

THE HISTORY OF ST. MARY OF THE MOUNT

On Friday, November 19, 1971, Rev. Walter Chmura, a retired priest from the Diocese of LaFayette, Louisiana, came to Horseshoe Bend. He was introduced to Joe Schuessler who brought him to see Frank McVay. Father Chmura, who was staying at the White Motel on Turkey Mountain, agreed to say Mass on Sunday.

November 21, 1971, on Christ the King Sunday, seventeen souls gathered in Room 6 of the White Motel for Mass. A second Mass was said on Thanksgiving Day and a third on November 28, 1971, the First Sunday of Advent.

Father Chmura agreed, if it met with the approval of the jurisdiction Bishops', that he would become a permanent resident and serve the Catholic Christians. Frank McVay got the necessary approval.

A meeting was called on Sunday, November 28, 1971, by Joe Schuessler and announced by Father Janesko at the Mission in Hardy. The meeting was held at the Club House with the following present. Mr. & Mrs. Joe Schuessler, Mr. & Mrs. Frank McVay, Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Szczepanski, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Cahill, Mr. & Mrs. Avery Pettit, Mr. & Mrs. S.M. Pokorny, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Stage, Mr. & Mrs. Emery E. Kellums, Mr. & Mrs. Ephum Padden (Calton, Il.), Ms. Marcella Witucki, Mr. & Mrs. James Janousek, Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Stephenson, Mr. & Mrs. George Janousek, Mr. & Mrs. Bruno Lemanski, Mr. & Mrs. Chester Burnes, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Weimmese and Mrs. Margie Crzad.

By unanimous consent, Joe Schuessler was elected as Chairman, Frank McVay as co-Chairman, and Cora Lemanski filled the position of the third Trustee of the local organization to establish a Church in Horseshoe Bend.

The Chair announced that we were certain to have a priest and out-

lined the aims of a proposed Catholic Church Organization. The Chair asked for suggestions for names of the new Parish - from names which were suggested, the name chosen was St. Mary of The Mount. The Chair was instructed to draw up a Charter and By-Laws for the committee's approval, which would be submitted for the approval of Bishop Fletcher.

A house on Pinto Lane was rented for Father Chmura. The house had a long room addition which lent itself for use as a Chapel. Sid Pokorny, Joe Schuessler, and Frank McVay constructed an Altar. The ladies furnished linens to drape the Altar. A Crucifix was loaned by Kellums. Father Chmura had an organ so when an organist was available, there was music. Alvina Bukowy served as organist.

With the influx of summer visitors, the Chapel became very overcrowded. Many Sunday's, the kitchen took care of the overflow. After Mass, cookies and coffee were served.

Due to overcrowding, a new meeting place became necessary. In the summer of 1972, Frank McVay consulted the Lion's Club and got permission to have services on Sunday's and Holy Days in the Lion's Den. A temporary Altar was set up on a table. Father Chmura bought a portable organ for Alvina Bukowy to play. Daily Masses were still being said in the Chapel.

By 1972, the Catholic population had increased to 50 families. The Lion's Den became overcrowded and again the kitchen there took care of the overflow. The time had come to talk about building a Church. The Horseshoe Bend Development Corporation donated 1.18 acres of land located on the corner of Church and Fourth Streets. Permission was granted by the Bishop to build a Church.

A general contract was awarded to Ratcliff Construction Co. of West Memphis. A total of \$30,000.00 was raised by the Parishioners and thru visitors donations. A \$24,000.00 mortgage financed by the Bank of Salem and a \$10,000.00 from the Catholic Extension Society was promised by Bishop McDonald to provide the necessary funding.

The ground breaking ceremony took place on July 15, 1973. Rob Barker, President of Horseshoe Bend Development Co., was present. Construction was slow because of a Harrison Company's delay in delivering the pilasters. The Church was completed in May of 1974.

The first Parish Council was: Joe L. Shakelford, Chairman; George Oldenburg, Vice-Chairman; Frank McVay, Treasurer; Cora Lemanski, Secretary; Rita Bostwick, Bee Brown, Frank Bukowy, Emory Kellums, Howard Kelsey and John Kennedy, members.

The building committee consisted of Jack Shackelford, George Oldenburg, Frank McVay, and Frank Bukowy.

The Holy Week Services of 1974 were held in the incompletd Church. A total of 225 were in attendance on Easter Sunday. At this time there were approximately 100 permanent Parishioners.

On June 9, 1974, there was formal dedication of the Church by His Excellency Andrew J. McDonald, Bishop of Little Rock, assisted by His Chancellor, Monsignor Charles Kordsmeier. As the Church was void of pews, the Methodist Church loaned us chairs. Some chairs were borrowed from St. Michael's as well. The Church was crowded with many standing in the back throughout the Dedication Service, followed by Mass. A number of clergy from the surrounding area were present.

Father Chmura resigned as priest after the Dedication. For several months we without a regular priest. During this time, Father Royce Thomas, now Monsignor, frequently served the Parish on weekends.

In November 1974, the Bishop assigned Father Joseph Quinn to St. Mary of The Mount. An apartment at the home of the Oscar Rothenberger's was rented for Father Quinn.

On December 7th & 8th, Masses were said for the benefactors of our Church: The Parishioners who contributed their time and money; our guests and friends who made monetary contributions; Father R. Schwank and Mr. & Mrs. John Link for our beautiful Tabernacle and life size Crucifix for the Sanctuary; St. Bon^aventure Friary for the Stations of The Cross and vestments; K.M. Leroy for the lovely ciborium; Sister of Notre Dame for the white vestments and stole; the Monastery of the Infant Jesus for a complete set of vestments; veils, and Altar linens; Father W. Casey and Mrs. Linder for the Altar boy's cassocks and surplices; Father DeClerk and Mrs. J. Harrington for the organ; Mr. & Mrs. John Grgurich for candle holders and candles blessed in Rome.

Due to ill health, Father Quinn stayed as our Pastor for only one year.

Father Venantius Preske was assigned to St. Mary of The Mount and St. Michael's in June of 1975 and remained until June of 1982. While he was here, he celebrated his 25th anniversary of Ordination on May 29, 1977.

After Father Preske arrived, pews were installed and the chairs, happily, removed.

With the arrival of Father Preske and his secretary, Catechist, and housekeeper, Marie Watson, the need for a Rectory became evident. Plans were drawn and a contract awarded to Jack Sanders. The Rectory, located on Red Oak Lane, was completed by August 1, 1976. Open House was held on August 15, 1976.

The mortgage on the Church was paid off in 1979, five years early. The "Burning of the Mortgage" took place on April 25, 1979. A reception at the Club House, hosted by the Guild, was held after the "Burning Ceremony".

