

On the 125th anniversary of All Saints Catholic Church of San Pierre, we share in the deep gratitude and pride which this community feels.

To the parishioners and to Father Theodore J. Mens, pastor, we express our congratulations and thanks.



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## CONGRATULATIONS

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On this special anniversary to All Saints Church

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In loving memory of  
Paul I. and Mary C. Glazebrook

Tom Glazebrook

May those who came before us and contrubuted  
much of themselves in the 125 years of our Parish rest  
in peace. May the present and future generations  
receive God's blessings as they work together for the  
life of the Church for many years to come.

George and Jennie Regan family

Congratulations and Best Wishes!  
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*Joining in the celebration of the 125th anniversary of All Saints Church, I offer my sincerest congratulations to Father Theodore J. Mens and the parishioners*

Mrs. L. H. Glueckert  
Munster, Indiana

### **BEST WISHES**

**QUEEN OF ALL SAINTS PARISH  
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**Dear Father Mens and Parishioners,  
God bless you on All Saints 125th Anniversary!**

In memory of my mother —  
Thomas Pieza and Family,  
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**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL SAINTS  
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from

Julia Vendl  
Garry and Marsha Hartman  
Charles, Shirley, Mike and Bill McLochlin

**Congratulations to you, Father Mens, and the  
people of All Saints on the 125th Anniversary  
celebration. May you have many happy years  
ahead!**

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**All Saints Parish on your 125th Anniversary**

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**CONGRATULATIONS!**

From Two Friends

Prayerfull Best Wishes  
To

Father Theodore J. Mens and the Parishioners  
Of All Saints Church on the occasion of its 125th  
anniversary

Lucille J. Sassano



**In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Dennis  
Falvey and Family who played a part in All Saints  
Parish**

Michael Dennis and Anne Falvey

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From the Indiana Harbor Irish  
And  
Father Philip O'Fusk  
St. Patrick Parish

May the seeds of faith, hope and charity that  
have been sown by all our priests and parishioners  
during our 125 years be blessed by the Lord and  
continue to flourish.

Harold, Joann Stalbaum and Children

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*My sincere prayers to God, my congratulations to All Saints Church and parish, and grateful appreciation to Father Mens. In memory of Jack Adley,*

*Mae-Marie Adley*

*One hundred and twenty-five years of service by All Saints, to our faith, to our nation, to Father Theodore Mens, and to All Saints Church's determination to continue to serve*

*Lets thank the Good Lord!  
In Memory of Anne Pieza  
Stanley Pieza*



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Ann Fullan Drazer  
Moseph and Babe Fullan

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SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. Church

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

TUESDAY 1:30 a.m. Welcome Center

7:30 p.m. United Methodist Women (second Tuesday)

WEDNESDAY 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

1:30 p.m. Dorcus Bible Study (first and third)

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

THURSDAY 9:30 a.m. Young Ladies Circle

As a United Methodist Congregation who serves the North Judson Community, we congratulate you and share the joy of this celebration.

Sincere Congratulations  
and  
**JOYFUL BEST WISHES**  
from all the People of

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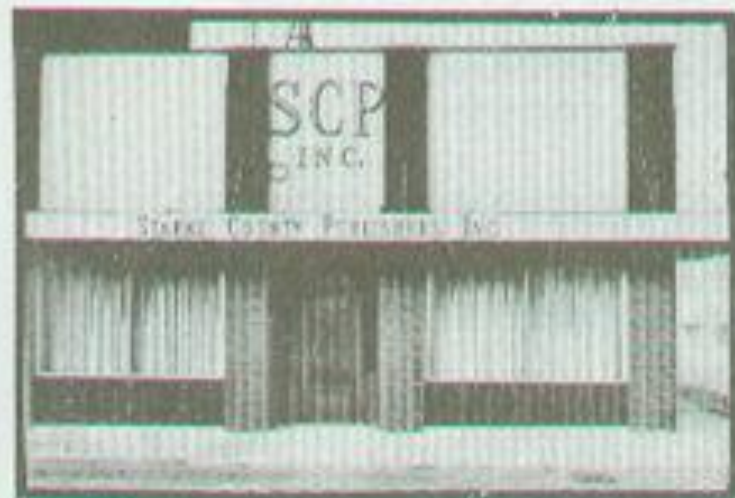
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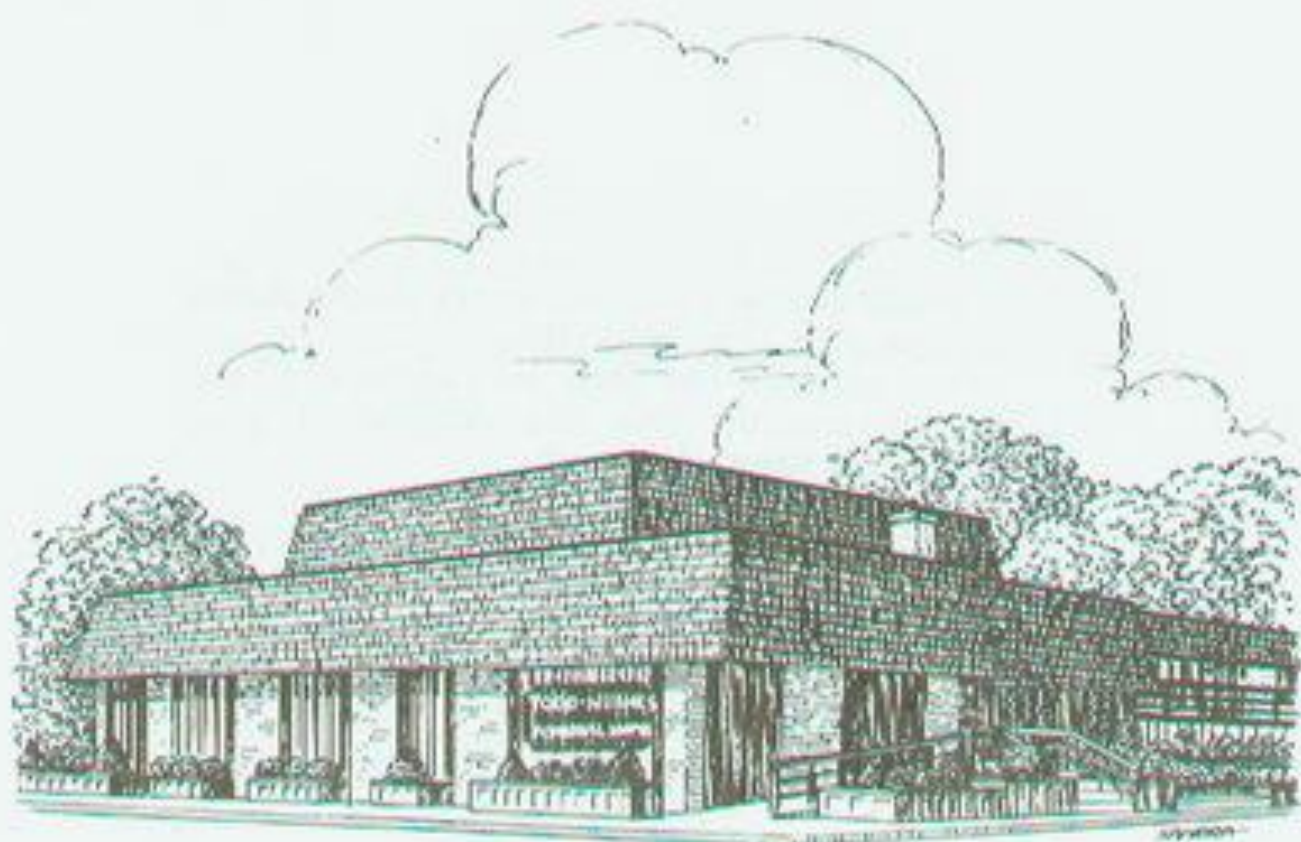
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Congratulations and best wishes to All Saints  
Church on your 125th anniversary!

Your presence has been an inspiration to the  
community and the love and devotion of your  
members — a tower of strength.

Norwayne Lumber Co. Inc.  
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*We salute Father Stephan for his dedication to his church and his country, we salute Father Mens and the parishioners of All Saints Parish of San Pierre for their efforts in memorializing the many achievements of Father Stephan.*

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Congratulations... and may Almighty God  
bless the good parishioners and Father  
Theodore J. Mens, pastor, on the great  
occasion of the 125th jubilee of All Saints  
Catholic Church of San Pierre.

In memory of my mother...

**John Pieza and Family**

(John's Shell Station, 47th St. and California Ave., Chicago, Illinois.)

Blessings on All Saints Parish and Father  
Mens.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Mrs. Mary Boback**

CONGRATULATIONS  
ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Joe, Evelyn St. Lawrence  
Wayne Vendl

Congratulations to All Saints Parish on  
your 125th anniversary, and to Father  
Theodore Mens, pastor.

May God bestow His blessings on you  
and shower you with His love.

In appreciation,  
RITA ROZHON



Thank you, Father Joseph Andrew Stephan, for bringing the warmth of supernatural love into our midst by founding All Saints Church in San Pierre 125 years ago. Our prayers are with you...

May God continue blessing our parishioners and our pastor, Father Theodore J. Mens, in the future.

**Josephine Tkachuk**

The parishioners of St. Helen's parish,  
Hebron, Indiana, congratulate All Saints parish  
on its 125th anniversary.

May the pioneering past be the promise  
of a bright future in God's work.

Father Matthew J. Kish, Pastor

Congratulations on your 125th anniversary... and may God richly bless each and every one on this memorable occasion, and may the Good Lord continue to guide us ahead.

**The Altar and Rosary Society of All Saints Parish.**

Peg Potempa, president  
Judy Jelinek, vice president  
Ida Jumper, treasurer  
Mary Lou Morrison, secretary

## AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM

May the Lord and His Holy Mother  
protect, guide and keep all parishioners of All  
Saints in their grace

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Mens



Congratulations and best prayerful wishes to the All Saints Church on its 125th anniversary, to our parishioners and pastor, Father Mens. We pray that this jubilee be a joyous one which will be long remembered and bear fruit.

**The Holy Name Society of All Saints Parish**

Lawrence Trenner, president; Benjamin Dolezal, vice president; Robert Rozhon, secretary-treasurer; Joseph Dolezal, marshal; Leo Schreiber and Stanley Pieza, program chairman, and Cyril Rozhon, chairman of the executive committee.

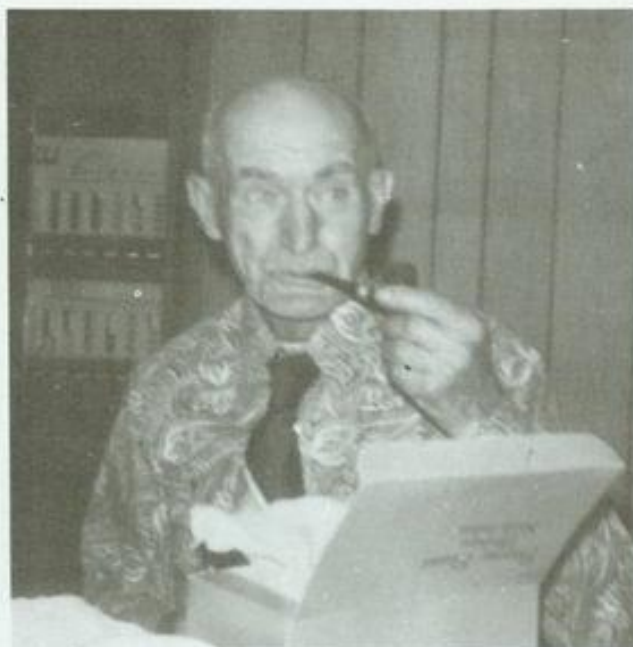
AS WE CELEBRATE THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH IN SAN PIERRE, AS WE DEDICATE OUR NEW PARISH HALL AND AS WE PRAY TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR OUR JUNIOR — HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, WHO RECEIVED THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION TODAY, MAY THE MISSIONARY ZEAL OF OUR FOUN- DING PASTOR, FATHER STEPHAN, AND THE FAITH OF OUR PAST PARISHIONERS, INSPIRE US AND FUTURE GENERATIONS TO BE BRIGHT WITNESSES OF JESUS OUR HOLY FAITH TO OTHERS FOR ANOTHER 125 YEARS.

