Bicentennial Ceremony to Be Observed Sunday

Ascension Founding Was 200 Years Ago

By CLAIRE PUNEKY
(T-P Bayou Lafourche Bureau)

DONALDSONVILLE, La. — A bicentennial will be observed here Sunday as the Ascension Catholic Church commemorates a ceremony that took place here 200 years ago to mark the founding of the church parish.

The day's events will begin at 11 a.m. Mass in the historic cathedral-like edifice at which the Most Rev. Robert E. Tracy, Bishop of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, will be principal celebrant.

Concelebrants will be the Very Rev. James Kinkead, pastor of the church, and the Rev. David Vavasseur, associate pastor. The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Edwin J. Gubler, former pastor here, will deliver the homily.

FOLLOW MASS

Dedication of an historic marker on the church grounds will immediately follow the Mass. The marker is to be presented by Harnett Kane, author and chairman of the Louisiana Tourist Commission's Historical Marker Committee.

Bishop Tracy will unveil the marker and accept it for the church parish and the diocese.

Benjamin C. Vega Jr., chairman of the bicentennial committee, will be master of ceremonies for the dedication and will present guests.

Greetings from Ascension Church will be extended by Father Kinkead, Mayor Lawrence Regira of Donaldsonville will bring greetings from that city which this year observes the 150th anniversary of its re-incorporation.

CHOIR TO SING

A brass choir composed of Willie Baker, Frank Hardeman, Lowell Hebert and Bruce Breaux will sing two hymns at the dedication.

Sunday night at 7:30 there will be judging of bicentennial beards and dresses at the Ascension Catholic High School gym and awards will be presented. Vincent Sotile will be master of ceremonies.

Mrs. Wade Caballero, president of the city's sesquicentennial celebration, will introduce the dress contest judges. They are Mrs. Bobbie MCFatter, clothing specialist, Louisiana State University Cooperative Extension Service; Miss Palma Munson, director, Louisiana Tourist Commission, and Mrs. Marian H. Jernigan, assistant professor, LSU Home Economics Department.

Beard judges will be Mrs. Dee Henderson, director of Holly Hill Finishing & Modeling School, Prairieville; Miss Pat McCrory, East Side Chairman, Miss Ascension Beauty Pageant, and Frank Cagnolatti, first place winner in Jambalaya Festival beard contest.

Participants in the program will include Father Kinkead, Sister Joelle Mauer, S.C.S.C.; the Donaldsonville Music Club; Ascension Church Choir; Brian Hirsch, Stacie Arcement, Chris Guillot, Kelly Suite, Billy Guillot, Melissa Guillot, Corey Arcement, Yvette Esneault, Misses Dee Dee and Janie Breaux.