A new organ was bought from a Parishioner at St. Michael's with money donated by the Parishioners. A choir was organized with Nora Chapman as director and Helen Stang as organist. Later Dorene Heitman also assisted as organist.

Father Al Baltz was assigned to our Parish in June of 1982. Just before Easter 1983, Father Baltz became ill. Until June of 1984, When Father Frederick Zarrilli arrived, we had some wonderful substitutes: Father Sherman Wall, Father William Burdick, Father Patrick Fennessy, and Father Conan MAWHERR DSB

Father Zarrilli brought with him Sister Maxine Vogan, who worked with the C.C.D. program and as his secretary and housekeeper. Father Zarrilli was here for one year.

In June of 1985, Father Frances Malone was assigned as Pastor of St. Mary of The Mount and St. Michael's. As Father Malone was in residence at St. Michael's, the Rectory at St. Mary of The Mount was used as a meeting place and for C.C.D. classes.

After a year, Father Malone was reassigned as assistant Rector at Trinity Seminary in Dallas, Texas to teach and inspire the young seminarians.

In June, 1986, Father Ralph Esposito came from Batesville to be Pastor of St. Mary of The Mount and St. Michael's.

In December of 1980, the General Assembly authorized the Parish Council to take an option on six acres of land located south of Church Street, east of First Street, and west of State Highway 289. The membership had increased to the point that more space was needed. There was also a need for a Church Hall. The present Church lot was not

large enough to increase the seating capacity and add a hall.

In June 1981, the Parishioners voted to purchase the lot for a new Church. At this time the membership had grown to 350 and even with chairs in the side isles, the seating capacity of the original Church building was only 156.

With the arrival of Father Esposito, plans were begun to build a new Church. James Darnell of Jonesboro was selected as architect. The contract was awarded to Max Goodwin with Horseshoe Builders. With the approval of Bishop McDonald, the new Church was begun. Ground breaking ceremonies were held March 27, 1988. After the removal of tons of rock, the foundation was finally laid. By February 1, 1989, the Church was almost complete. The first services held in the new Church were Easter of 1989.

Formal dedication by Bishop McDonald took place on May 21, 1989.

ORGANIZATIONS AT ST. MARY OF THE MOUNT

LADIES GUILD

The Ladies Guild was organized soon after the building of the Church. Rose Budlove served as first President, with Ethel McVay as secretary and Florence Schoepke as treasurer.

The Guild has played an important part in the maintenance of the Altar and the social activities of the Church. It also takes care of the luncheons for the families of deceased members. Many other activities of the Church are given support by the Guild.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Knights of Columbus - 3rd Degree Council #6909 was started at St. Michael's in August of 1977 by Post State Deputy George Edwards. Deacon Bob Clark was a trustee. St. Mary's first transfer was Rensie Cavanaugh on Feb. 5, 1981. Other transfers in 1981 were George Lepak, Bob Vasey, and Joe Repech. In 1982 Henry Roberts, Herb Althaus, Howard Berry and Hurshal Boyd transferred. The present roster includes the above transferred and the following new members: Edward J. Abbey, Joseph Bulik, Edward Keller, Joseph Lewandowski, Gene Verfurth, Louis Weber, and Gerald Markowski.

Recent withdrawals: Herb Althaus, Ed Shank and Vince Schoepke.

Deceased members: George Ardelean, Rensie Cavanaugh, and Andy O'Rourke.

Since the inception of following Chaplains have served: Rev. Venantius Preske, Rev. Henry Al Balty (deceased), Rev. Francis Malone, and Rev. Ralph Esposito.

Knights of Columbus - 4th Degree Council - Bishop Albert L. Fletcher, Assembly 1841.

This Council was conceived at a meeting on August 10, 1980 at St. Peter's Hall in Mt. Home. The first meeting in this area was March 22, 1981, at St. Michael's.

The present members from St. Mary's are: Edward Abbey, Hurshal Boyd, George Lepak, Joseph Repech, and Robert Vasey. Deceased members: Rensie Cavanaugh.

Those who have served as officers at some time over the past eight years are: Edward Abbey, Robert Vasey and Joseph Repech.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The St. Vincent de Paul Society was begun at St. Mary's in 1978, with Mike Connor as President, Billie Robarge, Secretary, and Jim Hansen as Treasurer. Through the years the Society has taken care of many hungry, cold, and needy people.

SPECIAL DATES FOR ST. MARY OF THE MOUNT

- Nov. 21, 1971 - First Mass at Horseshoe Bend
- Nov. 28, 1971 - Organization & selection of a name,
St. Mary of the Mount
- July 15, 1973 - Ground Breaking for a Church
- Oct. 12, 1973 - First wedding: David Moyer & Deborah Ratliff
- Oct. 28, 1973 - First Baptism: Diane Rega
- Spring 1974 - Easter Services in the incompleted Church
- March 17, 1974 - First Bulletin
- April 29, 1974 - First Funeral: Jack Shakelford
- June 9, 1974 - Formal dedication of the Church
- Dec., 1975 - Raised to the status of a Parish by
Bishop McDonald
- * Aug. 1, 1976 - Completion of the Rectory
- April 25, 1979 - Burning of the mortgage on the Church
- June , 1980 - Burning of the Mortgage on the Rectory
- April 2, 1981 - First Confirmation Ceremony
- May 18, 1981 - Robert Clark and Cliff Rowland, Ordained *Deacon*
- June, 1981 - Parishioners voted to purchase 6 acres
for the sight for a new Church
- March 27, 1988 - Groundbreaking ceremonies for a new Church
- May 21, 1989 - Formal dedication of the new Church

* St. Mary's and St. Michael's were established as Sister Parishes December 1977.