REVEREND THEODORE J. MENS  
PASTOR OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH



MRS. EMILY GRON

One of the most popular personalities of All Saints parish is Mrs. Emily Gron. She is the head caterer of our parish — and for most of the community. Her favorite dish? It's sauer-kraut with Polish sausage — and the delight of us all. She came from Chicago to San Pierre with her parents in 1932. Mack Gron and Emily were married in St. Camillus Church, Chicago, in 1938. They have four children.



Albert Rozhon, a well known resident of the San Pierre — North Judson community, and active member of the All Saints Church, served as president of the parish's Holy Name Society for 20 years. He was awarded an appreciation certificate by the National Association of the Holy Name Societies. Known as "Uncle Al," he served as a member of the All Saints Parish Council and participated in many parish projects. He also served in politics as Starke County commissioner and precinct committeeman for Railroad Township. He died January 21, 1981, and is buried in St. Joachim cemetery, North Judson.



1958 TEACHERS

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters teaching Catechism — 1957-1958: Sister M. Bernadette,

Superior, Sister M. Joan, Sister M. Goretti, Sister M. Joseph.



## TWO UNFORGETTABLE ALL SAINTS PARISHIONERS



John J. Tierney

Recorded in the All Saints parish history are: John J. Tierney and Miss Mae Falvey.

Tierney, a recluse philosopher and philanthropist who lived in San Pierre, is the great benefactor of the Little Company of Mary Health Facility. He donated 377 acres of land to the Sisters of the Little Company which made it possible for the erection of the modern Little Company of Mary Health Facility in San Pierre. He also established a stained glass window in All Saints Church.

Sister Solace in her memoirs describes Tierney as "a darling man whom I called St. Joseph." He died Dec. 2, 1941, at the age 91.

Mae Falvey, a noted educator, was the principal



Miss Mae Falvey

of the San Pierre Public School. The school building stood on the spot where today is the new All Saints Parish hall.

She headed the Railroad Township in the War Saving Stamp drive which placed the township at the head of all Starke County townships in War Savings Stamp sales. Serving on her committee were Evelyn Matthews, O. M. Dolezal, J. Lester Short, Owen Daly and Byron D. Roberts.

Mae Falvey was born September 22, 1888, in Winamac, Ind. When she was a small child, she moved with her family to San Pierre. She died June 15, 1982, at the Little Company of Mary Health Facility.



All Saints oldest parish member is Mrs. Mary Trenner, a "young" 94! Her daughter is Sister Eugene Trenner, director of family and community relations for the Little Company of Mary Health Facility, and her son, Lawrence Trenner, is president of the All Saints Holy Name Society. Her other daughter, Mrs. Helen Rollman, lives in Santa Clara, California. A widow, Mrs. Mary Trenner's husband Gene died in 1976. They were married in 1912.



## L.C.M. — ALL SAINTS "HELPING HAND."



(L.R.) The Rev. Charles McLaughlin, resident at the facility; Father Mens, and the Rev. Frederick Fisher, resident at the facility.



(L.R.) Sister Jean Stickney, R.N., director of social services at the Little Company of Mary Health Facility and All Saints CCD teacher; Father Theodore J. Mens, All Saints pastor and chaplain of the facility; Sister Eugene Trenner, R.N., director of public and community relations of the facility, and Sister Helen Burke, sacristan, extraordinary minister and activities aide at the facility.

All Saints Parish enjoys the helping hand collaboration of the sisters, priests, staff and residents of the Little Company of Mary Health Facility.

Closest contact to the facility is Father Theodore Mens of All Saints, who is the facility's chaplain.

"The people at the facility," Father Mens said, "enriches our All Saints parish by their enthusiastic help in any of our parish's programs."

Thomas Kramer, who ably administers the facility, pointed out that the All Saints parish also collaborates with the facility by participating in the facility functions and the parish's Angels Choir singing at special programs for the residents.

The priests of the facility also cooperate with All Saints Parish, especially Fathers Charles McLaughlin and Frederick Fisher who offer Mass occasionally at All Saints Church.

Among the sisters who have served and are presently serving at the facility are Sisters Solace, Grace, Alice, Barbara, Louis, and Sister Jean, R.N., who is director of social services; Sister Eugene, R.N., who is director of family and community relations, and Sister Helen, sacristan, minister-extraordinary and activities aide.

Also, Sister Sheila, who served for seven years as a superior of the house, director of pastoral care, and secretary of the board of directors of the Little Company of Mary Health Facility.



Sister Sheila Brosnan



CCD

Father Theodore J. Mens, pastor, is welcoming boys and girls of the All Saints Parish attending CCD religion classes held each Wednesday. Absent from

this group is the CCD high school class which meets each Sunday at 9 a.m.



CCD religion high school students of All Saints are boosting their parish's 125th anniversary by displaying 125th anniversary buttons. (L.R.) Are Julie Stalbaum,

Andrea Schumacher, Shellie Justice, Julie Spenner, Father Mens, pastor; Richard Sinks, Michele Ledvina, Pam Potempa, David Redlin and Leonard Dolezal.





Rita Rozhon, an active member of All Saints Parish, recently graduated the Institute of Religion of Calumet College, receiving a religion teachers' certificate. She is the coordinator and teacher of the All Saints CCD religion class, and she voluntarily serves as the parish secretary and sacristan. Rita is also a lector-commentator and a member of the parish's Altar and Rosary Society. She is a book keeper at the San Pierre State Bank.



#### ALL SAINTS PARISH CCD TEACHERS

Standing at statue of Our Lady, are the CCD religion instructors of All Saints Parish. (L.R.) Front row: Benjamin Dolezal, Mary Ann Dolezal, Rita Rozhon, CCD coordinator; Rita Grose, Peg Potempa, Joann

Stalbaum, Linda Truett. Top row: Stanley Pieza, Father Theodore J. Mens, pastor; Sister Jean Stickney, Joan Scamerhorn, and Dorothy Osinski.



#### ALL SAINTS ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM BOOK STAFF

(L.R.): Stanley Pieza, editor and writer; Emmalean Baumann, art editor; Father Theodore J. Mens, pastor; Rita Rozhon and Mae-Marie Adley, secretaries.

(Cooperating with the book staff in providing pictures were Stasia Hine, Martha Soplanda, Peg Daly, Helen Dolezal, Paul Bolduc and Mary Ann Dolezal.)



#### ALL SAINTS ALTAR BOYS

(L.R.) Front row: Darin Stalbaum, Richard Yost, Ryan Yost, Chris Trenner. Second row: Richard Boisvert, Rodney Yost, Jeffrey Lewis, Robert Trenner, Bradley Lukac. Third row: Keith Spenner, David Redlin, Tony

Schumacher Jr., Philip Potempa, Mike Redlin, and Father Theodore J. Mens, pastor. Top row: Leonard Dolezal and Chad Schumacher Jr.





### ALL SAINTS CHURCH LECTORS- COMMENTATORS

(L.R.) Front row: Stanley Pieza, Bernard Osinski, director; Rita Rozhon, Evelyn St. Lawrence, Phyllis Rozhon, Mae-Marie Adley, Thomas Yost, Harold

Stalbaum. Second row: Ben Dolezal, Dorothy Osinski, Pat Sinks, Joseph St. Lawrence, Robert Rozhon, and Paul Bolduc.



### ALL SAINTS PARISH MUSIC DIRECTORS

(L.R.): Mary Ann Dolezal, organist; Leo Schreiber, organist; Margie Pixey, director, All Saints Angels Choir, and Joann Scamerhorn, assistant. One of the

first organists of All Saints Church was Mrs. Herretta Sharritt, daughter of Owen Daly. The parish had several choirs.



THE OFFICERS OF THE ALTAR AND ROSARY  
SOCIETY OF ALL SAINTS PARISH

(L.R.): Ida Jumper, treasurer; Judy Jelinek, vice president; Peg Potempa, president, and Mary Lou Morrison, secretary.



OFFICERS OF THE HOLY NAME  
SOCIETY OF ALL SAINTS

Parish (left to right front row): Joseph Dolezal, marshal; Benjamin Dolezal, vice president; Lawrence Trenner, president, Robert Rozhon, secretary-

treasurer. (Left to right top row): Stanley Pieza and Leo Schreiber, program co-chairmen, and Cyril Rozhon, chairman of the executive committee.





#### ALL SAINTS PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

(L.R.) Seated: Benjamin Dolezal, president; Father Theodore J. Mens, pastor; Peg Potempa, secretary; Lawrence Trenner. (Standing:) Harold Stalbaum, vice

president; Cyril Rozhon, John K. Lukac Jr., and Hank Jelinek.



#### JUBILEE CONFIRMATION

During the celebration of All Saints 125th anniversary, Oct. 30, 1983, Bishop Andrew G. Grutka officiated at impressive confirmation services in the church. Standing at left of picture is Father Theodore J. Mens, pastor; at right of picture, is Benjamin Dolezal, CCD teacher. Those confirmed were (L.R.) front row:

Tammy Justice, Angela Dolezal, Louann Lenart, Cassie Pixey, Maura Shidler, Robert Trenner. Second row: Tony Schumacher, Julie Bobek, Philip Potempa, Agnes Fedyk, Richard Boisvert. Top row: Tina Justice, Keith Spenner, Ann Schamerhorn, Scott Kryzanowski.

DO YOU REMEMBER???





chicken, wild pigeons, quail, snipe, ducks, geese and wild turkey, with now and then a bear. Hogs ran wild.

— In 1862, Israel Uncapher carried mail from San Pierre to Knox under a government contract at the rate of \$163 per year.

— School teachers in 1876 were paid 87 cents to \$1.50 per day.

— The public schools of San Pierre and North Judson were merged in 1964 according to Indiana law requiring all schools of the state to have an average daily attendance of 1,000 students.

— An historical atlas of the State of Indiana in 1876 lists the following persons living in San Pierre: Dr. L. D. Glazebrook, I. C. Lane, the Rev. J. A. Stephan, J. M. Welsh, C. E. Mylvain, and B. Glazebrook.

— Bog iron ore was discovered in San Pierre in

1855, and that much of it was hauled to a smelting furnace known as the Plymouth Iron Works.

— Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bolduc, and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Soplanda, and Mrs. Clyde Kingman of San Pierre were in the cast of *THE PIONEERS*, a drama staged during Starke County's Centennial in 1950.

— Tom Spenner, an usher of All Saints Church and whose wife Pat is active in the parish's women's affairs, recalls how his father hauled on a bob-sled a 950 pound hog to load on a train box car from San Pierre to the Chicago Stockyards. Tom's father Paul, 82, died in September of 1977, and his mother Rasella, 82, died in October of 1977. Both are buried in All Saints cemetery.

The people of San Pierre have a deep and sincere involvement in their community.

— S. P.



**ON BICENTENNIAL DAY** — Parishioners of All Saints Church stand at the site near the Monon Railroad tracks over which passed the funeral train of President Abraham Lincoln at 6:15 a.m. on May 1, 1865. In the center of the photo is Father John

Daniels, pastor of All Saints, who led in prayers in memory of the martyred President. Following the prayers, the men, women and children marched in procession to the church for a July 4th Bicentennial program.



