

In the Beginning

Loretta L. Gossi for the *ICR*

The *Idaho Register* dated April 4, 1958 came hot off the press on April Fools' Day that year as the first issue of the first diocesan paper in the history of the Catholic Church in Idaho. The paper joined the Denver *Register System of Catholic Newspapers* as its 34th member.

The decision to publish was announced to the people of the Diocese of Boise on Feb. 11, 1958 after lengthy preparations and intense negotiations between Bishop James J. Byrne, Diocese of Boise, Monsignor Matthew Smith, editor-in-chief of the *Register* system and the Monsignor John B. Cavanagh, Smith's business manager.

Father Nicholas E. Walsh became acting editor. Bernard Shalz was appointed advertising manager; Mrs. Roland E. Fortin was secretary and receptionist at the local *Register* office, assisted in her duties by Bishop Byrne's secretary, Miss Julia Hansen. John Collins, Boise, sold the first advertising space for the new paper. Father Robert E. Kekeisen was assigned as Denver supervisor of the Boise edition in charge of the *Idaho Register*, Denver office. One hundred fifty-five parish correspondents were invited to contribute news stories, an honor rewarded with enrollment in the "CCD Apostolate of Good Will."

Bishop Byrne designated the Confraternity office, 419 Idaho Street, Boise, as the *Idaho Register's* office where the paper would be assembled. It was printed and mailed from the Catholic Press main facility in Denver.

In a letter to Bishop Byrne, Governor Robert E. Smylie applauded the *Idaho Register* as a means to "meet and master mankind's most critical problem of spreading the truth before the people. Your new newspaper will keep all of you in closer touch with each other. You are bound together by a shared belief in reverence for life and the dignity of the individual human being, and you may be confident of steady progress in keeping the lights of a free world agleaming."

Indeed, one of the primary wishes of priests, religious and laity at the time of the paper's conception was to spread truth and unify Idaho Catholics. Bishop Byrne stated that the paper would become a way to "unify the far-flung parishes and to strengthen the conscious realization on the part of all Catholics of our union in Christ by means of the diocese."

In a letter to Bishop Byrne that was published in that first issue, Senator Frank Church congratulated Bishop Byrne and the *Idaho Register* staff by offering his "heartfelt wish for the success which this endeavor deserves."

The *Idaho Register* began with a circulation of 9,700. All but a very few subscribers were Idaho residents. Every pastor in every parish was asked to place the *Idaho Register* in the homes of parishioners. The 14-page paper was expected to directly affect 36,000 Idaho Catholics, the number making up the 53 parishes and 50 missions in Idaho at that time.

Subscriptions cost \$3.50 per year in the United States, \$4 in Canada and \$5 outside the U.S. and Canada.

Accolades Continue as State Welcomes Catholic Paper

Bishop Byrne was presented the first issue of the Idaho Register after Christ Mass on Holy Thursday, 1958. Twenty priests were present as Father Walsh, acting editor, handed the paper to Byrne. Priests witnessing the historic occasion were Fathers John Koelsch, Dennis Falk, and Francisco Aldasoro, all of Boise. Hubert Merzbach, Nampa; Earl Stokoe, Payette; William McQuaid, Weiser; Thomas Heeran, Boise; Malachy O'Donovan, Caldwell; Raymond Peplinski, Boise; Michael Keyes, Mountain Home; Morse Later, Twin Falls; John Creegan, Boise; George Brennan, Homedale; Thomas Halpin, New Plymouth; Merwyn Nuxoll, Moscow; John Quinn, Glens Ferry; James Roberts, Monsignor Kenneth Rowe, and Fathers Nicholas Hughes and James Hallissey, all of Boise.

Kudos from Idaho dignitaries continued to welcome the paper. Rep. Hamer H. Budge sent a letter to Bishop Byrne congratulating him as follows.

“Please permit me to join in congratulating the Diocese of Boise in its new endeavor. I am sure that the Idaho Register will be welcomed throughout the area and will be a fine source of information for all its readers.”

Senator Henry Dworshak called the Register the “official organ of your denomination” in a letter to Bishop Byrne and added, “During these days of stress when the accents, domestic and world-wide, seem to dwell on materialism, there is a definite need for greater effort and deeper recognition of the need for bolstering the spiritual side of our daily lives.”

To educate the religious and clergy of the Boise Diocese on the *Register* system of newspapers, of which the *Idaho Register* was the latest member, a movie called *The Catholic Press* was shown in the auditorium of St. Teresa's Academy, Boise, to a group of six priests and 55 sisters.

It was shown along with a vocation movie, *The Salt of the Earth* on March 23, 1958. The movie showed the Denver plant, introduced the Denver staff, and demonstrated how the press published its 35 editions of the *Register* family. The movie answered the majority of questions for the priests and sisters anxiously awaiting the publication of this new communication tool.

The Idaho Register became the voice of the Bishop from its very inception. Bishop Byrne wrote weekly letters to the diocesan family. As all had hoped, the paper was a unifying force in addition to simply reporting the news.

Early Firsts

First correspondence with Monsignor Matthew Smith regarding possibility of diocesan paper Aug. 24, 1957

First use of the name the "Idaho Register" regarding the paper Dec. 16, 1957

First use of the "Idaho Register's" new home Feb. 3, 1958.

First letter to the clergy, religious, and laity regarding subscriptions Feb. 11, 1958.

First advertising sold by John Collins.

First permanent advertising manager Ben Shalz.

First parish subscription list to arrive in Boise, St. Catherine Church, Priest River.

First out-of-state subscription to James Wilhelm, Mt. Angel Seminary, Ore.

First out-of-country subscription to Pfc. Fern L. McShane, France.

First news item from parish correspondents St Mary Church, Moscow.

First congratulatory letter received from Governor Smylie.

First cutline, Sacred Heart Grade School, about to be built.

First copy seen and proofread by the acting editor March 31, 1958.

First copy delivered in Boise to Bishop James J. Byrne, Holy Thursday, April 3, 1958.

Correspondents for the *Idaho Register* in 1958

Parish correspondents played a vital role in the success of the *Idaho Register* during the early years by reporting the local news. They took their positions seriously, often attending several workshops each year to sharpen their skills.

