



How does a parish come into existence?

There is one person who holds the authority to create a parish. That person is the residential bishop of a diocese.

The bishop is charged with providing pastoral care (which is another word for the sacraments, the religious education and formation of the baptized, a community within which Faith is lived, passed on and sustained across generations. Since a bishop cannot be everywhere or anywhere all of the time he shares his pastoral care responsibilities with his most immediate cooperators, which are priests, especially those appointed as pastors.

So, this means that the first experience and the most immediate and on-going experience of the Church is in a parish. Bishops set boundaries for each parish which they establish. This is not to limit people but to assure for people that pastoral care will be provided by a designated priest, which is to say an officially appointed and installed pastor.

When the number of people or the locations of a group of Catholic people is not yet able to support the presence and activity of a pastor, the Bishop will designate that group or the location of that group to be a "mission" of an already existing parish. This is the history of Saint Joseph parish from 1980-1982 when the pastor of Saint Columbkille was named pastor of the Catholic people living in and around Springfield as a mission of the larger and older parish in Papillion. To distinguish the Springfield people in their new identity as a mission the patron saint of Saint Joseph was assigned. The Springfield people were no longer members of Saint Columbkille parish.

There is no written explanation for the assignment of Saint Joseph as the patron saint of the Faith community in Springfield. This is not unusual for most parishes. There is a hypothesis, which means a "guess with some reason behind it" but there is need to search out additional and reliable information.

As mentioned last week, our parish patron – Saint Joseph – is named in 10 parishes in the Archdiocese of Omaha. He is "the just man" of the gospel. He is also the patron of more activities, conditions of life and responsibilities, as well as cities and countries around the world than any other saint.

On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the parish three tall crosses, erected next to the church, were blessed. A kind of signature for the parish and which serve as the logo for the parish on its bulletin, stationary and other places. A bronze statue of Saint Joseph was also blessed and installed on that occasion. Do you know where this statue is located for all to see and admire?



August 6: Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." - Matthew 17:5