Duane Dolezal, President of the San Pierre State Bank and descendant of the pioneer Dolezal family of San Pierre.



Standing at the old San Pierre State Bank building, about 1920, are John Dolezal Sr., founder of the bank and father of Helen Dolezal, an active member of All Saints Church; Bernard Fitzgerald, L.J. Crampton, and Thomas Daly, the cashier of the bank.



This is the family of the town's historian, an executive member of the All Saints Holy Name Society, banker, Thomas Daly, and his wife Opal. Both are buried in All

Saints cemetery in San Pierre. The daughters are (L.R.) Mary Theresa Daly and Margaret Ann Daly.



Daly often said that the advent of the automobile halted the growth of San Pierre. During this time, the people began draining swamps, roads were built, and the Kankakee river was straightened out. These advances in the area caused the railroad to stop growing, and when the railroad came to a halt so did San Pierre.

A descendant of the Dolezal family of San Pierre, Duane Dolezal, president of the San Pierre State Bank, when interviewed in his home, said that San Pierre is facing a bright future.

"Our town is not going down," Dolezal smilingly said, "it is showing progress, judging from the new IGA super market which is attracting lots of people to our town, also by the recent addition of a new gas station, the expansion of a barber shop and of the public library, and the addition of a new insurance agency."

"Most of all," Dolezal emphasized, "our town for its economy depends on the Little Company of Mary Health Facility because it creates the biggest job market in the community... and thus it deserves our fullest support."

He also pointed out that the present businesses in town are doing well and that they will keep doing

so with continued customer support. Also adding to our town's stature are the three town's churches—All Saints, St. Luke United Church of Christ, Assembly of God—the town park, two tennis courts, and the fine spirit of our people."

The first inhabitants of Starke County were missionaries, traders, and trappers. The Indians they encountered were the Potawattomi and the Miamis. By treaty in 1832 all the area comprising Starke County was ceded by the Potawattomis to the government.

Starke County was named after Major General John Stark, American Revolutionary officer who fought at Bunker Hill. He died May 2, 1822. It would be interesting to know how the letter "E" was added to STARKE which the general's name does not possess.

Other interesting facts of our community follow:

— In 1850 there were scarcely 20 families in Starke County.

— The mail was first carried by John Larew by stage coach, carrying passengers as well as mail from Hamlet to Knox, North Judson, and San Pierre.

— Pioneer meats consisted of venison, prairie



The historic Daly House, which served as a hotel, post office, tavern, was located on the spot where today is the San Pierre Fire station. The Daly House witnessed the passing through of the funeral train of President

Abraham Lincoln in San Pierre in May of 1865. In the picture, taken in the late 1880's, are Owen Daly and his wife Anna; the person to the left of Owen Daly is unknown.



this community in 1846 even before Starke County was organized.

Tom's father was Owen Daly, born in 1864 in Railroad Township. Tom's mother was Maggie Welsh Daly. Owen was a hotel owner, liveryman, farmer and trustee of Railroad Township. His hotel and tavern was located on the land on which today is San Pierre's fire station. Tom died May 14, 1981, at the age of 90. He is buried in All Saints cemetery in San Pierre.

San Pierre, first called "Culvertown," started in 1854, when it became the first organized town in Starke County. Horace Greeley recalled it in his memoirs as "a one horse town."

Named after a Franch-Canadian railroad worker called Pierre, the town is located in Railroad Township for it was the only township with a railroad in 1850 when Starke County was formed.

San Pierre once boasted of four groceries, a post office, one doctor, two taverns, four blacksmiths, hotel, livery stable, bank, train depot and eight passenger trains played an important part in the town's daily life. There were also a drug store and three churches.

San Pierre's "boom town" era was due to influx from a cement block factory, pickle factory, creamery and butter shop. Entertainment was every Saturday night in a hall with square dancing.

Many of the residents of San Pierre worked for the railroads. Trains also served as the only means of transportation since horses and buggies couldn't go through the swamps surrounding the Kankakee

river valley. During the winter, the people of San Pierre filled their ice houses with ice from the Kankakee river. During early spring the Kankakee river would overflow and rise up to the All Saints Catholic cemetery in San Pierre. Tom Daly once recalled that he once skated all the way to Rensselaer on the frozen marshes.

When the San Pierre State Bank opened in 1916, Daly became one of its first employees. He worked as a cashier. He also served as a director, vice president and worked in the loan department. The bank originally was built across from where the bank stands today. Daly has seen three generations of Dolezals head the bank. Daly also remembered figuring the books by hand and how the bank was able to stay open during the early days of the Depression when other banks were forced to close. The experiences Tom recalled the best were the four times the bank was held up.

The most memorable one was when the Dillinger gang descended on the bank. "Dillinger was not present at the time... he was probably holding up a bigger bank," Daly reminisced.

While leaving the bank with their loot of some \$8,000, there was a deaf and dumb man who always sat on the breadbasket of Kingman's store. As he was coming by he was waving at the bandits, and they filled him with buckshot. He died on the spot.

Daly recalled the Fourth of July celebrations San Pierre used to hold. The celebrants included horse races through the streets, greased pole and pig contests, platform dancing and fireworks.

#### PORTRAIT OF A SAN PIERRE PIONEER FAMILY

Seated is Owen Daly, owner of the Daly House and a trustee of Railroad Township. On his lap is his son Owen Jr., and standing (left to right) are Nell and Irene, daughters, and standing besides his father is Thomas Daly, who became an official of the San Pierre State Bank and the father of Margaret Ann and Mary Theresa.





## THE TOWN WE LIVE IN— SAN PIERRE



Fred Schmitt, first rural route mail carrier at San Pierre, with horse and buggy, about 100 years ago.

It takes less than a minute in a car to breeze through San Pierre, oldest town in Indiana's Starke County.

But the town's history... its residents who have time to think and live in peace... make up interesting chapters in the chronicles of San Pierre.

U.S. 421 blends into San Pierre's Broadway, about two blocks long paralleling abandoned railroad tracks that fronts the San Pierre State Bank, the public library, some homes, and the new IGA supermarket, which was the famous Dolezal store since 1886.

Also, just south of San Pierre's old railroad tracks, is the imposing building of the Little Company of Mary Health Facility, acclaimed as one of the finest homes for the aged in Indiana. The building and its beautifully landscaped and tree-lined country location is considered "the pride of San Pierre."

Among the distinguished events in San Pierre's history is the stopping of Abraham Lincoln's funeral train in town at 6:15 a.m., Monday, May 1, 1865; the passing through town on a railroad handcar in 1853 by Horace Greeley, legendary editor of the New York Tribune, and young Thomas Alva Edison, when the great inventor was an itinerant telegrapher on the Monon Railroad, boarded for several nights in the home of Dr. Lorenzo D. Glazebrook, who became noted for his shorthand recordings of the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates.

In writing this brief history of San Pierre for the All Saints Catholic Church's 125th anniversary program book, we share the memoirs of Thomas James Daly, a member of one of the oldest and most prominent families of this community.

Tom Daly's roots in San Pierre go back to his grandfather, Patrick Daly, and his grandmother Ann (McCaffrey) Daly. They settled in the wilderness of



When Father Joseph Andrew Stephan left All Saints for mission work, the succeeding pastors labored in All Saints parish with the faith, zeal and inspiration for future generations as exemplified by Father Stephan.

The church in which we worship today was erected in 1886 by the Rev. Dominic Schunk, C.P.P.S., who also served as the first priest of the SS. Cyril and Methodius Church of North Judson which observed its centennial in 1981. He left All Saints in 1896, when it became a filia of SS. Cyril and Methodius, and All Saints remained a mission church until 1936, when the Rev. Louis Bozik became resident pastor.

In November of 1938, the Rev. John Hosinski succeeded Father Bozik. Under Father Hosinski's pastorate, the present rectory was purchased but not used until later; four nuns came to San Pierre to teach religion to the parish children; the church was brick-veneered, and added to the church structure were a basement, sanctuary and two side sacristies.

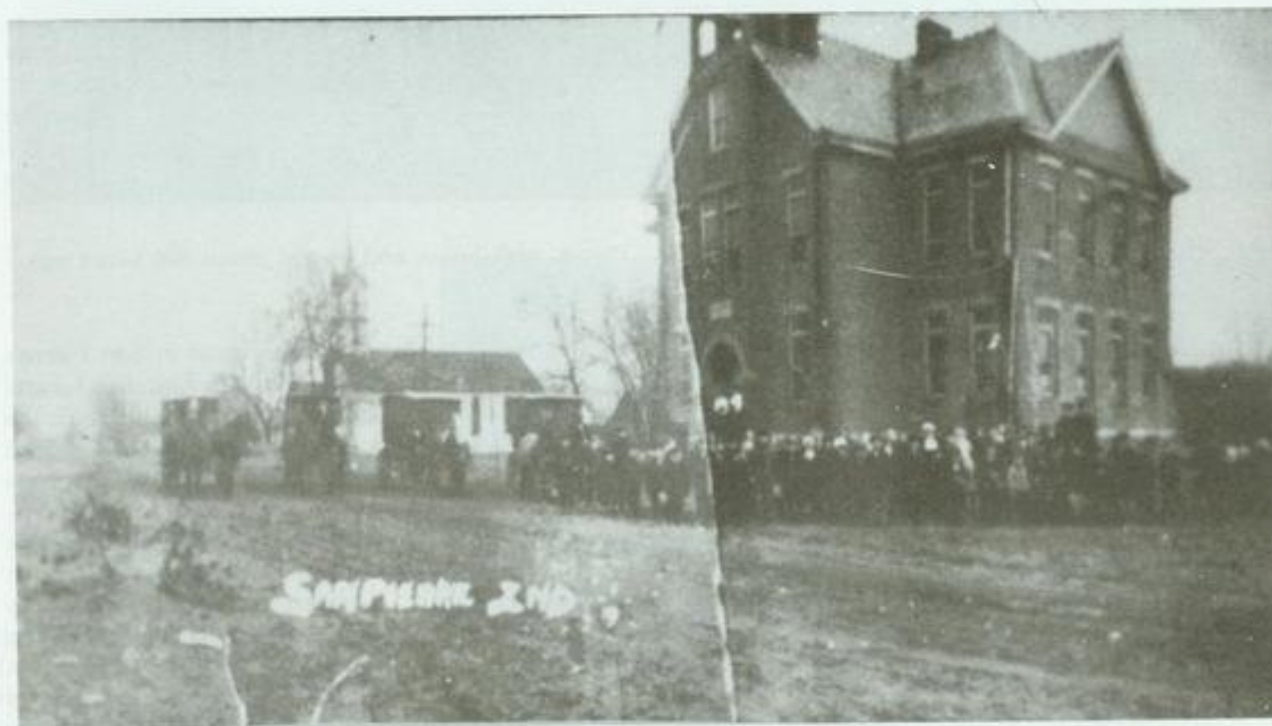
Father Walter Pawlicki followed Father Ho-

sinski as resident pastor in 1946. He was the first pastor to occupy the present rectory. He organized the parish Holy Name Society and Several study groups.

In March of 1950, the Rev. Louis Jeziorski succeeded Father Pawlicki. Under Father Jeziorski's pastorate, the rectory was covered with asbestos shingles, oil furnaces were installed for the church and rectory, the surrounding grounds were landscaped, the church redecorated, and an outdoor shrine with a statues of the Blessed Mother with Infang Jesus in her arms was erected. He also purchased two adjoining lots west of the church.

In the spring of 1969, Father Jeziorski was succeeded as pastor by the Rev. John Daniels, who led the parish in a significant America's Bicentennial celebration. Father Daniels put a new roof on the church building, new lights in the interior, and he was active with the Holy Name and Altar and Rosary societies. He also celebrated his 25th sacerdotal anniversary with the parishioners.

Then came Father Theodore J. Mens.