The following were correspondents for the *IR* in 1958 . They are listed by parish.

Aberdeen: Mrs. John Kolar, Mrs. Sherman Hansen, Mrs. Larry Sherburne;
Blackfoot: Mrs. Evelyn Leonardson, Mrs. Willis Sliman, Miss Geraldine Duchscher;
Boise, St. John's: Mr. J. E. Bautsch, Thomas J. Carney; **St. Mary's:** Mrs. Jim James, Mrs. E. F. Sestero, Mrs. John Kurdy; **Our Lady of the Rosary:** Mr. G. V. Schirk, Mrs. William Gottenberg, Mrs. Michael Solan; **Sacred Heart:** Mrs. William H. Keith, Mrs. Erwin Koessner, Mrs. Thomas Kurdy; **Cabrini Club:** Albert Erquiaga;
Bonnors Ferry: Miss Loretta Lynch, Mrs. John Leonard, Miss Eunice Meakin;
Burley: Mrs. Joseph Bradish, Mrs. Frank Burke, Mrs. Mary Scott;
Caldwell: Mrs. William Ballantyne, James Bovard, Mrs. Ted Ryan;
Coeur D'Alene: Ernest Randolph, Mrs. J. Roche, Mrs. Sadie Brooten;
Cottonwood: Mrs. John Hanley, Miss Mary K. Hattrup, James Hal Rickman;
Culdesac: Mrs. Edward Layes, Mrs. Marvin Wittman, Mrs. Patrick Mulloy;
De Smet: Mrs. Regna Ruchs, Mrs. Frank Hoscheit, Mrs. Ed Lampert;
Emmett: Mrs. Pete Uberuaga, Mrs. W. Lyle Broich, Mrs. Gary Lee Welberg;
Ferdinand: Martin Kroiss, Mrs. Percy Roeper, Miss Jo Ann Schaffer;
Genesee: Charles Manfred, Mrs. James Busch, Mrs. Ray J. Johann;
Glenns Ferry: Mrs. Daniel Sullivan, Mrs. Ernest Pasborg, Mrs. Alfred Wicher;
Gooding: Mrs. Joe Osa, Mrs. Lewis Canine, Mrs. Thomas Wokersien, Sr.;
Grangeville: Mrs. John E. Rockwell, Mrs. Ted Billups, Mrs. Henry Haener, Sr.;
Greencreek: Mrs. Anthony Kelsch, Gerald Nuxoll, Mrs. Don Tacke;
Hailey: Mrs. Carol Lee, Mrs. George E. McGonigal, Mrs. Betty Werry;
Homedale: Mrs. Sebastian Salutregui, Mrs. Anton Mrak, Mrs. Perry Neely;
Idaho Falls: Mrs. Gussie Mitchell, Mrs. Thomas J. Boland, Miss Mary Joe Brady;
Jerome: Mrs. L. W. Sanberg, Mrs. Harold Klass, Donald Nutsch;
Kellogg: Ivor Bauman, Miss Leona Braun, Mrs. Archie L. Erwin;
Keuterville: Mrs. J. J. Uhlenkott, Mrs. Milton Konen, Mrs. Earl J. Uptmor;
Lewiston, Our Lady of Lourdes: Mrs. Richard D. Favaro, Miss Deborah Griffin; **St. Stanislaus:** Mrs. John Barnes, Miss May Hayden;
Meridian: Mrs. Chuck Storer;
Montpelier: Mrs. S. W. Hess, Mrs. V. C. Balls, Mrs. Gene Fagnant;
Moscow: Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Gibbs, Donald Walker, Jack Marineau;
Mountain Home: Mrs. Robert Wetherell, Mrs. J. D. Sullivan, Mrs. Harold Kniefel;
Mullan: Mrs. William Bean, Miss Elizabeth McHugh;
Nampa: Mrs. Harry A. Robb, Mrs. James Flitton, Kenneth Stevenson, Gerald Green, Mrs. James Graves, Miss Emiline Nettleton;
New Plymouth: Mrs. Charlotte Carpenter, Mrs. Bill Zahm;
Orofino: Mrs. Thomas Pethel, Mrs. William Kromer, Mrs. H. Mathews;

Payette: Mrs. Harry McPike, Mrs. Del Precht, Milford Dragoo;
Pocatello, St. Anthony: Helen Kreinzenbeck, Mrs. Franklin Kinney, Rev. L. M. Dougherty; **St. Joseph's:** Mrs. Philip Smith, Mrs. Gertrude Machold, Jim Martin;
Post Falls: William J. Crowley, Mrs. Peter Sertich, Mrs. Starley Mason;
Potlatch: Dean Clark, Mrs. Walter Fiscus, Mrs. Orland Mills;
Priest River: Mrs. Wayne Phillips, Mrs. Bernell White, Miss Ann Simonds;
Rupert: Mrs. Adam Schell, Mrs. Robert Riley, Mrs. Rena Mitchell;
St. Anthony: Mrs. Harold Hezel, Mrs. Leonard Hochstein, Mrs. Hugo Hochwart;
St. Maries: Mrs. Dr. C. E. Johnston, Mrs. John J. Hartnett, Mrs. Richard L. McFadden;
Salmon: Mrs. Henry Shanafelt, Mrs. Will Centaurus, Mrs. J. K. Yearian, Mrs. LaVerne Nelson;
Sandpoint: Mrs. A. V. Bopp, Mrs. Bert Ralph, Mrs. Robert Klatt;
Shoshone: Mrs. N. J. Barainca, Mrs. Joe Pagoaga, Miss Carmen Garmendia;
Twin Falls: Mrs. John Carroll, Mrs. Arthur De Volder, Mrs. H. D. Blake;
Wallace: Mrs. Mae Hallstrom, Mrs. Hugh Riffle, Alden J. Teske;
Weiser: Mrs. J. J. Buchholz, Mrs. Keith Burns, Mrs. Craig Rowan;
Wendell: Mrs. Francis Eisenhauer, Mrs. Charles Miller, Mrs. T. W. Kearley, Martin Curran;
Winchester: Mrs. Earl Trautman, Mrs. James Nash, Mrs. Don Hoffman.