Special Dates for St. Mary of the Mount'

- Nov. 21, 1971* *First Mass at Horseshoe Bend*
- Nov. 28, 1971* *Organization & selection of a name,
St. Mary of the Mount*
- July 15, 1973* *Ground Breaking for a Church*
- Oct. 12, 1973* *First Wedding in the Church
David Mayer & Deborah Ratleff*
- Oct. 28, 1973* *First Baptism, Deane Rega*
- March 17, 1974* *First Bulletin*
- April 29, 1974* *First funeral, Jack Shakelford*
- December 1975* *Bishop McDonald raised St. Mary
of the Mount to status of a Parish.*
- Aug. 1, 1976* *Completion of the Rectory*
- April 25, 1979* *Burning of the mortgage
on the Church*
- June 1980* *Burning of the mortgage
on the Rectory*
- June 1981* *Parishoners voted to purchase
six acres of land for the purpose
of building a new Church.*
- March 27, 1988* *Ground Breaking
Ceremonies for a new Church.*
- May 21, 1989* *Dedication of the New Church by the
The Most Rev. Andrew J. McDonald.*

Priests Who Served St. Mary Of The Mount

Fr. Walter Chmura November 1971 to June 1974
Fr. Royce Thomas June 1974. He had Mass on weekends till November 1974
Fr. Venantius Preske He was pastor at St. Michael's and St Mary Of The Mount from June 1975 to June of 1982
Fr. Al Baltz June 1982 till Easter of 1983

From Easter of 1983 till June of 1984 different priests were substitutes. They were Fathers Sherman Wall, William Burfriend, Patrick Fennesy and Conan MAWHORR OSB

DEACON ROBERT CLARK ADMINISTRATOR JAN. 1983 to July 1984
Fr. Frederick Zarrilli June 1984 to June 1985

Fr. Francis Malone June 1985 to June 1986
Fr. Ralph Esposito June 1986 to June 1992
Fr. Lavalley Couture July 1992 to January 1993

January 1993 to July 1993 Deacon Robert Clark was administrator
Fr. Earl Johnson ^{S.J. became} pastor of St. Michael's and St Mary Of The Mount from July 1993 to to November of 1996. In October 1995 Fr. Frederick Schneider OFM came to help Fr. Earl Johnson S.J. In November 1996 Fr. Fred Schneider OFM was made pastor of St. Mary Of The Mount. Fr. Earl Johnson S.J. remained pastor of St. Michael's till June of 1997.

In July of 1997 Fr. James Mancini became pastor of St. Michael Church in Cherokee Village . Fr. Frederick Schneider OFM continued on as pastor of St. Mary Of The Mount.

Dozens of couples participated in the "Renewal of Marriage Vows" at St. Mary of the Mount Church in Horseshoe Bend on Monday, Nov. 4. The celebration was officiated by Most Rev. Andrew J. McDonald, D.D., bishop of Little Rock.

Couples from Horseshoe Bend, Cherokee Village, and all the surrounding areas attended the 1996 Marriage Anniversary Celebration Blessings and Prayers. The ceremony was an anniversary mass in correspondence with the Horseshoe Bend church and the Family Life Office in Little Rock.

Besides blessing and honoring the attending couples, Bishop McDonald honored and blessed widows and widowers, those who did not have children or lost children by death, all who have disabled children and all husbands, wives, mothers and daughters who are celebrating their "grace-filled years."

A special renewal of wedding vows was said in a mass ceremony of couples, which was sealed with a kiss.

"I am in your presence today to congratulate you, show respect to you, to say I love you, and to let you know God has first loved you," the bishop said.

A reception followed in the Parish Hall afterwards.

Bishop McDonald has conducted



the ceremony this year in Belle Vista, Hot Springs, Texarkana and will conduct it in Little Rock later this month.

Top photo: Most Rev. Andrew J. McDonald, D.D.; Rev. Earl Johnson, S.J. of Cherokee Village, and Rev. Frederick Schneider, O.F.M. of Horseshoe Bend, passing under the swords drawn by the Honor Guard, Knights of Columbus, As-

sembly #1841. Middle photo: At the reception, left to right, Bishop McDonald, and Lottie & Anthony Borowski, who will be celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary on Nov. 19. Bottom photo: Arne & Marj Tisthammer, of Horseshoe Bend, married 50 years, during the touching renewal of marriage vows. Staff Photos/J.F. Mitchell

Renewal of marriage vows...

From left to right in the center of the picture:
Rev. Earl Johnson, S.J.; Bishop Andrew J. McDonald; Rev.
Frederick Schneider, OFM

Knights on the right of the picture: Bob Zeck and Ed Abbey.

o
s
n
n
e
n
s
e
n
l
f
n
i
s
t
i
c
r
e
v
i
v
o
j



From left to right: Bishop Andrew J. McDonald; Lottie & Tony Borowski



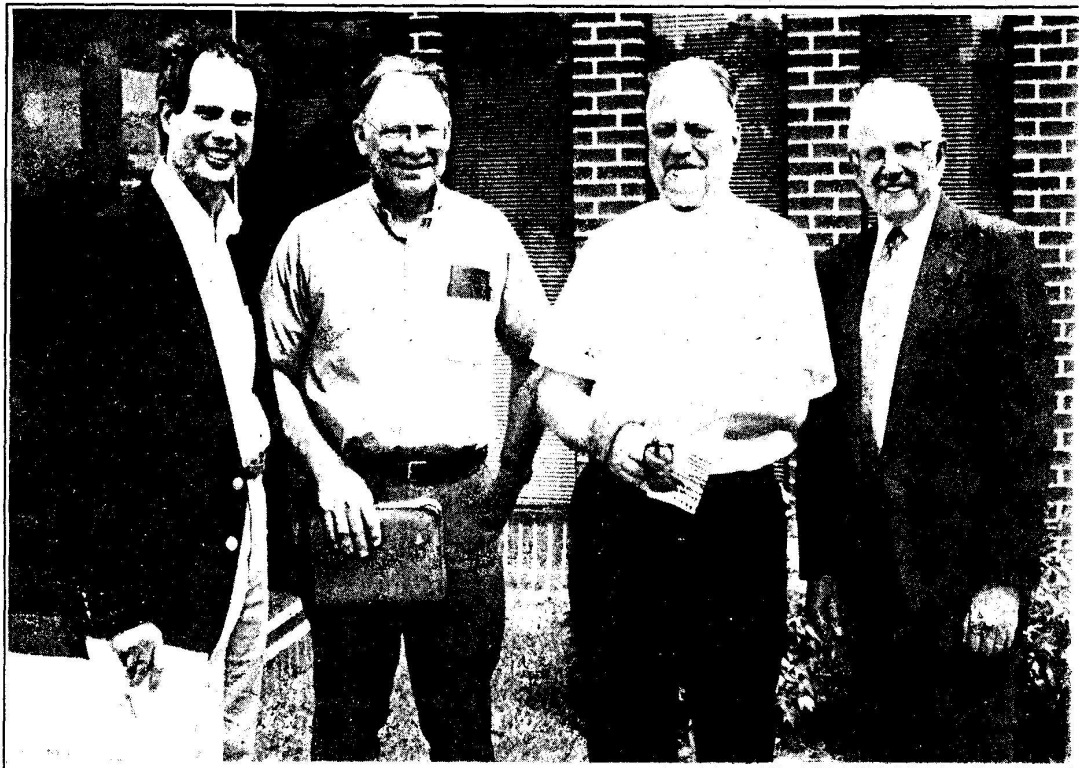
Peace Valley Community
featured on page 2

ANNOUNCE
COMMUNIT
RECORDS.

