



July 8, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am sad to inform you that the Catholic Church at Orlow, Saskatchewan, burnt down around noon today in the span of about 30 minutes.

Holy Trinity Church, although no longer a functioning parish, was a landmark in the Rural Municipality of Redberry, where it stood for over one hundred years and was often known simply as “the Polish Church”. The Roman Catholic Diocese of Prince Albert had sold the church building to a local family in 2020 who then devoted themselves to the preservation of this beloved place of prayer with its steeple directing eyes and hearts to heaven.

In this terrible season of “burning churches,” please pray for healing and peace in the communities that are losing their beloved sanctuaries whether by the violent act of an individual or by natural causes. The RCMP are currently conducting a full fire investigation and the cause of the blaze has not yet been determined.

May the gentle rain of God’s grace put out the fires of anger and blame in our hearts as we seek ways to live in peace as children of the same loving Creator who is good enough to send “rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous” (Matt 5:45).

We grieve with those who have lost this loving landmark in Orlow.

In the loving Heart of Christ,

+ Stephen A. Hero

Most Rev. Stephen A. Hero
Bishop of Prince Albert