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Photo Identification from *Idaho Register* historical records of parish correspondents and workshop attendees

- 1) Rupert - Mrs. Robert Riley (left) and Mrs. Rena Mitchell
- 2) Buhl – Vera Ruyts (left) and Emily Tverdy
- 3) Mrs. Trautman (left) and Mrs. James Nash
- 4) Wendell – Mrs Francis Eisenhauer (left) and Mrs. T. W. Kearley
- 5) Sandpoint – Mrs. Robert Klatt (left) and Miss Mary Dunnigun, Coeur d’Alene
- 6) Fruitland – Mrs. James Wood (left to right), Mary Mattoch, Mrs. Donald Carpenter
- 7) Payette – Milford Dragos (left) and Al Erquiaga
- 8) Mrs. Riffle (center)
- 9) Boise, St. Mary’s, – Mrs. Jim James, Mrs. E. F. Sestero and Mrs. John Kurdy
- 10) Nez Perce – Mr. Hartnett (left), Mrs. J. N. Stack and Mrs. Mary Rustemeyer
- 11) Mrs. Klatt (left)
- 12) Grangeville – Mrs. Haener (left) and Mrs. Billups
- 13) Donald Nutsch (left), Mrs. Harold Klaas and Harold Klaas
- 14) Boise, St. Mary’s, - Sister Leona (left), Sister Edward (center)
- 15) Emmett – Dorothy Uberuaga (left), Boise Workshop (rest unknown)
- 16) Mrs. J. Harnett (left), John Hartnett and Mrs. Richard McFadden
- 17) Keuterville - Mrs. Milton Konen (left) and Mrs. Earl Uptmor
- 18) Pocatello (unknown)
- 19) Twin Falls (unknown)
- 20) P. J. Hartnett, Mrs. P. J. Hartnett and Mrs. Rustemeyer
- 21) Mrs. Trautman (left) and Mrs. James Nash
- 22) Gooding – Mrs. Joe Osa (left) and Mrs. Lewis Canine
- 23) Father Dougherty, Mrs Frank Kreizenbeck, Kim Larsen and Mrs Car Van Inwegen
- 24) Mrs. Gertrude Machold (left), Jim Martin and Mrs. Philip Smith
- 25) Sister Jean Clare and Sister Barbara Ann
- 26) Mrs. M. Green (left), Ernest Randolph and Mrs. John Roche
- 27) Kellogg – Miss Leona Braun and Ivor Bauman

The Eagle Rock newspaper connection

The November 3, 1961, issue the *Idaho Register* informed readers of an earlier version of Idaho's diocesan newspaper.

National Newspaper Week, once observed throughout the U.S. in mid-October, brought the existence of an early *IR* to the attention of local staff. Founded in 1880 at Eagle Rock, Idaho, the paper and its successors later became the *Post Register*.

The Most Rev. Alphonse J. Glorieux and Father E. M. Natting, Hailey, must have known about the weekly paper. At that time only two churches were serving the needs of Catholics in southeastern Idaho, but Bishop Gloreaux and Father Natting both visited Eagle Rock.

In case you are wondering the location of Eagle Rock, it is now known as Idaho Falls.

The early-day *IR* was founded in April, 1880. The current *IR* was founded 78 years later; the first issue appearing in April.

First Color Advertisement

Chuck O'Leary, then manager of the Hotel Boise, bought the first color advertisement as an individual firm. Up to that point, only full-page color ads co-sponsored by several advertisers had been run in the *Idaho Register*. The ad ran in the March 27, 1964, issue.

The promotion featured a "real" 450 pound Easter bunny to draw families to The Lampost at Hotel Boise for Easter breakfast and dinner. The nature of this special attraction was never explained in the ad.

Mealtimes and prices were printed in white on the silhouette of a pink rabbit. The price for a complete breakfast was one dollar for adults and 85 cents for children. Dinner was \$2.95 for adults and \$1.95 for children.

A classified advertisement published in the *Idaho Register* in 1964 cost 85 cents per word with a 12 word-minimum (\$10.20). A classified ad published in 2007 cost \$4.50 for a 3-line minimum, 25 characters per line (\$13.50).

Idaho Register Change of Address

Bishop Sylvester Treinen announced his decision to remodel the building housing the bishop's office, his private chapel and clerical offices in the July 2, 1965, issue of the *IR* in his column, "Your Bishop Writes...".

Bishop Treinen maintained that "To say the least, if those outside the Church were to judge us by the physical appearance of this important building, I am afraid the judgment might not be very favorable."

The decision to remodel came only after unsuccessful attempts to sell the property located on the corner of 5th and Idaho. It made more sense to retain the site and renovate.

"The advice of many experienced lay men and priests was sought and followed in coming to this decision," Bishop Treinen explained. The plan would entail some remodeling on the inside of the building and cosmetic upgrades on the exterior. The greatest change to the interior was made in the old chapel, which was the Bishop's private chapel since about 1928. That building space was slated to become

the headquarters of the *Idaho Register*, previously located at 319 Jefferson St. It was a great advantage to have the Chancery and the IR in such close proximity, because they necessarily worked hand in hand.

Bishop Treinen realized the beauty in preserving landmarks, especially ones associated with the church.

Plans were made to purchase another residence for the Bishop, and the more than 80-year-old dwelling would be removed, replaced by private parking.

Bishop Sylvester Treinen Welcomes New Editor to the Idaho Register

Bishop Treinen welcomed Father David Kundtz as the new editor for the *Idaho Register* in his column "Your Bishop Writes," November 3, 1972. In that article by Bishop Treinen entitled "We Have a New Editor," (following in its entirety) Treinen also explained his belief in the importance of the Catholic press:

Every time the bishop assigns a priest, it is a painstaking process. The assignment is preceded by much prayer and study. The bishop speaks with the priest concerned and consults a number of other people in a position to advise, especially the personnel board of the diocese.

All of this and more was done before appointing a new editor for the *Idaho Register*. The position is an important one and calls for more specialization than many other assignments held by priests.