Horseshoe Bend's
Pacesetting

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 1997

SERVING THE TRI-COUNTY



PRAYER: Local Horseshoe Bend pastors and residents met on the front lawn at City Hall Monday, May 19, to pray for unity in the city. Lori Harwood, trumpet player, began ... by playing the Lord's Prayer. Each pastor attending gave a prayer of unity, and thanked every one for their presence. Pictured left to right are: Rev. Ken Overton, First Baptist Church; Rev. David Tews, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church; Rev. Fred Schneider, St. Mary of the Mount Catholic Church; and Rev. Jack Shepard, representing Dr. Ron Clark of the United Methodist Church. Dr. Clark was unable to attend due to scheduled eye surgery. Also attending but not pictured was Rev. M.S. Shepard of the First Church of the Nazarene. Rev. Mattingly of the Faith Presbyterian Church was unable to attend due to prior commitments. He sent a note along with his support. The message called for unity; stating, we may not all agree in all matters, but we can agree to get along in disagreement. The pastors hope that this will become an annual event for the betterment of the community.

Photo/K. Johns



LADIES GUILD: The Ladies Guild of St. Mary of the Mount Church held their last meeting of the season on Thursday, May 15th, with a breakfast at Turkey Mountain Restaurant with 38 attending including their Parish Pastor Father Fred Schneider. Also attending were former residents, Estelle Bulik, Dorothy Martin, Ann Klein and Mary Imperl. Father Schneider started the meeting with the blessing, followed by President Claire Everett's calling for the birthday and anniversary greetings. A well-served and tasty breakfast was then enjoyed by all. Henrietta Leuzinger, representing the nominating committee, presented the following slate of officers which was approved and will take office in September: Carol Robe, president; Donna Bista, 1st vice-president; Rose Regal, 2nd vice-president; Peggy Williams, secretary; and Louise Mueller, treasurer. Ruth Spear then gave an interesting and inspiring talk on the awareness of angels guiding and protecting us throughout our lives. Pictured above are Father Fred Schneider and Claire Everetts.



Arkansas Catholic March 6, 1999
Fr. Preske is in the center

RETIREED PRIEST DONATES TIME TO HELP AREA PARISHES

Horseshoe Bend - Parishioners in small communities in North Central Arkansas often don't have to go without Mass on weekends when their pastor is out of town.

Retired diocesan priest Father Venantius Preske, 74, has decided to step in and help out area parishes who are without a priest and would be forced to hold a Communion service or no service at all. Father Preske retired several years ago because of health reasons. He chose to live in a small house in the foothills of the Ozarks in Horseshoe Bend.

He has filled in at parishes in Walnut Ridge, Batesville, Harrison, Mt. Home, Corning, Engelberg, Newport, Mt. View, and Cherokee Village. At one point in his retirement, he even agreed to teach religious education to junior and senior high school students.

Born in 1924 in Evansville, Ind., he was ordained a priest in 1952 as a Glenmary Missioner in Cincinnati Ohio. After ordination, he worked at parishes in Sunfish & Russellville, Ky., and Appalachia, Va. He came to Arkansas in 1963 and was stationed at Our Lady of the Ozarks Shrine in Winslow for 12 years. In 1975 he was named the pastor of St. Mary of The Mount in Horseshoe Bend and its mission of St. Michael's Church in Cherokee Village. Twenty years ago, on Feb. 18, 1979, Father Preske was incardinated and became a priest of the Diocese of Little Rock.

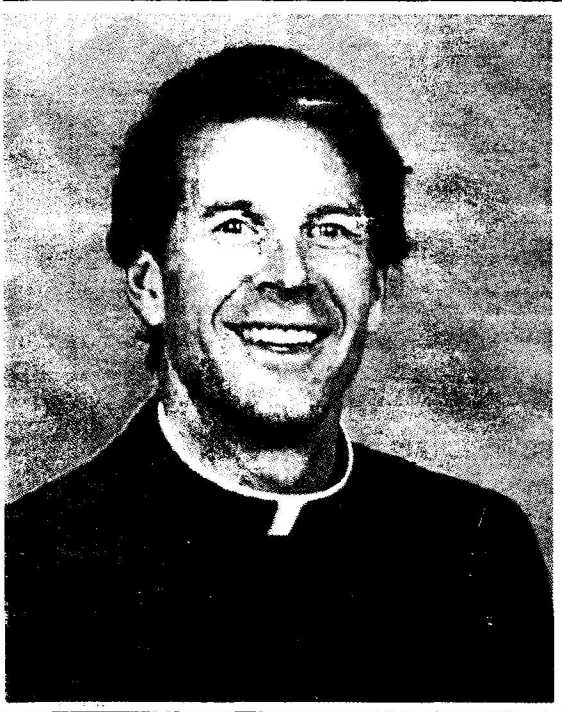
In 1982 he was named the pastor of St. Anthony Church in Weiner and St. Norbert Church in Marked Tree.

Like all retirees, Father Preske attempts to reduce his expenses as much as possible. One of his main considerations is the cost of auto insurance. He thought his retirement would bring him fewer miles on the road and he could take advantage of AARP rates. Father Preske soon learned he would be driving many more miles after deciding to help out at various parishes in North Central Arkansas.

"In His goodness to me, the Lord has given me the privilege of using my retirement years gleaning for Him," Father Preske said. "Gathering the straggling grain at the edge of the field or salvaging the few grapes the harvesters missed is called gleaning. The gleaning work given to me was to substitute for priests in neighboring parishes when they are sick or away, to hear hundreds of confessions, to officiate at funerals, to give spiritual counsel and to minister in various ways."

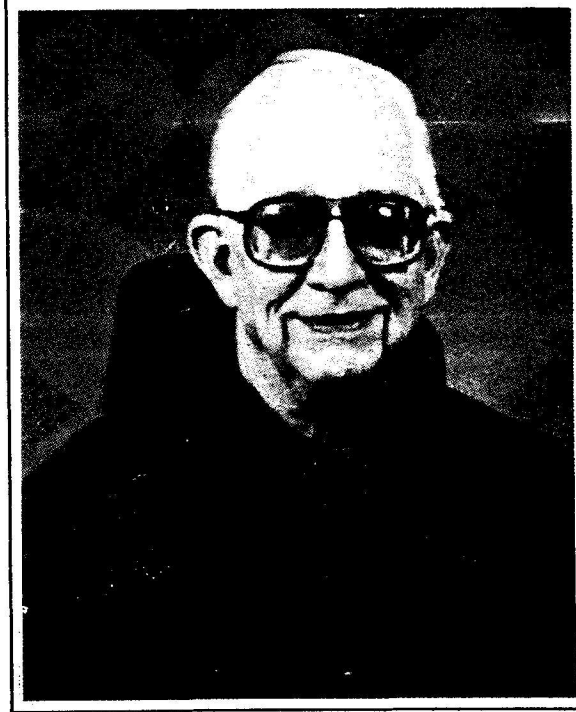
His travels took him over 7,000 miles in 1998. He now does not know what it's like to have retirement rates on his car insurance.

