISTY BURNED, BLAZE HELD INCENDIARY

January 15, 1924

Anacortes WA. January 14 - Fire early this morning burned out the sacristy of St. Mary' s Catholic Church, destroying all vestments, robes, statues, etc., and causing a loss estimated at \$3,500. Father Gustav Treunet, priest in charge, expresses the opinion that the fire was of incendiary origin. Firemen are reticent. No fire had been in the sacristy for some days.

INCENDIARY SETS FIRE TO THE SACRISTY OF ANACORTES CHURCH

Fanatic Causes Damage Accounting to \$3500

January 18, 1924

All Vestments Lost - Appeal to Aid Little Church

A blaze of incendiary origin destroyed the sacristy of St. Mary' s Church, Anacortes, early Monday morning. All vestments and furnishings of the sanctuary and some of the statues and other furnishings of the sanctuary of the little church were lost. Damage to the church and its contents will total \$3,500, according to an estimate made following the fire.

The Rev. Gustave Treunet, pastor, is confident that the fire was the result of a fanatic' s attempt to destroy the church.

Heard Fire Bug

"I do not know of anyone what would do such thing to injure me personally," said Father Treunet, in a message to The Progress. "I must come to the conclusion that it is the nefarious work of some fanatic. He was heard at 5 o' clock Monday morning, but escaped.

"We have lost a great deal," continues Father Treunet. "My sacristy and all its contents are gone, and the body of the church is in a lamentable condition. I have not one single thing with which to say Mass. Any good soul that will help me some way or another will have a special right to my humble but sincere prayers as long as I live."

The Progress believes that that Catholics of the diocese will respond to the needs which have overtaken this little church and its hard-working pastor. Father Treunet, besides being pastor of the Anacortes parish, attends the missions in the San Juan Islands and his time and strength and resources are taxed at all times to provide for his scattered flock. The misfortune which occurred this week is a heavy blow.

Those who will assist in refurnishing Father Treunet's sacristy so that he can say Mass may send their contributions through The Progress or direct to Father Treunet, Anacortes WA.

ANACORTES PARISH HALL SERVES AS CHURCH SINCE FIRE

January 25, 1924

Catholics of Anacortes, whose church was destroyed by an incendiary fire last week, attended Mass in the parish hall, Sunday.

Father Treunet, always cheerful, chose as the topic of his sermon "The Indestructibility of the Church."

"Do not worry," said the Pastor, "our church building may be burned, but the Church cannot be destroyed. Though the church was burned, we have our hall; if the hall is burned, I shall say Mass in my house; if the house is burned, we shall have Mass outdoors."

The fire-bug who set the church in flames early Monday morning of last week has not been apprehended, but the charred mechanism of a fire-bomb he is supposed to have used has been found.

The loss totaled \$3500, \$1500 of which was covered by insurance. But many things were destroyed upon which no money value can be placed.

Father Treunet's sacristy and sanctuary furnishings were his pride and joy. Many of the sacred vessels and vestments had come from France. Several readers of The Progress have sent in donations towards supplying Father Treunet with the things he needs.

The church will not be reconstructed. Mass will be said in the parish hall, which was constructed several years ago as the basement for a new church, until this new church can be built.