I am confident Father David Kundtz will be a competent editor for our paper. He has a great interest in the communications media. True, his graduate studies were in the field of radio and television. But this knowledge and experience will serve him well also in newspaper work. There will be challenges for him; he will meet them with the help of Father Dodds and the paper staff, just as Father Walsh, Father Dodds and Mr. Barclay did in their turn. He will also be able to avail himself of formal studies in journalism at Boise State College and elsewhere.

Father Kundtz was chosen as editor with the aid of a Search and Recommend committee. The diocesan personnel board voted unanimously in favor of the choice. Father Kundtz has many personality, educational and experimental pluses that help qualify him for the position.

He will do his best to have the *Idaho Register* continue as a good diocesan weekly. In accepting the editorship, he said he recognizes the importance of having a well balanced paper to satisfy the varied readership. Previous editors have found this difficult. It will be no less difficult now.

I saw changes take place in our paper under each successive editor. This is good, and only to be expected. In due time, I am sure more changes will appear. Two people rarely do things in exactly the same way. It is a good thing they don't.

Most papers are facing financial problems. For the past several years our paper too has had the same struggle others have. Prominent among the reasons are increased postage rates and printing costs. Expenses go up, income from advertising tends not to keep pace. The only answer is an increase in the subscription price. The senate of priests has already been asked for advice on this. The priests in turn may consult their parish councils. Suggestions have been received as to how costs may be decreased. These will be studied with great care.

One thing is certain, as Pope Paul recently reminded us, the Catholic press is daily becoming more important and necessary. We must not even think of curtailing the Catholic press. We must devise ways and means to perpetuate and extend it.

This means that the *Idaho Register* has to continue going into every Catholic home in Idaho and be widely read by all of our people. We may not lessen our efforts in these two directions.

As publisher of the Idaho Register, I welcome father Kundtz to the editorship. I thank him for giving up the apostolate at Idaho State University where he was so successful and which he was much attached to. I ask the continued wholehearted support of all of you for him and our paper. Once again, I extend my warm thanks to Father Dodds, Mr. John Barclay and our devoted staff.

Catholic Press Association met in Boise

The *Idaho Register* hosted the Northwest Regional Convention of the Catholic Press Association October 25-26, 1973, at the Downtowner Hotel, Boise.

The region had about 12 Catholic Publications and expected an average of two people from each publication to attend.

The conference began the evening of the 25th with registration and dinner. Bishop Treinen gave opening words, followed by Dick Banules of NC News Service (NC was later changed to CNS and remains a source for Catholic news around the world.)

Reverend Milt Jordan of Immanuel Mission Church, Boise, was the main speaker. His topic was "The Religious Press, A Spectacle to the World."

Other activities included panel discussions by Msgr. John Donnelly of the *Inland Register*, Spokane; Sister Catharine Dougherty of the *Westmond Word*, Helena, Mont., and staff of the *Eastern Montana Register* of Great Falls.

Also speaking to the group was James Doyle, then executive director from New York and John Fink of *Our Sunday Visitor*. Developments in public relations and advertising were shared by Father James Gandreau of the *Catholic Northwest Progress*, Seattle.

Idaho Register Becomes Independent

Financial pressures guided the *Idaho Register* from the beginning. Even with total support from the Bishops, religious and Catholic population, funding remained an issue. The cost of postage, printing and employee salaries continued to rise, while the subscription price only made modest increases to remain affordable to the general Catholic population in Idaho. Even with personnel changes, the percentage of advertising appearing in Idaho's largest weekly was not sufficient to sustain publication without some things changing.

The decision to become independent was primarily motivated by cost. It ended a fifteen-year association with the Register System of newspapers that was currently operated by All Church Press of Fort Worth, Tex., August 31, 1973. As Rev. David J. Kuntz, editor, stated, "It is an attempt to save money, especially in the printing costs, and an effort to have more direct control over what appears in the paper.

“The paper is now completely produced and mailed in Idaho. I think that it is good business to have the subscription and advertising monies remain within the State. We are also making every effort possible not to raise subscription prices.”

The Messenger-Index Press of Emmett became the new printer, while editorial offices remained at the Idaho Street location in Boise.

One concern associated with having a local printer was availability of newsprint. Lewis Hower, manager of the Messenger-Index Press and editor of the *Messenger-Index*, the Emmett weekly, told Bishop Treinen that although there could have been problems with supply in the future, he had a large enough stock of newsprint to cover his commitment to the *IR* and other papers they were printing. “In a sense, the small weekly has an advantage,” said Hower, “in that we’re small fry and the mills have set allotments that are pretty ample.”

The basic format of the paper and its name remained the same. Several new features were added. Steve Smith, a freshman at Boise State College, became correspondent on a section for youth called “Springboard.” The coordinator of the Idaho Catholic Office for Radio and Television (ICORT), James Coughlin, would write a weekly column on the media with special emphasis on television and movies.

The most noticeable change in the *IR* was the appearance of the repeating headlines. The artwork was done by Donna B. Hayes, a graphic designer living in Boise.

The Idaho Register began under Bishop Byrne in 1958 with Rev. Nicolas Walsh as its first editor. Rev. Perry Dodds became editor in 1963, and John Barclay was appointed associate editor. In 1970 Barclay took over until Father Kundtz was appointed in November, 1972.

At the time the *IR* proclaimed independence, it was under the direction of Bishop Treinen, publisher, Father Kundtz, editor, Frederic Lilly, associate editor, Ben Shalz, advertising manager, Jeanette Williams, circulation, Marilee Matthews, secretary, and Thomas Shea, photographer. The name would not be changed to the *Idaho Catholic Register* until 1994.

Spanish Coverage Expanded

This notice appeared on the front page of the Idaho Register's February 8, 1974 issue.

AVISO

Con el presente número, el Idaho Register emieza un Nuevo departamento en español. Se llama Noticias 7 trata de actualidades locales, nacionales 7 internacionales de interés especialmente a los de habla español. Pagina 8.

NOTICE

With the present issue of the Idaho Register, begins a new regular feature in Spanish. It's called NOTICIAS and carries local, national and international news of special interest to the Spanish speaking. Page 8.