Victoria's Anniversary Priests



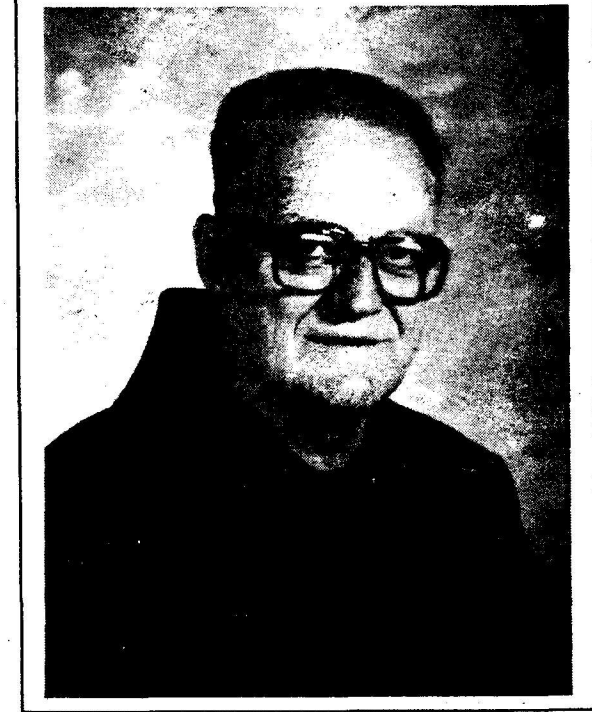
Father Robert White, pastor at the St. Victoria Catholic Church in Victoria since July of 1996, is celebrating 25 years of priesthood at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, June 6th, 1999. The outdoor Mass will be held in the ballpark -- rain or shine, bring an umbrella and lawn chair -- across from the St. Victoria Church. A reception will follow. The public is invited. A grand reunion of old and new members of the St. Victoria Choir under the direction of Jamie Moore will be part of the festivities.

Address:
8228 Victoria Drive
Victoria, Minnesota 55386



Father Elstan Coghill, OFM, priest at the St. Victoria Catholic Church from 1985 to 1996, is celebrating 50 years of priesthood on June 24th in a quiet manner where he lives and works at The Cross in the Woods in Indian River, Michigan. Born and reared at Jordan, MN, Father Elstan has also served at Guardian Angels in Chaska; Sacred Heart in St. Paul; St. Mary's in Memphis, Tennessee; St. Bonaventure in Columbus, Nebraska; Harbor Springs, Michigan; St. Joseph's in Bastrop, Louisiana; and St. Hubert's in Chanhassen.

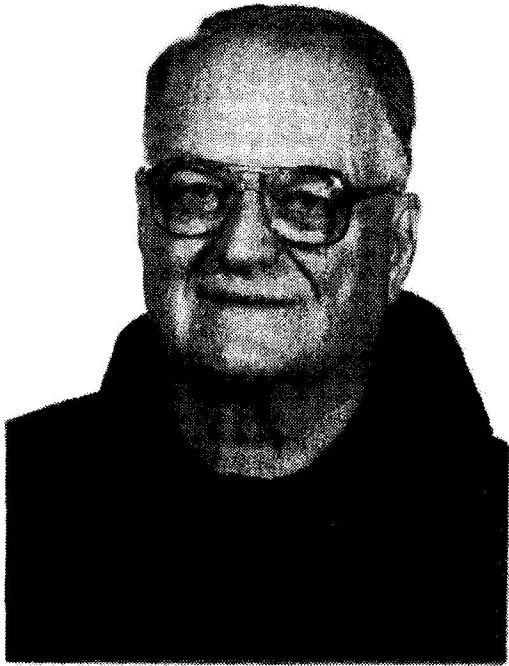
Address:
The Cross in the Woods



Father Fred Schneider, OFM, who was born and reared on the shores of Lake Bavaria, will celebrate 50 years as a Franciscan priest on Saturday, June 19th, at St.

Mary of the Mount Church in Horseshoe Bend, Arkansas, where he is pastor at present. The celebration of the Holy Mass will take place at 4 p.m. followed by a reception at St. Mary's Hall. Father Fred spent 30 of the 50 years as a missionary in the Amazon Valley of Brazil.

Address:
St. Mary of the Mount Catholic Church
P.O. Box 4012
Horseshoe Bend, Arkansas 72512



**Celebrating 50 years of ordination
to the Priesthood**

1949 - 1999

**My life is like a rose.
For many years it grows.
God is in me making me bloom
And making his perfume spread joy
From what He has sown in me.
Then comes the night called fall.
It seems to be the end of all.
We see only darkness,
sorrow and despair,
But God keeps the living roots
Of that rose to bring
New spender at the hour
that He calls spring.**

**Author
Fr. Frederick Schneider, OFM**

The great day of my jubilee has now passed. All I can do now is give a big "Thank You" to all that have made this celebration possible.

My brothers and sister were with us. They were very impressed by the wonderful things they saw and experienced. They said that we have a real good choir. They were thrilled by the selection of songs. They are so grateful to the Parish for arranging the houses where they could stay. They were impressed by the friendly spirit of the people of the Parish.

I thought the CCD children put on some lovely, humorous and also serious skits. We have some budding actors in the making.

The K.C.'s honor guard was very impressive. This honor is generally reserved to Bishops. This is probably as close as I will ever come to being a Bishop.

Many thanks to those volunteers who helped serve the banquet. Among the volunteers was a group of girl scouts.

My apartment is now so clean. My visitors thought that I have such a nice place, but I told them that volunteers from the Parish put it into good order.

I received so many gifts. I wish that I could thank all of you personally, but I find that impossible.

Again a million thanks to all who made this celebration such a happy event.