This is the old public school building which stood on the spot where today is the new All Saints Parish Hall. A previous public school burned down about 1921, and the building in this picture was built in 1923. G. B. Ingwell, a teacher, taught all his classes in the All

Saints Church in San Pierre until the public school was finished. To the east of the public school building is old All Saints Church built by Father Schunk in 1886.

OUR PAST PASTORS FOLLOW  
IN FOOTSTEPS OF STEPHAN



Rev. D. Schunk



Rev. L. Bozik



Rev. J. Hosinski



Rev. W. Pawlicki



Rev. L. A. Jeziorski



Rev. J. Daniels



citizens, and erected a modern and spacious parish hall.

Father Mens also inspired the renovation of the church basement which became Father Stephan Memorial Hall and which contains items pertaining to the life of Father Stephan, historic items of immigrants, mementoes of Indian life and local farmers. Presently, the hall serves as a library, meeting room and study, and the CCD office.

Father Mens arrived in America with his parents, Anthony and Agnes Mens, from Holland September 28, 1956. He received his preliminary education at St. Eusebius grade school, Arnhem, Holland, at the archdiocesan seminary in Apeldoorn, Holland, and continued his studies at Quigley Preparatory Seminary (north) in Chicago, and at St. Mary of the Lake in Syracuse, Indiana, studying for the Gary Catholic Diocese. He completed his

theological studies at Mt. St. Mary's, Cincinnati, with a master of divinity degree.

After his ordination by Bishop Andrew G. Grutka of the Gary Catholic Diocese on May 27, 1967, Father Mens studied at Xavier University, Cincinnati, where he received a master in classics degree.

He studied Spanish in Puerto Rico and Mexico and was a teacher in Spanish and religion at Bishop Noll, Hammond, from 1967 to 1975. Meanwhile, he resided at St. Casimir's, Hammond; St. Patrick, East Chicago; St. John Bosco, Hammond, and All Saints in Hammond. Before he came to San Pierre he resided at St. Thomas More, Munster.

The parishioners hail their pastor, Father Mens, as All Saints of San Pierre celebrates its 125th jubilee!

## WINDOWS OF OUR "LITTLE CHATHEDRAL."

A visitor in All Saints Church exclaimed, "why, your church's stained glass windows make your church look like a little cathedral!"

Recently, a Chicago artisan who visited our church several years ago, estimated that at today's values the stained glass windows in the nave of All Saints Church could be at \$2,000 each.

Realizing the beauty of the stained glass windows, Father Theodore J. Mens, pastor, had them covered with plexiglass for preservation in June of 1979.

The stained glass windows in the church were erected during the pastorate of the Rev. John Hosinski, according to a report based on a study of the windows by Pam Potempa and Julie Spenner, high school CCD students of All Saints.

On the east side of the church are the following windows:

- The window of John Tierney, benefactor of the Little Company of Mary Health Facility. His window is decorated with a chalice and a Blessed Sacrament wafer.

- The window of the Falvey family, which is emblazoned by a Holy Bible. An active member of All Saints parish, Mae Falvey was the principal of the public school of San Pierre.

- The window of the Nicolas family which is

decorated with two crossed flaming torches.

- The Spenner-Daly families window with symbols of Christ the King.

On the west side of the church are the following windows:

- Memorial window of the National Catholic Council, with symbols of the keys of St. Peter. This window was established by the women of the parish.

- The window of Harry Stalbaum, with a symbol of the eye of the Lord.

- The window of Robert and Bozena Minarik with a symbol of the baptismal font.

- The Catholic Youth Organization window, established by the youth of the parish. It has a symbol of the crown of Christ.

- In the priests' sacristy are the windows of Joseph and Helen Smolek, Edward and Agnes Fritz, and of the Cullen family.

- In the Eucharistic chapel, on the west side of the church, are the windows of William Fullan family, Helen Dolezal, and Ellen E. Ness.

- Behind the altar are the windows of the Henry Becker family and Bregezinski family.

The stained glass windows of our "little cathedral" are especially emblazoned in varied hues of color during sunrise and sunset.

— S.P.



Special thanks go to Burnell Kersting for his work and use of his bob-cat leveler; the San Pierre Volunteer Fire department for the use of their truck; to the Little Company of Mary Health Facility for

providing water, and Greg Dolezal, Beverly, Connie and Frank Deli for providing refreshments.

The parishioners take great pride in their new hall!



Father Theodore J. Mens, pastor, offering Mass at altar in All Saints Church, with altar boys (L.R.)

Rodney Yost and Chad Schumacher.

## OUR PASTOR—FATHER MENS

A youth of 14 arrived with his parents from Holland in the United States—he is now our pastor, Father Mens.

Our parishioners became acquainted with the Rev. Theodore J. Mens on one of the coldest days on record—25 below zero and with lots of snow—on January 18, 1977, when he came to All Saints as successor to Father John Daniels. He was enthusiastically welcomed at a dinner in the San Pierre Community Hall.

A former high school teacher, Father Mens wears three hats: Pastor of All Saints, Chaplain of the Little Company of Mary Health Facility, and Coordinator of the Office of Pro-Life Activities for the Catholic Diocese of Gary. He is also a lector in theology for Calumet College as part of the Diocesan Institute of Religion, and serves as

procurator-advocate for the diocesan marriage tribunal.

Father Mens rolled up his sleeves—and the sleeves of his parishioners—for work and improvement of the parish facilities and the church. He soon became known as "The Builder."

With the aid of his parishioners, he renovated the rectory, air-conditioned the church, painted the sanctuary, paneled part of the church walls, installed a new reconciliation room, put in gas furnaces, erected a building around the washrooms, reactivated the CCD classes, inspired the Altar and Rosary and Holy Name societies, acquired a new organ for the church, inaugurated hayrides for the parish picnics, started services of anointing of the sick and communal penance, honored senior



The frame work of the All Saints Parish hall... just before the volunteers started their work.

The new hall became busy with functions as soon as it was completed.

The Porter-Starke Vicariate Council of Catholic Women held two conferences in the hall, and the Little Company of Mary Health Facility held its awards dinnere in it. The Dolezal family held its family reunion in the hall, and Frank Deli Jr. baptismal family party was held here. Held also in the hall were meetings of the North Judson-San Pierre Ministerial Association, the San Pierre Festival dance, and bingo is held each month.

The volunteers who rendered their services to complete the new parish hall were:

Hank Jelinek, John Lukac Jr., David Truett, Steve Scamerhorn, Ben Dolezal, Eugene Pugh, Bernie Osinski, Chester Osinski, Jim Stonebraker, Harold Stalbaum, and Dan, David, Mike, and Bob Stalbaums, Dave Krug, Larry Pixey, Tom Yost, Perry and Richard Sinks, Mike Stropki, Larry Trenner and Bob Trenner, Dave Switt, Paul Dolezal, Bob Rozhon, Chris Fedyk, Greg Dolezal, Brad Lukac and Jeff Jelinek.



PUTTING FINISHING TOUCHES  
TO NEW PARISH HALL

Kneeling is Chester Osinski and giving orders is David Krug.



VOLUNTEER EXPERTS WHO COMPLETED NEW PARISH HALL

(L.R.) Ben Dolezal, Bernard Osinski, John Lukac, Jr., David Krug, Richard Sinks, Hank Jelinek, David Switt, Steve Scamerhorn.



## OUR NEW ASSET—ALL SAINTS PARISH HALL



The new parish hall is on the right. In the center is the All Saints Church, and to the left is the parish rectory.

"Well, here's another dig into the history pages of our parish!"

So exclaimed David Truett, chairman of the All Saints Parish Hall Committee, as he spaded up a shovel full of earth for the start of the foundation of the new All Saints Hall, on August 15, 1982, Assumption Day.

Assembled at the ground-breaking ceremonies were Father Theodore J. Mens, pastor, and some parishioners. Today the new and modern spacious hall stands west of the church, on the spot where

stood the San Pierre Public School building.

After the frame was put up, the complete work on the hall was performed by parishioners who offered their services voluntarily—and did an excellent job!

The new hall is the parish's social center, equipped with modern kitchen facilities, and arrangements can be made for any parish, family, social and community function. It is also used for CCD religion classes, various meetings for parish societies, and for large organizational meetings.



All Saints parishioners and Father Theodore J. Mens, pastor, proudly watch as work starts on the new hall on August 15, 1982. (L.R.) Are little Julie Osinski, Father Mens, Rita Rozhon, George Regan, Penny Province, Mrs. Jeannine Regan, Lawrence Rozhon,

Acolyte Rodney Yost, Cyril Rozhon, David Truett bending over shovel, Cecelia Eberhart, Harold Stalbaum, Chester Eberhart, Betty Maddux, Ben Dolezal, Sister Jean Stickney, Edmund Ziemba, and some unknown.



## CRUCIFIX INSPIRES MEMORIAL PRAYERS IN OUR CEMETERY

On top of the hill, surmounted by a majestic white Crucifix, on U.S. 421, just north of the town of San Pierre, is the All Saints cemetery.

Its tombstones mark the burials of the recently deceased... and on some of the tombstones are chiseled in the names of this community's pioneers. Some of the old tombstones are imperishable records of the early settlers who established All Saints parish.

Some of the tombstone markers are sunk in the soil, some of them broken in half, and some are so weather-beaten that all markings on the stones have vanished.

There were burials in the cemetery before it was incorporated in 1896 as All Saints cemetery. A few of the graves are beyond recognition, and Mac Gron, who lives across the highway from the cemetery, believes that these are of Civil War veterans.

Thomas Spenner, an usher at All Saints Church, is the cemetery care-taker for over 30 years. His wife, Pat Spenner, is All Saints Church's representative of the Starke-Porter vicariate of the Council of Catholic Women.

This story on the All Saints cemetery is based on a report made by Andrea Schumacher and Lisa Theis, high school CCD students of All Saints, who made a study of the cemetery tombstones.

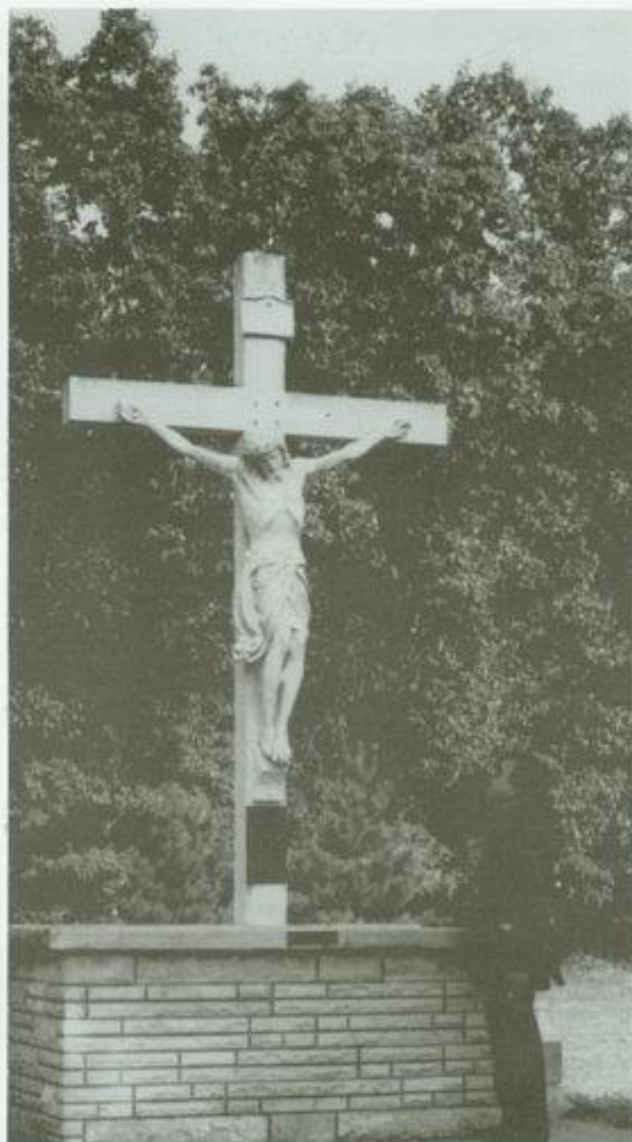
Largest monument in the cemetery, situated on its highest knoll, is that of the MacLaughlin family. Nearby by are tombstones of other settlers, in the majority bearing Irish names.