Including the Spanish-speaking readership has been a long tradition with Idaho's Catholic newspaper. Articles and regular columns in Spanish have expanded over the years to cover two regular pages of copy and additional translated articles as the editors and bishops found appropriate.

IR Marks 20th Anniversary

By Fredric M. Lilly

Following is a reprint of an article published in the Idaho Register on April 7, 1978, to commemorate the beginning of 20 years of the newspaper's publication. Fredric M. Lilly was the editor at that time.

“The purpose of a diocesan newspaper is clear to all of us. It creates the atmosphere of a ‘family’ in so far as that can be done in any diocese. It affects this in the small or large diocese, whether we are measuring the population or the number of square miles. In a diocese like our own, a diocesan newspaper is a necessity the moment that it is feasible. The great distances between parishes tend to separate the faithful of one part of the diocese from those living in another part. It is impossible for them to know their fellow Catholics and what they are doing for the spread of Christ’s Kingdom in this world. This lack of knowledge tends to beget apathy which is hardly a fitting quality in the members of the same diocesan ‘family’.

“In the Diocese of Boise, we have a number of organizations which will be better able to carry on their work if they are able to inform others of their projects. All will benefit by having the use of a diocesan weekly paper to carry their news and their doings to all households in the diocese.”

These words written by the *Idaho Register*'s founder Bishop James J. Byrne (now Archbishop of Dubuque, Iowa), expressed the hope that the *Idaho Register* would help unify Catholic people and organizations in a far-flung diocese. Bishop Byrne wrote these words in his column which was published in the *IR*'s first issue, April 4, 1958.

The current issue, volume 21 number 1, marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the diocesan newspaper. In those 20 years, the paper has helped the diocese move in the direction of improved communication – the sense of “family” that Archbishop Byrne wrote about. Unifying the diocese is still a priority of the *Idaho Register*. Now, just as 20 years ago, it is done by including a large percentage of local news in our coverage of the events which affect Catholics in the world today.

The first editor of the *Idaho Register*, Father Nicolas Walsh (now auxiliary bishop of Seattle), assembled a staff which did a tremendous job of gathering local news throughout the diocese. Since the staff couldn't handle the job of covering every parish, institution and organization in our huge diocese, the editor put together a system of parish correspondents. That system is still in use today and is largely responsible for the number of local news stories appearing in the *Idaho Register*.

Bishop Walsh was succeeded as editor by Father Perry Dodds (currently pastor of St. Edward Parish in Twin Falls). Father Dodds continued the tradition of local news as did his associate and successor, John Barclay. In 1971 Bishop Treinen named Father David J. Kundtz editor. Father Kundtz, also firmly committed to coverage of local church events, took the tradition one step further by bringing the printing of the *Idaho Register* from out of state to Idaho. (The paper was part of the Register system of newspapers printed first in Denver and then in Fort Worth, Texas.) The contract for printing the paper was awarded in 1973 to the Messenger Printers Inc., of Emmett. The *IR* is still printed there.

Father Kundtz also expanded the coverage of local news by establishing a system of regional correspondents in the larger population areas of the state. This system has proved its worth, enabling us to cover events which were difficult for the parish correspondents. We still have parish correspondents, and we need them. But, with only a few problems, the parish and regional correspondent network has worked out well for us.

In February of this year, Bishop Treinen named me editor replacing Father Kundtz.

The national and international news and many of the photos and illustrations in the IR are provided by our two news services, National Catholic (NC) News Service, Washington, D.C., and Religious News Service (RNS), New York. NC is affiliated with the United States Catholic Conference and RNS is affiliated with the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

The opinion columns and some of the feature stories – those that do not originate with the Idaho Register – are purchased from various press services around the country.

The Idaho Register is a member of the Catholic Press Association and the Idaho Newspaper Association.

The following article written by then editor of the Idaho Register, Frederic M. Lilly, explains the change in size of the IR after 20 years of broadsheet publication. Please note the reference to Cindy Wooden, newly assigned editor of the IR youth page (1978). Wooden is currently a correspondent for Catholic News Service (CNS) covering Vatican news.

June 23, 1978

Your paper will look different next week

By Frederic M. Lilly

For 20 years and three months, the *Idaho Register* – like many other weekly and daily newspapers – has been printed on paper that is usually called “broadsheet” or “journal” size. Our particular size the last few years has been 16 ½ inches wide and 23 inches deep for each page. That has meant a reach of almost three feet when the paper is opened fully.

But with next week’s issue (June 30, 1978) the *Idaho Register* will be printed on tabloid-size pages. The change means that each page will be 12 inches wide and 16 ½ inches deep. It also means that, since there is roughly have as much printed matter on each page, there will be twice as many pages. Our standard six-page paper will now be a standard 12 – with occasional 16 – and 20-page papers. A few times a year we will publish even larger issues.

The decision to change to a tabloid *Idaho Register* was made after a six-month study of every aspect of the change. We have made the decision ofr a number of reasons. The more significant are:

The smaller pages result in a paper which is easier to handle for the reader. Smaller pages also enable us to make each page more attractive and easier to read. We also expect the tabloid format to be more attractive to potential advertisers.

Another good reason for a tabloid *Idaho Register* is that we will be able to feature certain articles on certain pages making special pages a regular addition to our paper. The special pages we are planning on a weekly basis are:

Paging All Youth – a page which will be edited by a young journalism student and which will feature news, columns, photographs and feature stories of interest to the 15 to 25-year-old group. The editor of the youth page is Cindy Wooden, a recent graduate of Sandpoint High School who this month began her college studies at Boise State University. (We will get you better acquainted with Cindy in later issues.)

Television and Movies – we are expanding our current weekly Television and Movie column to feature a whole page of reviews and feature stories on the broadcast entertainment industry’s offerings.

News in Brief – we will be offering two pages of brief news items of interest to the Catholic reader.

Comment and Opinion – another two-page section which will contain columns and guest editorials. Letters to the editor and other opinion-type columns will also be published regularly.

The appearance of the *IR* will change graphically as well as in size. We are changing the style of type of our headlines from the current Bodini typeface to a cleaner looking typeface called Futura Medium. Our column headings will also be changed to an easier-to-read- Futura Italic typeface.