Father Fred



Non-Stop brings home trophies..... See page 4



Pacesetti

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2000

703 SOUTH BEND C



CROSSES FOR LIFE MEMORIAL: A field of 4,000 Crosses for Life on the grounds of St. Mary's Catholic Church along Highway 289 in Horseshoe Bend, each representing one unborn child lost by abortion each day in the United States. The crosses were placed by a crew of 30 men and women from three of the local churches. The crosses will stay in place until the first part of November. The Knights of Columbus, local sponsor of the crosses, hopes to impress on all Arkansans the sanctity of life. Anyone wishing to contribute to the expense of carrying on this program statewide may do so by making out a check payable to Benton County Right to Life, the state sponsor, and mailing it to Robert E. Zeck, local representative, 912 South Manor Dr., Horseshoe Bend, AR 72512, or call Zeck at 870-670-4673 to pick up donations.

Photo/K. Johnson

St. Mary of the Mount Catholic Church

When we look at the history of St. Mary of the Mount Catholic Church, we see that very few of the parishioners were born in Arkansas. The Catholic community started in November of 1971. Almost all came with the intention of retiring. They came from Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, California, etc. They came with a lot of experience in parish ministry. We are very happy to be able to profit by this wide range of experience. The diocese continues to have training sessions so that we will have uniformity in ministry. Our parish ministers also serve the nursing homes and hospitals of Horseshoe Bend, Salem and Calico Rock. We also have a special ministry at the prison near



Priest and deacons who attended the 50 years jubilee at St. Mary of the Mount Catholic Church.

Calico Rock.

Until four years ago there was only one priest available for St. Michael Church in Cherokee

Village and Horseshoe Bend. In October of 1995 the Reverend Father Frederick Schneider came to serve Horseshoe Bend only.

Father Fred celebrated his fiftieth anniversary of ordination last June. The priests and deacons of the area were here to celebrate with him and the parish. Because Fr. Fred resides here it is possible to have Mass daily. Every Tuesday we have a special hour of prayer for all the needs of humanity. We pray for the starving, for those in prison, for those suffering from war and persecution and in general, that all will come to know the saving message of Christ.

So that the parishioners may be able to know each other better we have a pot luck each quarter.

Every month we contribute to the food pantry which is managed by the First Baptist Church.

The Ladies Guild has played

an important part in the maintenance of the church and the altar. They have helped to promote many social activities of the church and take care of luncheons for families of the deceased at the time of the funeral.

Fr. Fred Schneider is a member of the Franciscan Order and lives in the White Oak Apartments. He is seen often walking in his brown Franciscan robe as he goes to St. Mary of the Mount Catholic Church.

Before coming to Horseshoe Bend he spent 30 years as a missionary in the rain forest of the Amazon Valley in Brazil.

On Saturday, June 19, 1999, Father Fred Schneider, Pastor of St. Mary of The Mount Catholic Church in Horseshoe Bend, Arkansas celebrated his golden jubilee as a Catholic priest. Father Fred is a member of the Franciscan Order. The celebration was held in St. Mary's Hall following the Saturday anticipatory Mass.

Father Fred's brother, Fr. Conran Schneider, who is also a Catholic priest of the Franciscan Order, participated in the celebration of Mass along with Father Venantius Preske, Fr. Anthony Wilwerding, and Deacon Bob Clark. Family members and friends joined the entire parish in the jubilee celebration.

Father Fred Schneider, OFM, was born and reared on the shores of Lake Bavaria in Victoria, Minnesota.

Columbaria offer a final resti

Burial alternative is popular choice in retirement communities

BY HOLLY BYRNE
ROGERS CORRESPONDENT

When Joe Repech's friends, a husband and wife, passed away within a month of each other, their bereaved children came to Repech with a concern. Because their parents were active in St. Mary of the Mount Church in Horseshoe Bend, they consulted Repech about their wish to have the ashes spread on church grounds.

"I didn't think it was a good idea," said Repech. "We checked around for alternatives and discovered the columbaria at the Methodist and Lutheran churches."

Columbaria are storage vaults with niches in which the cremated remains — the ashes — of the faithful are placed.

When Repech presented his idea to the parish to build a columbarium on church grounds to house his friend's ashes, he found himself treading in unknown territory. Church cemeteries have always been the final resting places for deceased members of Catholic communities.

Recent changes in Church laws (canon laws of 1984) that offer cremation as an accepted alternative to burial had not long been in place. Now, however, according to the catechism, "the Church permits cremation, provided that it does not demonstrate a denial of faith in the resurrection of the body."

After much research and several letters to Bishop Andrew J. McDonald, Repech was granted permission to help design and oversee the building of the columbarium on the grounds of St. Mary Church in September 1991. Currently, all the crypts have been sold and more have been added.

Other churches in the diocese have followed this trendy alternative to burial. St. Michael in Cherokee Village has had a columbarium for nine years.

"Since the columbarium was installed, we've had to triple the amount of niches," said Father James Mancini, who recently became the pastor of St. John Church in Engelberg. "We have a lot of retirees in our parish and when faced with the funeral



The columbarium at St. Bernard Church in Bella Vista area. Three other churches already have burial

costs, cremation becomes a wise alternative."

Funeral costs average \$8,000. Costs for a columbarium niche usually run less than \$1,000.

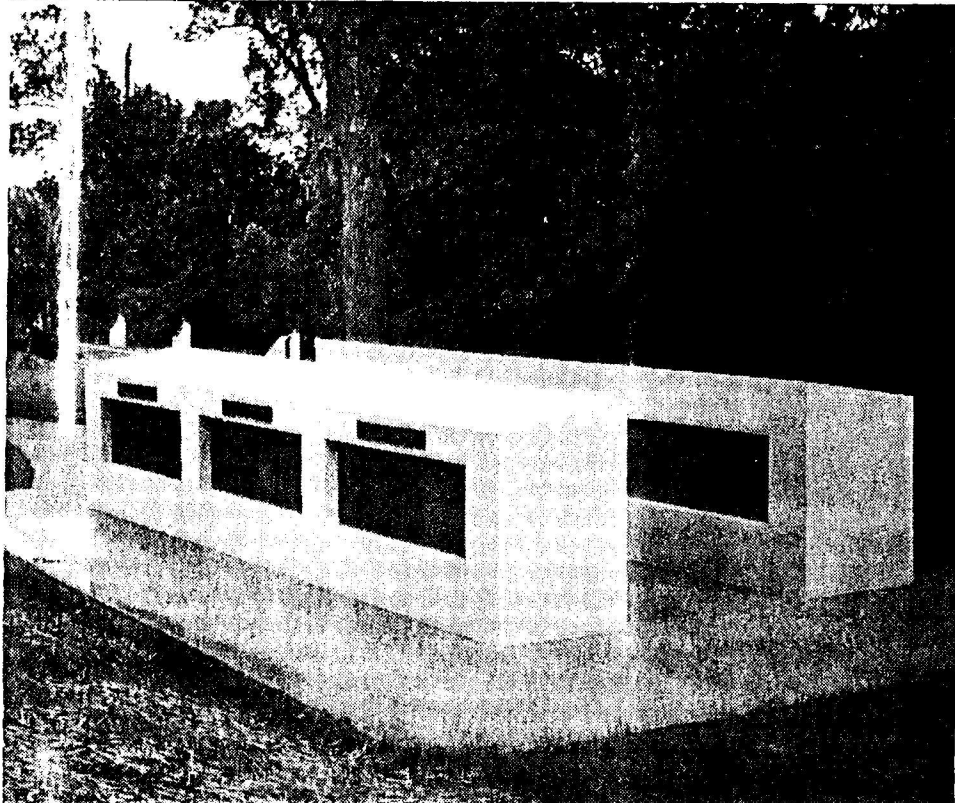
St. Michael is also without a church cemetery and the lure of having one's remains buried close to the church is another factor that makes this funeral choice appealing.