One of the historic tombstones is that of Patrick and Ann Daly, who settled in the San Pierre area in 1846, even before Starke County was organized. Also buried here in 1872 is their daughter Sarah.

Among earliest burials in the cemetery are those of the Brazil family. James Brazil's tombstone shows that he was buried here March 22, 1861.

The center of attraction of the cemetery is the Crucifix, where Memorial Day and other services are held. The background for the Crucifix is a clump of oak trees.

The mensa, or altar table, from which rises the Crucifix, was donated by Mr. and Mrs. John Lenart Jr.



The inspirational Crucifix and altar in the All Saints Cemetery.

The Crucifix and the altar table were erected in 1962. The plaque of the Crucifix cemetery memorial bears the following:

— This Crucifix was erected for the greater honor and glory of God, and the salvation of souls, made possible through free will offerings and through the generosity and in memory of the following: Holy Name Society, DCCW Organization, Poly Ann Eberhart, John Groff family, John A. Minarik, Frank Dolezal family, Joseph Hosinski family, Harry Stalbaum family, Paul Spenner family, and Frank Potempa family.

Requiescat In Pace!

— S.P.



your gesture and the sentiments that prompted it. He in his turn will pray for the whole parish family, and he imparts his apostolic blessing."

The Holy Name Society's invitational resolution was signed by Father Mens, Albert Rozhon, president; Robert Rozhon, secretary, and Stanley Pieza, program chairman.

A group of All Saints parishioners made a pilgrimage in a chartered bus to Chicago's Grant Park on November 5, 1979, when they attended the Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II.

Those who attended were Father Mens, Sally and Theresa Pospychala, Mrs. Ida Jumper, Rita Rozhon, Stasia Hine, Cecelia Eberhart, Benjamin Dolezal, Evelyn and Joseph St. Lawrence, and from the Little Company of Mary Health Facility: Sisters Sheila, Rita, Jean and Helen. Also with the San Pierre group were Fredette and her son Stephen, and Betty Kalinke, president North Judson Chamber of Commerce. Anne and Stanley Pieza of All Saints witnessed Pope John in a motorcade on 51st and California av., Chicago, when he was enroute from the Five Holy Martyrs Church to Quigley Preparatory Seminary-South.

In a letter from Washington, D.C., dated December, 1981, William F. Bolger, the Postmaster General of the United States Postal service, congratulated the high school students of All Saints CCD class for their public approval of the Christmas stamps with a religious theme.

Writing to Andrea Schumacher and Thomas Dolezal, Postmaster General Bolger stated, "It is gratifying to learn that young people like you and your classmates have initiated their own research due to the inspiration of stamp design. I hope you will continue to enjoy and learn from stamps."

On September 8, 1983, a group of All Saints parishioners and friends, led by Father Mens, visited the Vatican exhibition: "The Vatican collections: The Papacy and Art," at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Traveling to the Vatican art exhibit were Rita Rozhon, Robert and Phyllis Rozhon, Harold and Joanna Stalbaum, Chester and Lottie Osinski, Bob Smrt, Frank and Lillian Boilini, Lawrence and Dorothy Trenner, Sandy Fredette, Sister Jean, Sister Sheila, Emmalean Baumann, Jeannine Regan, Burnell Kersting, James and Peg Stonebraker, Rita Gross, Sara Tannehill, Marge Hohner, Luella Caldanaro, Adelaide Deardorf, and Mrs. Betty Arlt.

Dedicated as the 125th All Saints anniversary memorial is the parish's new hall, for which ground was broken on Assumption Day, August 15, 1982. A majority of the work on the hall was done by devoted parishioners who volunteered their time, effort and expertise. David Truett was chairman of the hall

committee, made up of Benjamin Dolezal, president of the parish council; Pat Sinks, and Hank Jelinek. Father Mens was the moderator. (More details about the hall are elsewhere in this book.)

Another milestone of the All Saints parish will be marked in 1986, when the parishioners will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the present church building erected by Father Schunk in 1886.

In the course of 125 years, All Saints has served well for God, the community and nation... its parishioners are deeply proud of its heritage and are committed to embellish, enhance, and to build for the future for the cause of God, the Church and nation.

May God bless the sacred memory of the sturdy pioneers who through their untiring labor, zeal and faith brought about All Saints in which we worship.

— S.P.



ALL SAINTS CHRISTMAS MANGER





The All Saints Angels Choir, with Margie Pixey directing, is singing at a special 10 a.m. mass on a Sunday.

immigrants, Indian relics found in this area, and a framed March 1, 1884, edition of the North Judson Cyclone, donated by the late Lew Rozhon.

Bishop Grutka, who blessed the Father Stephan Hall on December 17, 1978, congratulated the parishioners and Father Mens for establishing the hall, and said, "the historic significance of this museum should bring a keen awareness to its visitors of the rich growth of the Faith in our beloved Hoosier State and of the inestimable value of the belief in God which unites us all in time and eternity."

A congratulatory message was received also from Governor Otis R. Bowen, which, together with Bishop Grutka's message, was published in the

Father Stephan Memorial program book.

When the members of the Holy Name Society of All Saints learned of the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1979 in the United States, they forwarded a resolution inviting the Holy Father to visit All Saints in San Pierre.

The secretary of the Vatican Secretariat of State replied with the following letter to Father Mens:

"The Holy Father was pleased to receive the text of the Resolution adopted by the All Saints Holy Name Society on the occasion of the visit to the United States.

"His Holiness has asked me to assure you and all members of the Society that he truly appreciated



Organist Leo Schreiber is accompanying the Little Angels Choir during a Sunday Mass in All Saints Church.





All Saints Eucharistic Chapel for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and meditation.

anniversary of the Catholic Diocese special edition of the Gary Visitor, Feb. 20, 1977. The South Bend Tribune covered the event with an 8-column inside page headline.

Serving on the All Saints Bicentennial Committee, besides Father Daniels, were Thomas J. Daly, Stanley Pieza, Mrs. Evelyn St. Lawrence, Mrs. Lottie Osinski, Mrs. Margit Schreiber, Albert Rozhon, Lawrence Trenner, Robert Rozhon, and Benjamin Dolezal.

It was 12 years after Pope Paul VI closed the sessions of Vatican II... it was a year before the election of Pope John Paul II... when the Rev. Theodore J. Mens assumed the pastorate of All Saints. He was welcomed officially by the parishioners January 18, 1977. (His biography appears elsewhere in this book.)

Aware of Pope Paul VI's admonition to Vatican II Council participants, "bring renovation of the Church which we have been working together," Father Mens followed the standards of Vatican II by adding a Eucharistic chapel in 1980 in a room on the west side of the church, lecterns for commentator and lector in the sanctuary, services of anointing of the sick and baptisms during Mass.

The chapel has been modeled according to Vatican II as a place of meditation and adoration of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. A vigil light flickers at the right side of the chapel altar on which is

a golden tabernacle. There are also in the quiet and impressive chapel prie-dieux (kneeling desks) for private spiritual visits. In it are also two stained glass windows, one donated by Helen Dolezal; the others, by the William Fullan family, and Ellen Ness.

In keeping with the spirit of Vatican II, Father Mens also formed a parish council; and the parish also joined in the ecumenical movement through the North Judson-San Pierre Ministerial Association, of which Father Mens is an active member.

During the pastorate of Father Mens to date, the spiritual growth of All Saints is attested by an average of 8,000 persons (communicants) receiving Holy Communion per year. There were since 1977 to date 57 who received First Holy Communion, 75 were confirmed, 70 were baptized, 24 marriages, and 37 Christian burials. There are some 50 children, including high school students, under instruction for religious education in the CCD program. With the cooperation of Father Mens and the Altar and Rosary Society and the Holy Name Society, the basement of the church in 1978 was transformed into a hall which was named Father Stephan Memorial Hall. It served as a social center, meeting place, a museum, and eventually it will be made into a parish library.

On display in the hall were a chalice used by Father Stephan, a crucifix blessed by him, an ancient book of gospels and epistles in the German language, an old missal, various historic items brought here by



of the SS. Cyril and Methodius Church in North Judson—thus the parent of Catholicity in Starke County became the waif of its younger scion.

In the years that followed, All Saints as a mission of North Judson was administered by the Reverend Fathers: G. Kubacki, P. Kalleck, Joseph Bolka, Felix Serocynski, P. Felden, and Charles Keyser.

In 1913, Father Van Rie ministered at All Saints. He introduced the envelope system of payment of church dues and gave suggestions how the envelopes are to be used. The envelope system is used today. Father Van Rie was succeeded by Father Scholl.

All Saints remained as a mission until 1936, when Father Louis Bozik became a resident pastor. The church at that time had a huge black stove near the sanctuary which provided heat during the winters.

Father Bozik was succeeded in 1938 by Father John Hosinski who also supervised churches in Medaryville and Francesville. Aware of the need of religious training for the youth, Father Hosinski in 1940 secured four Catechists to instruct children. They resided in San Pierre. CCD religion classes are presently conducted with volunteer teachers.

All Saints Church, with the approval of the parishioners and Father Hosinski's cooperation, was brick-veneered, and added to the building was a basement which afforded a meeting place for the parish societies and which became a parish social center. Also added to the church in 1941 were stained glass windows and new stations of the Cross, at a cost of \$12,000 which was paid at the completion of the installation.

Father John, as Father Hosinski was affectionately called, purchased the present rectory but in which he never resided.

Father Walter Pawlicki followed Father Hosinski in 1946. He resided for a while at the convent of Little Company of Mary as chaplain but continued his duties as pastor at All Saints. Father Pawlicki was the first pastor to occupy the rectory. Archbishop John F. Noll spoke to the parish women at a meeting in the rectory.

Father Louis Jeziorski, who succeeded Father Pawlicki in March of 1950, will be recalled as a pastor who was a master homilist and who read the Gospel at services in both the English and Polish languages.

An important milestone in All Saints Church history was reached in 1958—the parish's Centennial. The parishioners joined enthusiastically in the celebration, led by Father Jeziorski who also published a memorable Centennial program book.

The Most Rev. Andrew G. Grutka, D.D., Catholic bishop of the Gary Diocese, which includes Starke County, presided at the Centennial Mass in the church on August 10, 1958, and he was the

keynote speaker at the Centennial banquet held in the parish hall of SS. Cyril and Methodius in North Judson.

Father Pawlicki was the toastmaster at the banquet, and the speakers, besides Bishop Grutka, were Father Jeziorski, Stanley Pieza, religion editor of the Chicago American, and Father Louis Bozik who closed the banquet program with benediction.

Serving on the All Saints Centennial arrangements committee were Harry Stalbaum and Albert Rozhon, co-chairman; Mrs. Paul Spenner, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Paul Glazebrook, James Vendl, Mrs. Mac Gron, Mrs. Leo Schreiber, Benjamin Dolezal, and Mrs. Charles Riccardo.

To memorialize the Centennial, a white statue of Our Lady with the Infant Jesus in her arms was erected by Father Jeziorski and the parishioners. The statue, which stands on the lawn between the church and the rectory, inspires many persons who pause here and silently pray.

