

# 50th Anniversary

Sacred Heart Chapel

Belaire Cove, Louisiana

On March 3, 1940, Bishop Jules B. Jeanmard, Bishop of Lafayette, officiated at the Dedication and Blessing of the new Chapel in Belaire Cove. According to an article in the *Ville Platte Gazette* of February 29, 1940, Monsignor J. M. Bourgeois, Pastor, reported that the Chapel was built at a cost of \$3,000.00. Of that amount, \$2,000.00 was a gift from the Catholic Church Extension Society of Chicago, and the remainder was raised by donations. In the article, Msgr. Bourgeois said that Senator-elect Lee Aucoin "deserves much credit for bringing the project to a successful conclusion."



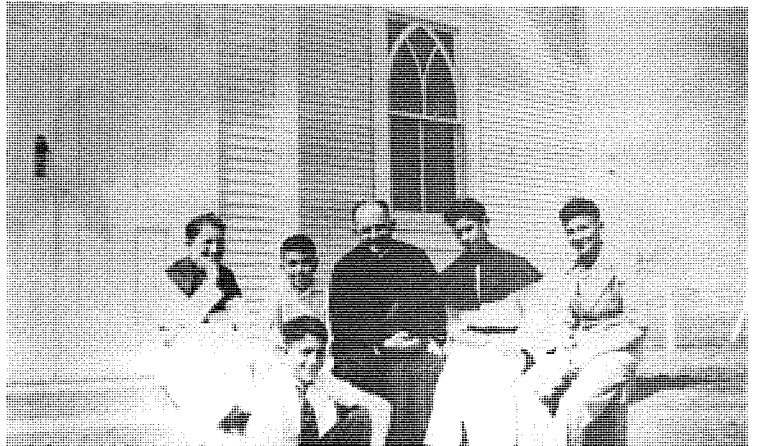
Records in the Evangeline Parish Clerk of Court's Office indicate that the land for the Chapel was purchased from Mrs. Marie B. Fontenot, widow of Octave P. Vidrine, Sr., on May 30, 1938. The price of the two acres was \$150.00. Later, on April 2, 1941, another acre of land was purchased from Mrs. Vidrine for the sum of \$75.00.



Special thanks to Msgr. Irving A. DeBlanc, Celebrant and Homilist for the 50th Anniversary Celebration; Msgr. Michael Jarrell, Pastor; Father Thomas Montelaro, Associate; the Sacred Heart Choir; the members of the Anniversary Planning Committee: Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Fontenot, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Fontenot, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Matte, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Roy Fontenot, Dale Guillory, Charles Fontenot, Donald Marcantel, Raphael Matte and Clyde Lafleur; and to all other parishioners who helped with preparations for the Mass and Reception.

May God continue to bless our Church and our Community as He has over the past fifty years.

Sacred Heart Church records indicate the names of the committee "elected by the people of Belaire Cove to direct the activities in construction of their community church." They are: Aldes Soileau, chairman, Atale Fontenot, Onile Lafleur, Horace B. Fontenot, Joseph P. Vidrine, Angelas Deville, Albert Soileau, Olin Fontenot, Dallas Fontenot, and Tanzy G. Fontenot.



The pictures on this page show interior and exterior views of the Chapel in 1940, and Msgr. Bourgeois with several altar boys: bottom, Van Ortego; top, left to right, Russell Hollier, Warner Beauregard, Burkeman Reed, and Sherrell Duos.