St. Mary of Horseshoe Bend, St. Albert of Heber Springs, St. Michael of Cherokee Village and St. Bernard of Bella Vista have columbaria on the church grounds.

Our Lady of the Holy Souls of Little Rock will build one as soon as enough niches are sold. Each of these communities has a high percentage of parishioners at retirement age.

"Many parishioners are on fixed incomes," said Repech from St. Mary Parish. "Many have moved south to Arkansas for retirement and are away from family. When they pass away, the cost of ship-

ng place on church grounds



HOLLY BYRNE

a Vista was recently dedicated, near outdoor Stations of the Cross that complement the garden niches and one other plans to build a columbarium soon.

ping caskets up north versus cremation is cheaper. Besides, it allows us to have services for those we've been friends with and have lived with for years."

Eleanor Beasley oversees the columbarium at St. Albert in Heber Springs, installed in 1998.

"It's a popular choice," said Beasley. "Besides the cost and the environmental reasons, it gives everyone a good feeling to chose a burial service beside the church they have been frequenting and working for. The feasibility of having Mass with the ashes present, then going outside for the service, then coming back inside to the hall for dinner is very convenient."

"The structure also adds to the beauty of our surroundings and of the church," said Beasley.

Columbaria are designed with an understanding of and respect for denominational needs and architectural style of the church and can be a liturgical work of art.

Parish funds are not used to build or maintain columbaria, which makes the building of these sites appealing to churches. Construction usually does not begin until enough niches are sold.

"It's important to point out that the preferred method of burial for Catholics is still the funeral Mass in the presence of the body of the deceased, followed by burial of the body in the earth or a mausoleum," wrote Msgr. David LeSieur in a recent letter to his parishioners at Our Lady of the Holy Souls in Little Rock. "This is an ancient tradition which the Church upholds as normative because it imitated the burial of Jesus' body. However, economic or personal factors may indicate that cremation is the only feasible choice when a Catholic dies. In such a case cremation may be chosen in good conscience and with the blessing of the Church."

Columbaria can be a consoling link between life and death and an ever-present place for remembrance and love.

Anniversary Day of Dedication Dinner May 18, 2008

The Master of Ceremonies

Our Anniversary Dinner is not a mere social event in the parish. It is part and parcel of the whole Anniversary Day of Dedication Celebration. At Mass we have just celebrated the Anniversary of the Dedication of our parish Church. But the parish is made up of people. While we need a material building we are a spiritual building. On this day when we celebrate the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church Building, we rededicate ourselves as members of the parish, so that we may be a consecrated people.

At our Anniversary Dinner last year we took a look backward, surveyed the situation of the parish as of 5/18/07, and then looked to the future!

At our dinner today we want to take a deep look at ourselves as a parish. We have some positive observations to make. The Holy Spirit is at work in our parish. We are making honest effort to do what a parish is supposed to do.

We are going to ask the chairperson of the various committees of our Parish Council to report on the aspects of Parish Life their committees are involved in. Please note, however, that we will not be asking for a report from the Finance Council. We will receive a full report from the Finance Council at a later date and time.

I now ask Jim Elbert, president of the Parish Council, to report on the status of the current membership of the parish.

The Holy Spirit is Working in Our Parish

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

The Holy Spirit has enabled us to sustain or nearly sustain our membership during the past year. As of May 1, 2008, we have 93 households numbering 138 individuals. This number includes our sick and shut-ins, the spouses and children, and part time members. Since our last Anniversary Celebration 8 of our members were graduated and have commenced their lives in Heaven where they pray for us. These are: Ed Keller; Frank Tracz; Dorothy Pollock; Mary Yingling; Evelyn Tracz; Ann Cednick; Bob Zeck; Kathyleen King. We had 2 Baptisms. Eight people have moved into the parish, namely: David & Cheryl Kugler, Larry & Linda Reis, William & Teresa Langford, Patricia Johnson and Sherry Jackson. We joyfully welcome them all to our parish. A total of 6 moved out of the parish. We look upon those who move as missionaries our parish sends out to continue their work elsewhere. At present, as we said, our total membership is 138.

Not all our parishioners live in Horseshoe Bend. Some live in Brockwell, Salem, Melbourne, Evening Shade, and other outlying areas. The reports you are about to hear show that our parish is not dying or falling apart. It is alive and well.

We are hopeful that the joyful witness of our members will attract our neighbors to the church and we will have a steady influx of converts. May God grant it to be so.

Liturgical Committee

Our Parish at Prayer

The first duty of a parish is to praise God in the Liturgy of the Church. St. Mary of the Mount is trying to do this well. Not only do we put much effort into offering the Holy Eucharist each Sunday and Holy Day, we also celebrate the Eucharist on a daily basis. We usually have between 10 and 20 people at the weekday Masses, which is between 10 and 20 percent of total parish membership. Each Friday we have adoration after Mass till 3pm. We usually have at least 2 people present in adoration at a time. In October we again celebrated Forty Hours. Thirty-seven people participated in the Forty Hours Devotion, with some doing more than one hour. Also we had the Stations of the Cross and Benediction on the Fridays of Lent.

Each day in the General Intercessions we pray for the whole Church, for World Peace, for people suffering

from natural disasters, and for our sick & shut-ins. Each Friday we call down the Divine Mercy in the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, which we pray at the close of adoration.

Over and above what we do here at church we know our members pray at home, in their cars, in other places. St. Mary of the Mount is a parish at prayer. It enriches us all to be members of such a praying parish.