On the bronze memorial plaque of the statue of Our Lady are inscribed the following:

— This statue was erected to commemorate the Centennial of All Saints Catholic Church in San Pierre, Starke County, Indiana (1858-1958) in memory of those who made this memorial possible: Becker, F. Dolezal, F. Dusek, Daly, Falvey, Fitzgerald, Hopkins, Fitting, Vessely, Krejca, Sharritt, McLaughlin, Finn, Hernigle, Wojtas, Klek, Wojciechowski, Kobus, Myslinski, Studeny, Dolezal, Keller, Helen Dolezal, Egilske family, Wm. Fullan, Frank Martlink, D. J. Moran, Frank Potempa, J. Remijan Jr. Also in memory of the Deceased Members of the Holy Name Society.

When Father John Daniels in the spring of 1969 succeeded Father Jeziorski, he found All Saints an energetic and well established parish.

An unforgettable event in the parish's history during Father Daniels' pastorate, was the celebration of our nation's Bicentennial on July 4, 1976, when the parishioners assembled at the railroad tracks in San Pierre on which President Abraham Lincoln's funeral train stopped on May 1, 1865. The spot is just east of the San Pierre State Bank.

Father Daniels led in prayers and in a moment of silence in memory of the martyred President. After the ceremonies, a procession led by Boy Scouts bearing flags proceeded to the church where patriotic and religious Bicentennial services were held. The keynote address was given by John Kopchik, 17, of Merrillville, the 1976 honorary graduate of Andrean High School.

A picture of the parishioners assembled at the historic spot where Lincoln's funeral train stopped was featured in the local newspapers, and in the 20th





FIRST HOLY COMMUNICANTS —  
SUNDAY, MAY, 1983

(L.R.) Lana Stalbaum, Jeffrey Jelinek, Marsha Ann Wilson, Sister Jean Stickney, CCD teacher; Father

Theodore J. Mens, pastor; Robert Shidler, Amy Deli, and Troy Kryzanowski.



First Holy Communion class of All Saints Church when Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters taught

catechism in the parish 1957-1958.



## OUR HISTORIC CHURCH— ALL SAINTS

Oxen munching hay while resting at wagons hitched to posts close to an old building... horse-driven carriages parked near the building's entrance...

The men, women and children who arrived in buck-boards and carriages are inside the building on their knees at an improvised altar of staves and old casks, at which a young bearded priest is offering Mass.

This is in 1858 in the village of San Pierre—125 years ago when Chicago was only 25 years old. The aged building, an abandoned cooper shop, is the All Saints Church, the first Catholic house of worship in Indiana's Starke County. The priest is the Rev. Joseph Andrew Stephan, the founder and first pastor of All Saints.

The settlers did not zip to church in automobiles. In the early days it was an arduous achievement to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days for those parishioners who lived far from the church in the old cooper shop. They would leave before sunrise in their straw-filled wagons and carriages—and some on horse-back—and return to their distant farm homes by sunset.

The old cooper shop was located amid oak trees on the hill close to the present home of Mary Ann and Benjamin Dolezal and partly on the present site of All Saints cemetery.

Its interior, with saw dust on the floor, was 16 feet wide and about 24 feet long. Surrounding the altar were 14 seats on each side with a three-foot aisle between them, and each seating five persons.

According to existing records, two seats of one side of the cooper shop church were removed to make room for a box stove, some 30 inches long, 20 inches high, and 14 inches wide, which would become red hot during zero weather for the pious parishioners to worship in comfort.

The sanctuary is described as having little space, about six feet wide; however, adequate for the celebration of Mass and the reception of Holy Communion by the worshipers while kneeling at a cloth-covered altar rail. Since there was no sacristy, the priestly vestments were kept on the side of the altar.

In 1877, Father Stephan engaged a local building contractor to add 12 feet to the rear of the cooper shop, thus increasing the seating capacity.

Old records show that in 1875 the cooper shop All Saints church congregation consisted of the following families: James Brazzill, James Carroll, Matthew Confrey, Patrick Daly, Jeremiah Duggan, Vaclar Dushes, Mr. Wm. Finn, John Finn, Edward Gorman, John Kays, Bernard Koehler, Hugh Roney, Frank Sindelar, Joseph Tierray, Mrs. Wambaugh, Thomas Stephan and Edward Welsh, a total of 108 persons.

There were a number of occasional attendants each Sunday from neighboring missions. Attendance continued to increase due to the influx of Irish, German, Polish, English, Czech and Slovak, French, and immigrants of other nations who were attracted by the large tracts of land in Railroad as well as other townships. Much of the land was surveyed by Father Stephan to interest Catholics to settle in the San Pierre area.

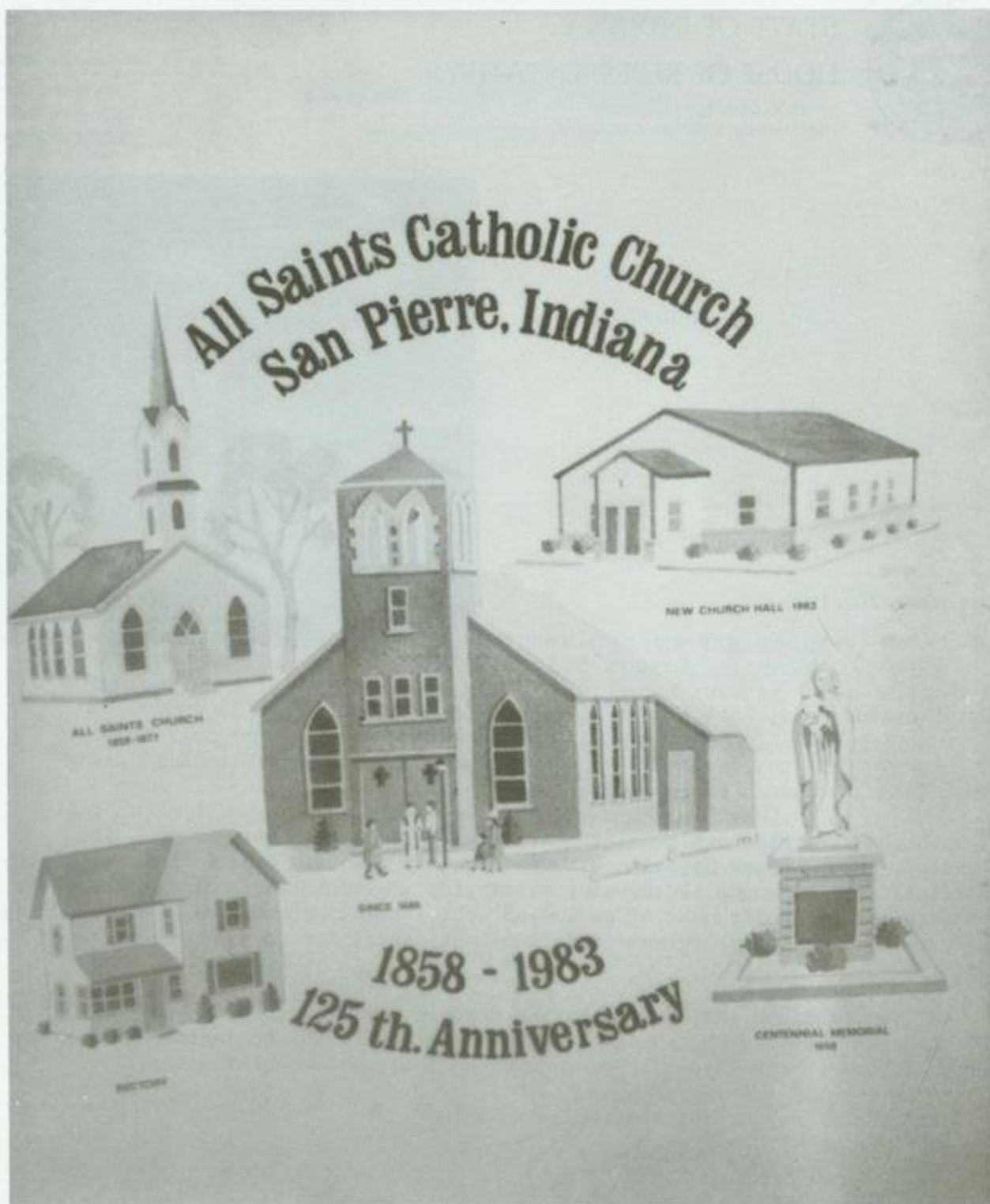
From 1879 until 1885, All Saints Church was in charge of Father Franzen, who succeeded Father Stephan but resided in LaCrosse, and by Franciscan priests who came from Reynolds, Indiana, and from Cincinnati, Ohio.

An energetic priest, Father Dominic Schunk, C.P.P.S., came to San Pierre in 1885, and made his residence in a small cottage near the railroad tracks. He noticed that the village of San Pierre was increasing in population due to the incoming railroads and that the residing Catholics needed a new church.

The present church of All Saints was erected in 1886 by Father Schunk. Its basement foundation is constructed from the stone of an old locomotive turntable that stood on the Monon Railroad tracks in San Pierre. The church was dedicated November 1 of 1886. Prior to the dedication, a choir of six choristers was organized, and an organ was procured. The choristers quickly learned the Latin texts and they sang frequently at Masses, Vespers and Benediction.

In 1888, Father Schunk moved to Wanatah but continued serving as pastor of All Saints until 1895, when he resigned and All Saints then became the filia





A magnificent artistic impression of the past and present churches of All Saints, rectory, new hall, and the outdoor statue of Our Lady. The art work is that

of Emmalean Baumann, an art teacher in the local public school, who also has added artistic beauty to the interior of our church.



STATE OF INDIANA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THIRD FLOOR STATE HOUSE  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

G. EDWARD COOK  
622 REX ST.  
PLYMOUTH, IN 46563

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE  
COUNTY & TOWNSHIP  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER



September 20, 1983

Dear Reverend Mens, Parishioners, and Guests:

Congratulations on the 125th anniversary celebration of the All Saints Roman Catholic Church of San Pierre.

The history of the All Saints Catholic Church speaks for itself. The Reverend Joseph Andrew Stephan patterned the way for this Church by his numerous charitable deeds, among those being setting up a place of worship for the early settlers, being the founder of an Indian school today known as St. Joseph College, and providing immigrant farmers from many nations in Europe a church in which to worship.

As you continue the ways of Father Stephan, let me wish you and the All Saints Roman Catholic Church another 125 years of growth and achievement in our community and we thank you for your numerous invaluable contributions.

Enjoy this day of celebration!

Sincerely,

G. Edward Cook  
State Representative

GEC/bc

DAN QUAYLE  
INDIANA

251 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 224-5623

INDIANAPOLIS OFFICE:  
ROOM 447, 46 EAST OHIO STREET  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204  
(317) 269-5555

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
BUDGET  
LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

October 4, 1983

All Saints Catholic Church  
Father Theodore Mens  
San Pierre, IN 46374

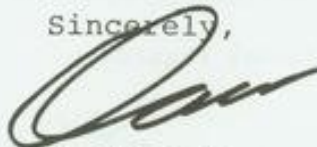
Dear Father Mens:

It is my pleasure to bring greetings to the congregation of the All Saints Catholic Church on this happy day. Congratulations are offered on the celebration of your 125th anniversary. It is an honor to celebrate the anniversary of the first Catholic Church in Starke County, Indiana.

Although previous commitments prevent my participation in the celebration ceremonies, I indeed share your joy on this most blessed occasion. My best wishes go out to all the members of All Saints Catholic Church on this special day.

May God bless you.