Frankly the *IR* staff is excited about these changes. We are confident that the result will be an even better Idaho Register. We are sure our readers will agree.

Technology changes process and quality of the *IR*

In the September 29, 1978 issue, the *Idaho Register* announced a change in the way the paper was typeset. Although it was referred to as “computerized,” it was far from the reality of personal computer word processing as we know it today.

The “computerized video-display terminal system” was manufactured by Compugraphic Corporation of Massachusetts. Fredrick Lilly explained the transition stating, “What this means to the reader is very little, except that we do expect to produce our paper each week with fewer typographical errors than we have had in the recent past. But to the staff of the *IR*, the new system means adjusting to the computer age in a concrete way. Three of our staff members, myself included, spent almost three days learning how to punch a few buttons in the proper order on our terminal so that when the disc with the information on it is inserted into the typesetting machine, the machine will function properly. With a few exceptions, we did well this first week. We should do better from now on.”

As the *IR* began its 23rd year (April 1980), circulation totaled 13,700. The *Idaho Register* was self-sufficient. Editor Lilly addressed the readership with updates on the Compugraphic 7500. It was estimated that the equipment costing \$19,000 would be paid for within two years “by the amount cut from the printing bill and in future years the \$600-1,000 per month saved could be diverted to better coverage of news throughout the state and absorb future increases in the cost of newsprint.”

Staff made the transition to the Compugraphic for the March 21, Easter issue. The entire paper was produced using the new method which also cut down the amount of time the staff needed to spend at the print shop in Emmett on press day. They named the new typesetter “Gabriel,” for the messenger of Good News. Mike Cowman installed a utility board he designed and built for paste-up of the newspaper.

Idaho Register's role in recording history

The *Idaho Register* published the first letter by Father Walsh on Cali, Colombia, on June 23, 1967. "This week, for the first time, the *Idaho Register* is pleased to carry an item in the "Parish, Priest and People" section from our diocese's new parish of Jesus the Worker in Cali, Colombia. Father Walsh and Father Kundtz will be sending more from time to time; be sure to read them, in addition to Father Walsh's column. (*IR*, June 23, 1967, p.)"

In the "Colombia Calling" column June 30, 1967, Fr. Walsh quoted Fr. Aramburo, a native of Valle who stated that he envied the priests and laity of Idaho for having the *Idaho Register*.

"It is, in his opinion, the best way to preserve for posterity the thinking, the activities, and the problems of the present," Fr. Walsh explained. Cali knew little about the previous generation and nothing at all about "grand-dad's" day. This was because Cali suffered incredible growth as many were forced from their homes from what Aramburo called "an accident on public property" resulting in loss of life and neighboring homes. The local government had a drawing for parcels of land to compensate those affected. The land draw drew national attention. Another reason for the growth was violence from political strife.

As good newspapers do, the *IR* chronicled the partnership with Cali, preserving the history and progress for their parish, as well as ours. Thirty years later in the *IR*, Bishop Tod D. Brown announced "Mission Accomplished in Cali, Colombia." Bishop Brown continued, "As the Diocese of Boise hands back the pastoral care of San Marcos Church to the care of the local Cali Archdiocese, the sadness of leaving this important ministry is eased by the satisfaction and joy of knowing that our original goal and purpose for coming to Cali has been realized...there is much to celebrate. Thanks to the generosity of the people of Idaho and other benefactors, not one, but four churches and a parish school have been built; a foundation for education has been created; and hope for future growth and expansion is on the horizon."

Following is a Chronology of the Cali Mission as printed in the *Idaho Register*, March 7, 1997.

Chronology of the Cali Mission

- 1961 Pope John XXII appeals to the U.S. for assistance in Latin America
- 1963 Benedictine sisters go to Bogota, Jan. 1963
- 1966 Father Nicolas Walsh leaves for Colombia, Sept. 21
- 1967 Father Nicolas Walsh founds a mission in Cali—assigned to San Juan Baptista; returns home in 1968 because of health concerns; returns to Colombia in 1970-71 and works in Fortaleza, Santiago de Apostol and the seminary as a spiritual director
- 1967 Father David Kundtz arrives in Cali
- 1968 Father William Weigand arrives in Cali, begins the Charismatic movement in the parishes in the form of retreats
- 1969 Father William Taylor arrives in Cali
- 1970 Father David Kundtz leaves Cali
- 1971 Father William Taylor leaves Cali
- 1975 Father Mel Sprute arrives in Cali
- 1977 Father Tom Taylor arrives in Cali
- 1978-85 Father Henry Carmona arrives in Cali; 1982 the mission moves to San Marcos, a school is started in Petecuy, the church is built
- 1979 Father Mel Sprute leaves Cali
- 1980 Father Tom Taylor leaves Cali
- 1983-87 Father Jerry Funke. Much work done at Colegio San Marcos
- 1988-89 Father Bill Steuber
- 1989-90 Father Leo Schloemer
- 1987-91 Father Henry Carmona
- 1991-92 Father Donald Fraser; Father Leonido Lopez
- 1992-95 Father Tim O'Toole, the diocese establishes a foundation for the school
- 1994 Father Mike St. Marie arrives in Cali to work with Father O'Toole
- 1995 Father Wekerle arrives in Cali
- 1996 Father Mike St. Marie returns to the states; Father Oscar Jaramillo arrives in Cali
- 1997 Cali Mission to close; Fathers Wekerle and Jaramillo to return to the U.S.

Politics and the Catholic Press

Nonprofit religious organizations and newspapers are allowed to take stands on policy and legislation, but are prohibited from endorsing or opposing candidates running for public office (from Section 501©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code). This law extends to organizations that are exempt from federal income tax which includes Catholic organizations exempt under the USCCB Group Ruling. Leniency is not an option on this prohibition. Violators lose their tax exempt status.

The restrictions on political campaign activity does not stem from the “separation of church and state” required by the Constitution. Senator Lynden B. Johnson introduced this change to the tax code in 1954 in what appears to have been a reaction to some tax-exempt groups that supported his opponent, Dudley Dogherty, in the 1954 primary.

