MEMBERS OF BELAIRE COVE CHAPEL observed the 50th anniversary of the rural church Saturday with special religious services led by Msgr. Irving A. DeBlanc, P.A., center. Other celebrants gathered at the altar are Msgr. Mike Jarrell, Rev. Mr. Harris Soileau, Father Susai Arul and Msgr. Edward Fruge. (Gazette Photos by Paul kedinger)

SPECIAL GIFT - Msgr. DeBlanc greets Mrs. Aides Soileau, 92, during the anniversary Mass. He also presented the wife of the chairman of the original building committee with a special rosary.

Msgr. DeBlanc praises Chapel's congregation

"It's so wonderful to be back with friends," said Msgr. Irving DeBlanc, as he greeted members of the Belaire Cove Chapel during special 50th anniversary services Saturday afternoon. He termed friends as "God's masterpieces."

"Because you trusted me, you made me a better priest," he continued. "I can never forget you." The principal celebrant of the Mass served as assistant pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church here when the 300-seat wooden chapel was dedicated on March 3, 1940.

Msgr. DeBlanc complemented the rural congregation for its faithfulness and service. He also paused during his homily to present a specially blessed rosary to Mrs. Aides Soileau, 92, the wife of the deceased chairman of the original building committee.

Joining Msgr. DeBlanc in the special services were Msgr. Mike Jarrell, pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Rev. Mr. Harris Soileau, Father Susai Arul, former associate pastor, and Msgr. Edward Fruge, a former pastor.