Sincerely,



Dan Quayle  
United States Senator

DQ:blt



JOHN P. HILER  
THIRD DISTRICT, INDIANA

COMMITTEES:  
BANKING, FINANCE AND  
URBAN AFFAIRS  
SMALL BUSINESS



WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
316 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-3915

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
RIVER GLEN OFFICE PLAZA  
501 MONROE STREET, ROOM 120  
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA 46601  
(219) 236-6282

# *Congress of the United States*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

September 13, 1983

Rev. Theodore J. Mens, Pastor  
All Saints Catholic Church  
San Pierre, Indiana 46374

Dear Rev. Mens and Parishioners:




Many thanks for the opportunity to share in your 125th anniversary celebration. I know what a proud and historic moment this is for you and all of Starke County.

As a fellow Catholic, I am especially proud of your church's rich heritage of service, concern, and courage. Your founding pastor, Rev. Joseph Andrew Stephan, has given all of us a remarkable example of Christianity in action. His founding of a school, service to the government, and work with American Indians are constant reminders of what each of us, through diligence, love and courage, are capable of achieving for our Lord and society.

May God richly bless each and every one of you on his memorable occasion, and guide you and your families in the months ahead.

With kind personal regards,

Sincerely,

  
JOHN HILER  
Member of Congress

JH/kj

RICHARD G. LUGAR  
INDIANA

SH 306 SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510  
202-224-4814

COMMITTEES:

FOREIGN RELATIONS

AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510



September 14, 1983

Reverend Theodore J. Mens  
All Saints Catholic Church  
San Pierre, Indiana 46374

Dear Pastor Mens:

I am honored to have this opportunity to join all of Indiana in congratulating you and the congregation of All Saints Roman Catholic Church in the celebration of the Church's 125th anniversary.

Through the many years of the Church's existence it has touched and influenced the lives of thousands. The San Pierre community has cause to be proud of the Church's longevity and its accomplishments.

Today, the Christian community salutes All Saints Roman Catholic Church and I am pleased to be among the many who express their gratitude to the Church for the valuable Christian leadership it has provided to Indiana.

Best wishes to All Saints Roman Catholic Church for many years of continued success.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Lugar  
United States Senator

RGL/pgd  
Enclosure

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2797

ROBERT D. ORR  
GOVERNOR

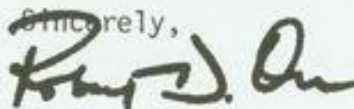
October 3, 1983

Member of All Saints Catholic Church  
c/o Reverend Theodore J. Mens, Pastor  
San Pierre, Indiana 46374

Dear Pastor Mens and Members of All Saints Parish:

Anniversaries are milestones worthy of recognition and celebration. Therefore, as Governor of the State of Indiana, it is my pleasure to recognize and commend you on the occasion of your 125th Anniversary. As the first Catholic parish in Starke County, yours is indeed a historic record of outstanding contributions to the religious and cultural life of our great Hoosier state.

Please accept my most sincere congratulations and best wishes on this joyous occasion in the life of your parish.

Sincerely,  


ROBERT D. ORR  
Governor of Indiana

RDO:m1





Robert D. Orr



## ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints Parish,

As we celebrate the 125th Anniversary of our little Parish, I am reminded of a priest who visited Poland, the native country of his parents. On his return, he remarked: "I went to get strength from my native roots." As we recall and relive the history of our Parish, we gain spiritual strength from knowing that Father Stephan, the Founding Pastor, celebrated Mass for the first time in a humble cooper shop near our present cemetery and that he made San Pierre the home base for his many, strenuous, missionary endeavors. We are proud to hear that Father founded 28 missions and is the actual founding pastor of many of our neighboring parishes and that he started also an Indian school which was to become St. Joseph College in Rensselaer.

As we recall God's many blessings to us over the past 125 years, we are particularly grateful to the providence of God for guiding one of our parishioners, John Tierney, by inviting the Sisters of Little Company of Mary to come here in 1940 and to have them establish a hospital in San Pierre. The hospital was to become one of the finest nursing facilities in the State of Indiana and is a source of employment for many in our community. I have been told that one of the sisters, in fact, put San Pierre on the map. Frustrated, because so many friends and visitors had difficulty finding San Pierre, she prevailed upon Rand McNally to print San Pierre on all their maps. Only at the end of time will we know and appreciate fully how beautifully and effectively the healing love and peace of God was extended to all the residents through the grace-filled ministry of sisters, priests and all the caring personnel of this fine home. Only God knows how many people went home to heaven aided by the warm love and compassionate caring of all who served his people here.

As we dedicate our New Parish Hall today, we continue the example of Father Stephan and John Tierney by establishing roots in San Pierre for another 125 years. The Parish Hall was able to be built only, because we had hard working and persevering volunteers, generous and loyal parishioners and sympathetic benefactors and friends from outside the Parish. They were willing to sacrifice their time, talents, prayers and material gifts in order to share their faith with present and future generations. To them and all our past and present loyal parishioners we owe a debt of gratitude. For them and with them we say a very special prayer today as we celebrate our 125th Anniversary and dedicate our New Hall.

Our Hall is a testimony of our hope for the future. May it long serve to educate our children in the faith, to bring our parishioners together socially, to share joys and sorrows at weddings and funerals and to strengthen Parish and community relationships.

Rooted as we are in faith and history from the time of Abraham, Our Savior, Jesus Christ, and Father Stephan to the present, may this Parish become, more and more, a powerhouse of prayer and service. As we meet Jesus here, time and time again, in the proclamation of the Sacred Scriptures and celebration of the Sacraments in the Liturgy of the Church, may the Holy Spirit motivate us to reach out in faith-inspired service to our own parishioners and all our neighbors. If the Parish is truly alive in the faith, it will promote individual wholeness and growth, foster family unity and peace, establish parish community and build a better civic society and world. May All Saints Parish, then, together with its neighboring churches and all people of good will, be a leaven in the promoting of the Kingdom of God among the family of Man.

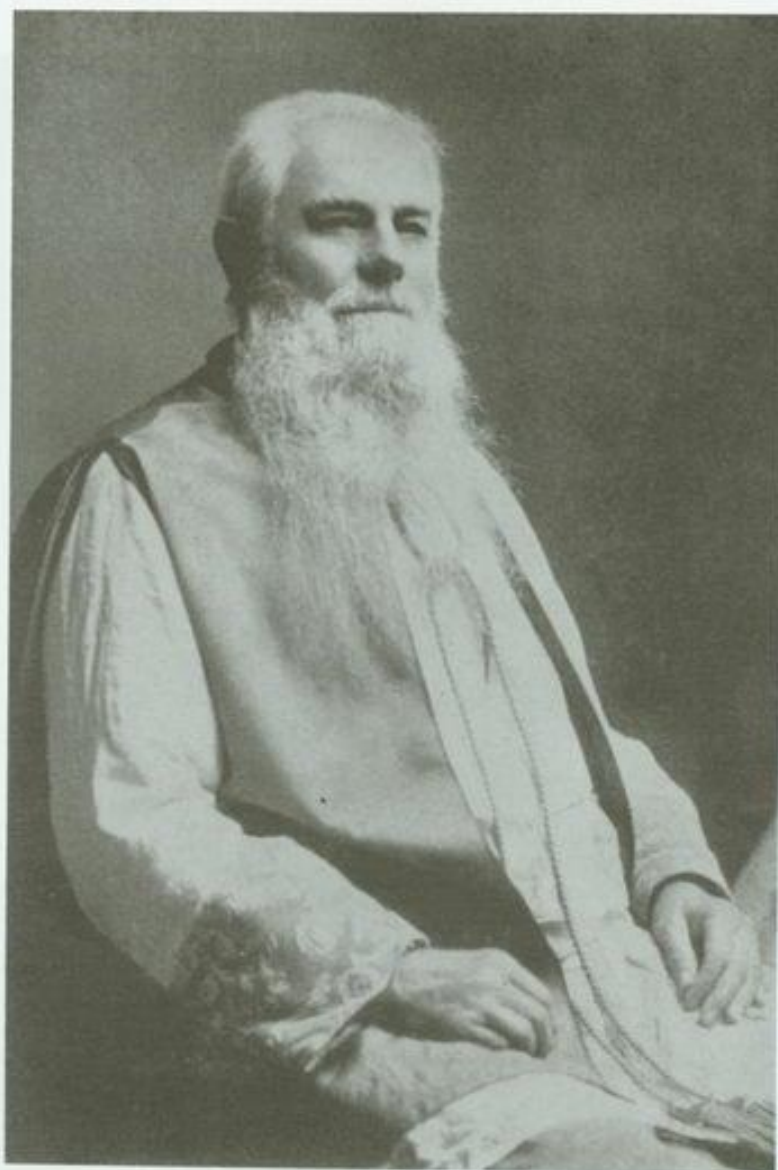
May our celebration give praise to God. May our words of gratitude and joy enliven our faith, strengthen our hope and inflame our love. May this wonderful commemoration give us a renewed and increased sense of identity and mission as a believing people. May the awareness of the common bond of our rich Christian and Catholic tradition give new, Spirit-filled direction and meaning to our lives here on earth on our way to our common destiny, heaven.

Yours in the service and love of Jesus,  
Rev. Theodore J. Mens,  
Pastor



Rev. Theodore J. Mens





**Msgr. Joseph A. Stephan**

Catholic Standard and Times wrote: "Msgr. Stephan was a strikingly handsome man. He looked the soldier priest. His long white beard, erect carriage, manly voice, friendly, genial manner made him loved by all who knew him... His name will be held in memory as one of the bravest and truest friends of the Red Man." He was also a musician and an excellent cook and often gave hints to the women of the Altar and Rosary Society on how to prepare a relishing dish. Often he hunted during the season along the old Potawattomi Indian trails along the

Kankakee river and between San Pierre and Rensselaer.

On his tombstone, located in the convent cemetery of the Blessed Sacrament Sisters at Cornwells, Pennsylvania, is engraved the following epitaph: "May the God he served be his exceeding great reward."

The parishioners and Pastor Father Mens are dedicated to nurturing the seed of faith planted in the San Pierre community by Father Stephan.

—S.P.



## OUR FIRST PASTOR— FATHER STEPHAN

One day in 1856, a tall and lanky priest of about 25 years of age, the Rev. Joseph Andrew Stephan, arrived in San Pierre, on horseback with his priestly vestments in a knapsack slung over the pommel of his saddle. The settlers of the tiny community liked him and he liked them.

Two years later, in 1858, Father Stephan in San Pierre set up a church in an abandoned cooper shop which became All Saints Catholic Church—the first Catholic parish in Indiana's Starke County.

Father Stephan found that northern Indiana was not an agricultural paradise; the natural hazards were enough to try the patience and fortitude of the strongest farmer. Draining marshes was often an even greater problem than clearing timber and plowing new fields. The Kankakee river expanded at times into lakes over some ten mile areas.

To attract immigrants to the northern area of Indiana, Father Stephan surveyed many lands in the Kankakee valley which today are farmed by Catholic and non-Catholic families. He also served as a member of the board of directors of the Indianapolis, Delphi and Chicago Railroad for Jasper County.

Father Stephan is without peer in the missionary period of northwestern Indiana where he served in some 28 missions. He served the Church in the days when priests were ordained to "the title of the missions" as the United States was mission territory until 1908. He became known as "Indiana's Fighting Priest and Apostle of American Indians."

Joseph Andrew Stephan was born on November 22, 1822, at Gissigheim, Baden Duchy, in the archdiocese of Freiburg, Germany. As a young man he entered the German army and studied civil engineering. During his studies he was stricken with blindness for two years. He vowed that upon regaining his eyesight he would become a priest and devote his life to the service of Almighty God.

After completing studies in scholastic philosophy at the University of Freiburg, in 1847 he emigrated to the United States to join his parents who had come to America earlier. He was ordained a priest by Bishop John B. Purcell on March 19, 1850, in Cincinnati, where he completed his theological studies.