Lobbying is permitted as long as the activities do not fill a substantial part of their total activities. Lobbying is more acceptable, because it focuses on legislation, while campaign activity focuses on candidates and campaigns for election. Leaders, employees or “members acting in their individual capacities” are free to endorse who they want, but if an endorsement or statement appears in an official publication or at an official function, they are in violation. Catholic organization’s finances, facilities or personnel may not be utilized to support politicians.

As you can imagine the wicket can get very sticky. Care must be taken during photo ops and their captions, appearances at church events, letters to the editor, bumper stickers, columnists, etc. Editors must proceed with caution and prudence, exercising diligence to keep the disgruntled wolves at bay.

The differences regarding how campaign advertising was handled in the November, 1972, issues of the *Idaho Register*, and the way they elections were dealt with during the 2000 presidential campaign and subsequent state and national elections are striking.

Although the paper refrained from endorsing either President Nixon or Senator McGovern, instead encouraging citizens to vote and pray for the winner, paid political advertising appeared on nearly every page of the *IR*. Some of the candidates who purchased ads in the November 3 1972 issue of the *IR* include Wendell Phillips, Democrat for Senate, District 15; Ellwood Mylander, Republican for County Commissioner; Jerry W. Korn, Democrat for Representative, District 19; Woody Bean, Democrat for Senate, District 9; Dr. Percival A. Wesche, Republican for Representative, District 13; John W. Morf for Representative, District 12 (party not listed); Leo Rice, Democrat for Representative, District 23; John L. Thiebert, American for Congress; Don G. Fredericksen re-elect for Senate; Lester A. Hartvigsen, re-elect Representative, District 33; W. F. “Bill” Whittom for Senate, District 21 (party not listed); Norma Dobler, Democrat for Representative, District 5; Dale R. Branson, Democrat for Representative, District 8; Don Maynard, Democrat for Representative, First District; Paul Kaus, Democrat for Representative, District 5; James E. Risch, Republican for prosecuting attorney, member of St. Mark Parish; Orval Hansen, Republican for Congress; and Jim McClure, Republican for Senate.

A quarter-page advertisement on the old broadsheet page, paid for by the Committee Interested in the Farmer, touted, “The Chavez/McGovern/Davis/Ludlow/Axis and their agricultural boycott philosophy,” would lead to a boycott on potatoes, going on the say, “It is so much simpler and viscerally more satisfying just to shout “Boycott lettuce!” while leaving it to Cesar Chavez, Archbishop O’Boyle and Teddy Kennedy to do your thinking for you.”

There were no advertisements in the *Idaho Catholic Register* during the 2000 presidential election. Readers were encouraged to vote. An article ran in the September 15, 2000, issue informing readers about an election workshop took place at Sacred Heart Church, Boise, addressing questions on social justice, campaign finance reform, fair taxation, military spending, and the foreign debt of impoverished nations.

In 2004 the *ICR* told readers about an election streaming video that called Catholics to bring their “moral values and principles to bear in the political arena to ensure that their vote made a difference.” The *ICR* informed readers about a prayer service held at St. John Cathedral on election eve. Again, there were no paid advertisements.

The Loaves and Fishes fundraiser for Catholic Charities that was held September 9, 2006, before the Idaho elections, received thorough coverage by the *ICR*. However, the major party candidates for Idaho governor and lieutenant governor were all present and coincidentally all Catholic. The *ICR* stayed faithful to simply presenting the Catholic Church’s positions on life, peace, and social justice issues, reporting the news from a Catholic perspective. By eliminating paid political advertisements, the paper was no longer bound to promote non-Catholic political agendas to “balance” the paper and avoid difficulties with the IRS.

Presidents and Vice Presidents sharing time with the *Idaho Catholic Register*

<i>Presidents</i>	<i>Vice Presidents</i>
Dwight D. Eisenhower (1953-1961)	Richard Nixon
John F. Kennedy (1961-1963)	Lyndon B. Johnson
Lyndon B. Johnson (1963-1969)	Hubert Humphrey 1965-1969)
Richard Nixon (1969-1974)	Spiro Agnew (1969-1973) Gerald Ford (1973-1974)
Gerald Ford (1974-1977)	Nelson Rockefeller
Jimmy Carter (1977-1981)	Walter Mondale
Ronald Reagan (1981-1989)	George Bush
George Bush (1989-2001)	Dan Quayle
Bill Clinton (1993-2001)	Al Gore
George W. Bush (2001- 2008)	Dick Cheney
Barack Obama (2008 -	Joseph Biden

Bishop-Publishers of the *Idaho Catholic Register*

Each and every one of the bishops in charge as publishers for the *ICR* (previously *IR*) valued the newspaper as a communication tool and as a means to span the great distances around the mostly rural state of Idaho. Here are the Bishops who have led the *ICR* since its inception.

The paper was established under the direction of Most Rev. James Joseph Byrne, D.D., S.T.D. Bishop Byrne served the Diocese of Boise from June 16, 1956 until his promotion to the metropolitan see as Archbishop of Dubuque on March 19, 1962.

Most Rev. Sylvester William Treinen, D.D. was appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Boise on May 19, 1962; retired August 17, 1988, and died September 30, 1996.

Most Rev. Tod David Brown, D.D. was appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Boise on December 27, 1988 until his appointment as Bishop of Orange, Calif., June 30, 1998.

Most Rev. Michael Patrick Driscoll, M.S.W., D.D. was appointed Bishop of Boise January 19, 1999 and was installed as Bishop of Boise, March 18, 1999.

First place in 'Justice and Peace Category'

The first place award in the Justice and Peace category was presented to Father Kundtz, IR editor, at the Catholic Press Association's annual convention taking place in Denver on April 28, 1974.

The series of five articles on injustice in Colombia written by Father William Taylor was described as "detailed, graphic and hard-hitting." Fr. Taylor was pastor of the St. John Community at Idaho State University, Pocatello, at the time.

"We are especially proud to win the category of Justice and Peace," said Frederic M. Lilly, then IR associate editor, "especially since the Apostolic Delegate in his talk at the convention told us that this is our primary responsibility. The credit goes to Fr. Taylor, however;" Lilly said, "they are his creation and his statements and the result of many years of thought and weeks of work. I hope this gives him encouragement to write more."