In our consideration of our parish at prayer we commend and thank all those who help us celebrate the Sacred Liturgy: The Special Ministers of Holy Communion, the Lectors, the Servers, those who lead us in song, the Ushers, the Sacristans and Church Decorators. And we thank Father Tom, who works so hard and effectively to give us a beautiful environment for the Liturgy.

We realize that all efforts to do good Liturgy or to deepen the prayer life of the parish would be useless without your cooperation and participation. And you do cooperate. You do participate. This is evidence that the Holy Spirit is working in our parish.

Thank you.

Our Parish in Ministry to One Another

The Holy Spirit manifests Himself in the way the members of St. Mary of the Mount minister to one another. We have a fine Parish Council dedicated to helping our Pastor in his ministry as Pastor of Souls. The Council helps him not only in material affairs but also in spiritual matters. We encourage you to a deep interest in the Council. Find out who serves on it; vote prayerfully when new members are nominated; and agree to serve yourself should you be asked.

We are so fortunate to have a Knights of Columbus Council. The Knights are very active in helping the parish in many ways. In the parish bulletin of April 17, 08, there was a bulletin insert that gave a very impressive but only partial list of what the Council did in 07 and 08.

The Ladies Guild has served our parish ever since the parish was founded in 1973. The Ladies Guild gives the ladies of the parish an opportunity to meet with one another once each month and to serve the parish in many ways. A very important contribution the ladies make is to host the dinner after Funerals. The ladies also pay for the sacramental wine used at Mass. They help out at various social functions of the parish, too.

Our Sunday School teachers give generously of themselves and their time by instructing our young people and preparing them for receiving the Sacraments. We have very few young people but it is the privilege and responsibility of the whole parish to assist the parents of the children we do have in the education of their children. The parish fulfills this responsibility thru the CCD program.

We have 6 special ministers of Holy Communion to the Sick and shut-ins. They bring Holy Communion once each week to all our sick and shut-ins. Should you become sick and want to receive Holy Communion at home please call the Church Office and Holy Communion will be brought to you by one of our lay ministers.

There are, of course, numerous other ways in which you all minister to one another. You help at times of sickness, death, and on many other occasions. You encourage one another, pray for one another, love one another. These acts of Love are seen by God and recorded in His book.

Thank you for all you do.

Parish Life Committee

Our Parish Relates With One Another

A very vital part of our parish life is the times and ways we provide to get to know one another, enjoy one another, and escape any danger to become isolated. So we have our quarterly Parish Pot Luck Dinners, our Parish Picnic, our annual Christmas Party, and this Anniversary Dinner. It could happen that we become isolated from one another. It would be possible for persons to go to Mass every Sunday over a period of years and not really know the other people who celebrate with them every week. It would be possible for a member not even to know the names of his fellow parishioners. There is a connection between good relations with one another and good Liturgy.

There are challenges to overcome if we are to become a close knit family. If we always go to the Vigil Mass or the Sunday morning Mass, we may not even recognize the faces of our fellow parishioners who attend a different Mass. Some of us, as we have already seen, live in a different community from our own. So we may not see one another at the store or at civic events. Our parish social gatherings are meant to help us overcome those challenges.

We are so grateful to those who participate in the events sponsored by the Parish Life Committee. We invite everyone to do so. You have so much to contribute just by being present. We believe everyone is the poorer if you do not come when you are able.

You make serving on the Parish Life Committee a joy. Thank you.

Parish Outreach Committee

Our Parish Reaches Out to Non Members

Every Parish is called do what the Church is called to do - to continue the work of Jesus. Now, Jesus was deeply concerned for His followers, for those who believed in Him. But He spent much of His time and effort in reaching out to those who did not yet believe in Him. The Church must do the same.

Whenever a parish prays well, ministers well to each other, relates well to one another as family members it will be very active in reaching out to those not yet members of the parish. This of course is always a work in progress. Regardless of how much a parish does there is yet more to do. But St. Mary of the Mount is making efforts to reach out to those outside our parish.

We contribute to the Special Collections including those for disaster relief such as the recent tornadoes; we aid the poor; we engage in political activity from time to time; we have done the Christmas Basket project 2 years in a row; we received a collection of donated blankets and winter coats to give to the Indian Missions; we have worked to protect the life of the unborn; we have petitioned for family protection laws; we are engaged in some ecumenical activity. For instance, the ladies of the parish hosted the World Day of Prayer this year; we participate in the annual Lenten luncheons served at the Presbyterian Church; our Knights of Columbus sponsor Spaghetti Dinners; our CCD program has rummage sales; and we work cooperating with the Baptist Church to aid the poor. We have made some effort to Evangelize. (For instance, we put up the Outside Nativity Scene each year to help make the good news of Jesus' birth known to all who pass by.) Also individually we rub shoulders with non-Catholics at funerals, whether held in our church or held in other churches.

Then there is the daily unorganized outreach to others we all do in day to day living. Everyday we touch the lives of those outside out parish. We must try to make all these contacts positive.

If our pagan culture is to be christianized we must do it. If the Gospel is to be preached to all we must do the preaching. And we are trying. Our Parish is reaching out to others.

Thank you for all you are doing.

Conclusion

This concludes our reports. And I want to thank those who gave them. I hope you are encouraged by them. I hope they move you to rededicate yourself to the Parish. St. Mary of the Mount will be what we make it. The church building stand firmly. It does not need to be rededicated. But we do and hopefully our celebration today accomplishes that. Thank you.

Now I call on Fr. Tom for his comments and the Dismissal Prayer.

Special Dates for St. Mary of the Mount'

- Nov. 21, 1971* *First Mass at Horseshoe Bend*
- Nov. 28, 1971* *Organization & selection of a name,
St. Mary of the Mount*
- July 15, 1973* *Ground Breaking for a Church*
- Oct. 12, 1973* *First Wedding in the Church
David Mayer & Deborah Ratleff*
- Oct. 28, 1973* *First Baptism, Deane Rega*
- March 17, 1974* *First Bulletin*
- April 29, 1974* *First funeral, Jack Shakelford*
- December 1975* *Bishop McDonald raised St. Mary
of the Mount to status of a Parish.*
- Aug. 1, 1976* *Completion of the Rectory*
- April 25, 1979* *Burning of the mortgage
on the Church*
- June 1980* *Burning of the mortgage
on the Rectory*
- June 1981* *Parishoners voted to purchase
six acres of land for the purpose
of building a new Church.*
- March 27, 1988* *Ground Breaking
Ceremonies for a new Church.*
- May 21, 1989* *Dedication of the New Church by the
The Most Rev. Andrew J. McDonald.*

Ethel McVay