Following a priestly service of six years in the archdiocese of Cincinnati, Father Stephan came to

San Pierre, which he made his headquarters and home for many years. His last recorded activity in this community was a letter he wrote on August 29, 1892, to Mother Drexel of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

Meanwhile, in 1857, the diocese of Fort Wayne, Indiana, was established with the Rev. John Henry Luers serving as the first bishop and who played an important role in the life of Father Stephan.

While at San Pierre, Father Stephan carried on his missionary work for the purpose of preserving the Catholic faith of the immigrants who arrived in this area from Germany, Ireland, France, Poland, Bohemia, Slovakia, England, and other countries. He built a wooden church in Medaryville, and offered Mass in private homes in Wheatfield, Kouts, Attica, Kentland, Reynolds, Delphi, LaCrosse, Wanatah, Knox, Francesville, Covington, Lafayette, Oxford, Barrydale, Dehner, Schimmels, Earl Park, Rensselaer, North Judson, and elsewhere.

Concerned about the welfare of American Indians, with the aid of Mother Drexel, Father Stephan established an Indian school at Rensselaer which eventually became St. Joseph's College, today operated by the Society of the Precious Blood.

During the Civil War, Father Stephan served as a chaplain for the Union soldiers by appointment of President Abraham Lincoln, and having an engineer's education, he built pontoons across rivers. Generals Grant and Sherman cited him for his heroic deeds.

Father Stephan with fellow residents reverently passed through the funeral train of the martyred President Lincoln as it stopped momentarily on May 1, 1865, in San Pierre.

After serving as an Indian agent at the Sioux reservation at Standing Rock, Dakota Territory, by appointment of President Rutherford Hayes, Father Stephan, in 1884, was made director of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions in Washington, D.C., where he died in 1901. Before his death he was elevated to a monsignor with the title of Right Reverend, and Pope Leo XIII designated him a protonotary apostolic (honorary prelate). Officiating at his funeral rites were James Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore and Archbishop Patrick John Ryan of Philadelphia.

Describing Father Stephan's personality, the





DIOCESE OF GARY

P.O. BOX M 474  
GARY, INDIANA 46401

September 27, 1983

Reverend Theodore J. Mens  
All Saints Parish  
P. O. Box 56  
San Pierre, Indiana 46374

Dear Father Mens and Parishioners of All Saints Parish:

The commemoration of the One Hundred and Twenty Five Years of uninterrupted Christian faithfulness by the parishioners of All Saints Parish, in San Pierre, should lift their spirits to the highest heights of heaven in profound gratitude to God the Father for the continuing presence of Jesus, His Divine Son, among them and the richness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Through Christ the Lord, All Saints community has been given many wonderful gifts filled with life, goodness and holiness. Its profound appreciation for these blessings should show itself through an expression of the warmest sentiments of respect for all its former priestly shepherds, and all the souls of departed parishioners whose sacrifices in testifying to Christ's dwelling among them make possible this anniversary celebration.

Since 1858, tremendous innovations have taken place affecting the way of community life and the regard for many traditional concepts, but the faith of All Saints Parish keeps glowing unflinching.

May All Saints parishioners, in their jubilation, boldly express the reality of the power of the Holy Spirit, and repel all that which is without hope and destructive to the religious way of life, to civil society and to neighborly togetherness.

May they all be strengthened in their determination to lead a convincing evangelical way of life - full of compassion for the poor, of resistance to every form of violence, and of a deep awe for the sacredness of life.

Their awareness of Christ's presence should aid them in recalling all the forgotten, reviving the things suppressed and restoring abandoned hopes. Their humble acknowledgment of their faults will become an acceptable plea for forgiveness.

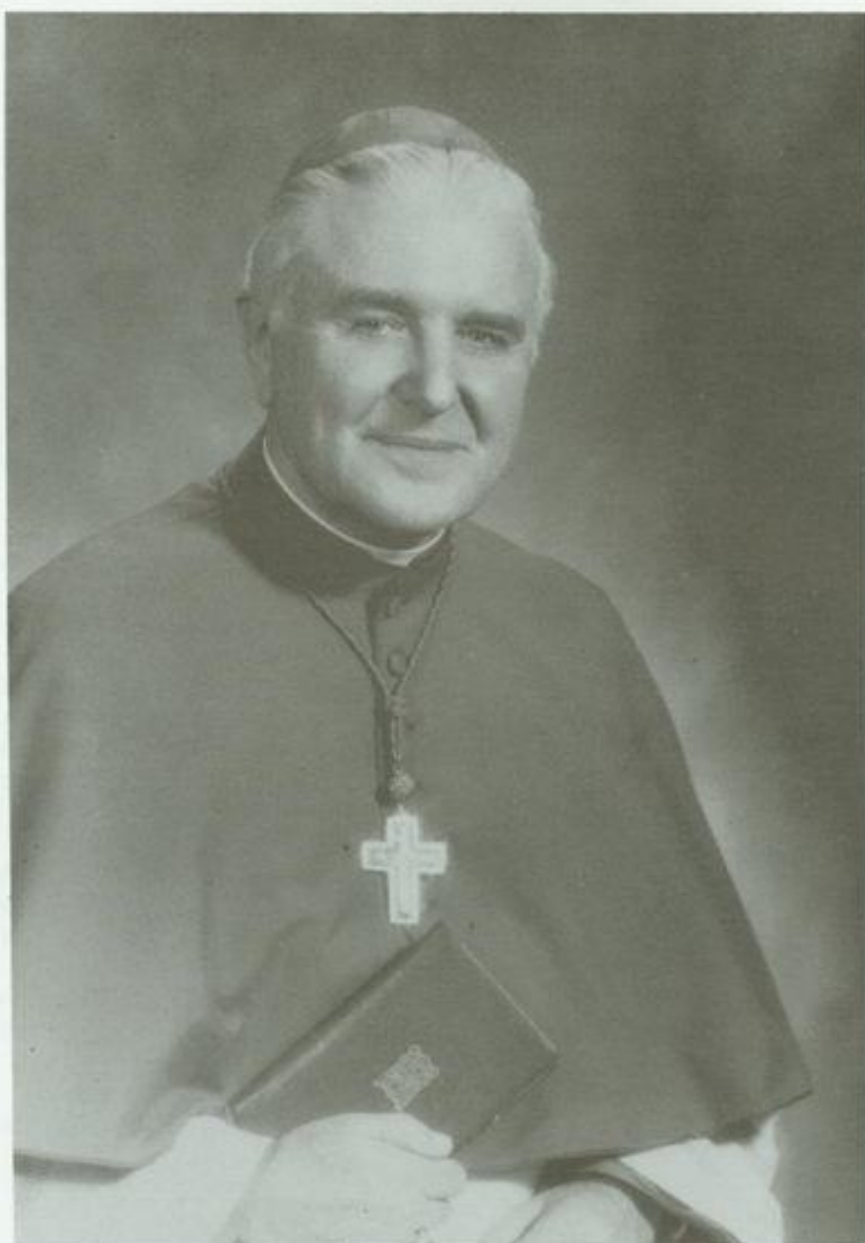
Above all, may the joyful sincerity of this 125th Anniversary celebration explode with a fervor of charity and love to form an immense bright cloud of praise and thanksgiving, rising gently to the throne of God on high and drawing down upon all in San Pierre heaven's choicest blessings.

With prayerful best wishes and a cordial blessing,

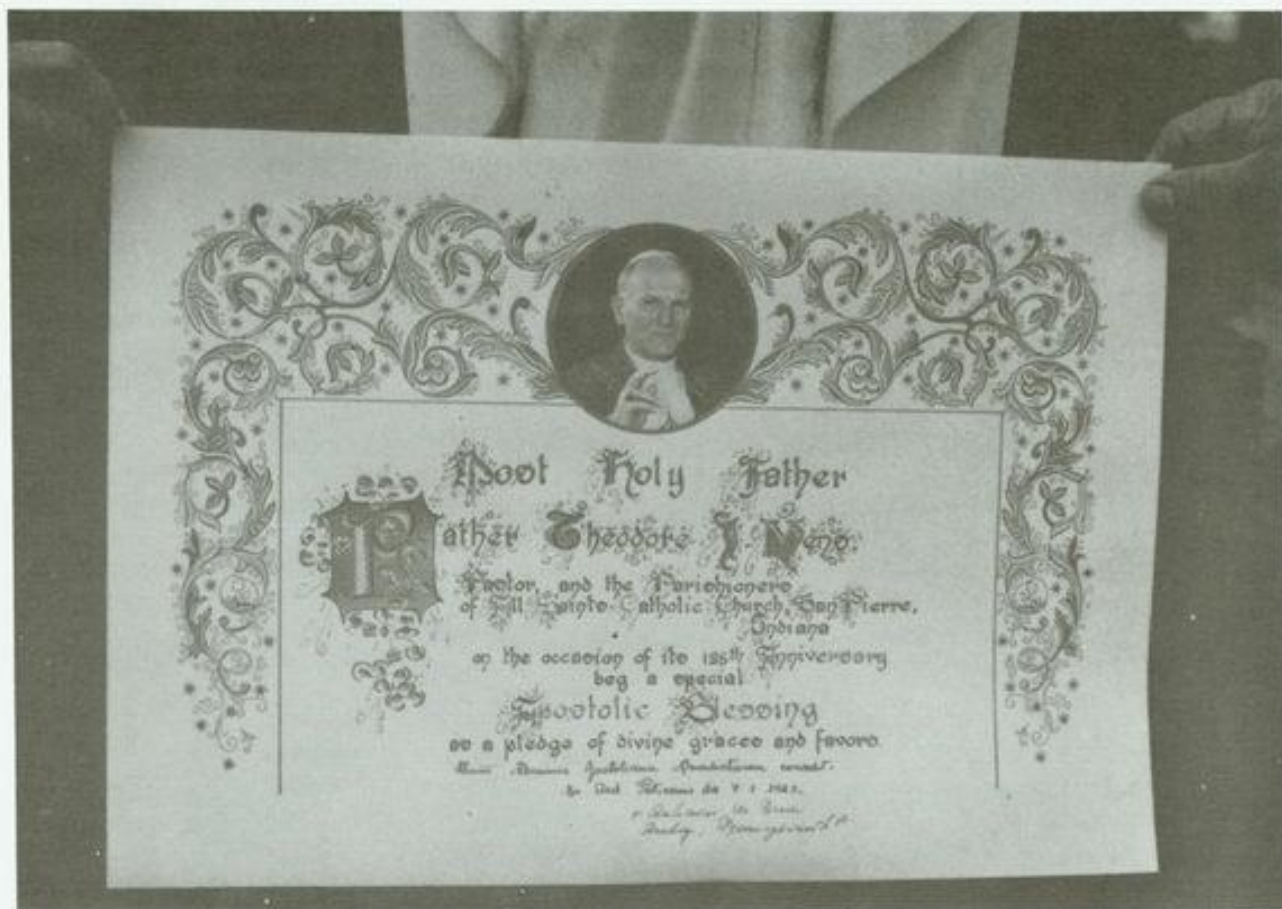
Yours in the Lord,

Bishop Andrew G. Grutka





Bishop Andrew G. Grutka



An Apostolic Blessing from His Holiness Pope John Paul II for Father Theodore J. Mens, pastor, and for All Saints parishioners on the occasion of its 125th anniversary.

Joyfully we praise God for all He has accomplished through All Saints Parish. We unite in prayer and gratitude on this joyful occasion of its 125th anniversary.

**The Sisters Residence and the Staff of the Little Company of Mary Health Facility, San Pierre, Indiana.**





# THE FAITH OF THE PIONEERS KEEPS GLOWING...

125th ANNIVERSARY 1858—1983  
ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH SAN PIERRE, INDIANA



Scene on Eliza Street, passing church built in 1886

125th ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM BOOK

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1983  
WITH SERVICES IN THE CHURCH  
AND JUBILEE BANQUET IN NEW PARISH HALL