Judges in the CPA competition included Otis Chandler, publisher of the *Los Angeles Times*, Steve Ahrens of the *Idaho Statesman*, T. George Harris, editor of *Psychology Today*, Frederick Taylor, managing editor of *Wall Street Journal*, Mike Wallace of CBS News.

ICR readers continue the privilege of reading Fr. Taylor's articles. His regular columns may have changed names over the years, but his enthusiasm for peace and social justice continues to inspire.

National Awards from The Catholic Press Association

Loretta Gossi

The following are awards that were presented to the *Idaho Register* and later the *Idaho Catholic Register* by the Catholic Press Association. Various awards are given annually by the CPA to Catholic newspapers. They judged against periodicals with similar numbers of subscriptions nationwide.

1974: For best news story, background piece, column, editorial or treatment dealing with justice and peace:

Five-part series on injustice in Colombia by Rev. William Taylor

1984: For best supplement or special issue with editorial emphasis

A Call to Ministry (Honorable Mention)

1986: For best treatment on Central America

Reflections on U.S. involvement in Nicaragua, April 5-26, 1985 by Rev. William Taylor.

1994: Best special supplement of special issue with advertising emphasis

Diocesan Centennial 1893-1993 by Leonard George (Second Place)

1995: Best single ad (1-17,000 color)

Press Drive by Lenn George (Third Place)

1997: Best seasonal issue

Christmas Memories (Honorable Mention)

1999: Best regular column

"Family Life" by Eileen Smith (Third Place)

1999: Best special supplement or special issue with advertising emphasis

"Higher Education" (Third Place)

2000: Best regular column

- “Spiritual Life” by Vincent Muli Wa Kituku (First Place)
- 2000:** Best seasonal issue
Christmas
- 2002:** Best regular column
“Loving Our Muslim Neighbors” by Vincent Muli Wa Kituku (Second Place)
- 2002:** Best regular special supplement
Christmas Issue by Staff (Honorable Mention)
- 2002:** Best seasonal issue
Christmas issue by Staff (Honorable Mention)
- 2003:** Best personality profile
“Jerome Monk Brings Peace to Terminally Ill” by Karma M. Fitzgerald (First Place)
- 2003:** General Excellence
(Third Place)
- 2003:** Best Seasonal Issue
Christmas issue by Colette Cowman, Leonard George, Barbara Hamilton, Loretta Gossi (Second Place)
- 2005:** Best special supplement or special issue with advertising emphasis
Christmas Memories by Staff (Third Place)
- 2005:** Best editorial on a national or international issue
“Who Knows What Evil Lurks Within the Hearts of Men?” by Father William Taylor (First Place)
- 2008:** Best Regular Column Culture, The Arts, & Leisure
“The Story of Keleb, The Christmas Dog” by Father William Taylor (First Place)
- 2008:** Best Column – Spiritual
“Discipulos de Jesus – Profeta” by Father Enrique Terriquez (Third Place)
- 2008:** Best Editorial – National/International
“Finding Our Brother or Sister at Christmas” by Michael Brown, editor

The *Idaho Register* received several local awards over the years, as well as the CPA honors. These include: The Idaho Newspaper Association Better Newspaper Contest, 1984, Third Place in the “Best Local Column All Weeklies,” written by Father W. Thomas Faucher. In 1985, the Idaho Newspaper Association awarded the *Idaho Register* “Best Investigative Story/Section,” written by Father William Taylor. The Idaho Advertising Federation presented a “Citation of Excellence for Individual Achievement,” to Barbara A. Hamilton for artistic treatment in an annual creative awards competition (date unknown).

When to celebrate fifty years

By Loretta Gossi

It was sometime in the year 2006 during an *Idaho Catholic Register* staff meeting that Editor Colette Cowman, Advertising and Business Manager Leonard George, Art/Production Technician Barbara Hamilton and Administrative Assistant/Proofreader Loretta Gossi began to figure out what year to celebrate the paper's fiftieth anniversary and what they should do to celebrate.

After a debate that changed everyone's minds several times, it was determined that the paper would not begin 50 years of service until Volume 51, Number 1 came out in print. The logic was sound, of course, because the first paper was published on April 1, 1958, thus making it possible to celebrate the first anniversary with Volume 2, Number 1 and commemorate the beginning of 20 years of publication in April 1978.

During the next three years (2006-2008), Cowman, George and Hamilton would all retire. Ann Bixby followed George (2006) and Michael Brown followed Cowman (2007). The position Hamilton filled as artist would change after her retirement to accommodate a need for additional website management and video production.

Changes in the look and content of the paper began almost immediately as Michael Brown took the helm. Some changes were resisted by the readers, some changes went unnoticed, while other changes were heralded. Bishop Michael Driscoll, publisher, continued to support the paper as a valuable communication tool, just as the bishops that preceded him.

The most controversial change was a shift in emphasis away from the local news that previously gave the paper a more hometown flavor.

The whiter-brighter paper that began February 22, 2008 (on the cover pages only) went nearly unnoticed by subscribers. It was not a striking change, but the better quality paper made photographs clearer and more true to their natural color. The higher quality paper was initially provided as a sample at no additional charge by Idaho Web Printers, Inc., Emmett, Idaho, after an inquiry from Bixby. Brown decided the upgrade warranted the additional expense. The most kudos have gone to Brown for news content, tackling difficult and important issues. Though sometimes controversial with parishioners, the paper's position has remained true to Catholic teaching and has been a catalyst for positive change. An example of this can be seen in the paper's coverage of immigration reform and increase in articles translated to Spanish.

It is the hope of the current *Idaho Catholic Register* staff that the paper is around in one form or another for the next fifty years, and so on, to continue fulfilling its mission to:

Unify the far-flung Diocese of Boise

Inform Idaho Catholics about what is going on in the church, locally, nationally, and worldwide

Educate Idaho Catholics about the teachings of the church and how to make decisions in accordance with Gospel teachings

Inspire Idaho Catholics in their faith