**Blessing The Shrimp Fleet, A Colorful Louisiana Ceremony**

**Rites Date Back To Days When Venice Was Queen Of All TheKnown Seas**

Putting out this week from the Little Colleen and Bayou Bertha, outlined in the 1934 listers of Louisiana’s shrimp fleet, blessed Tuesday its impressive ceremony at Chauvin, south of Bertha, during nine which are gone off.

The ceremony which was conducted at the Church of the Sacred Heart in Bayou Bertha, began early Tuesday morning and was concluded after eleven high mass and the blessing of the various ships marked for the ocean. The ocean is 25 yards from the little white edifice.

Chauvin is the center of the shrimp industry. It is located in Terrebonne Parish. Most of the shrimp kills are of landlocked stocks have been associated with the industry for generations. Each year, early in June, the fleet is blessed. Some boats out of the Gulf of Mexico, seven miles by air, but 20 miles by Bayou Bertha, to stay for months.

The fleet begins, scratches 46 miles from shore, in a counter-clockwise to the west and setting up towards where the two rivers meets, often to another seven hours. None the less, the wind was weak the fleet was checked by a couple “Pray for us.”

This ship was radioed during the procession from the church to the bayou edge. It started, successful, but some privates, led by Father Charles Boevarite, and accompanied by Fisher folk, walked to the river edge. They were present to rite a rite to the river, so that, in a ceremony dating back to Venice when Blessing put on in the Adriatic Sea, the response is always, “Pray for us.”

Tuesday celebrations gathered early. They went to con- fusion, attended mass and then after Father Boevarite had cast his net over the cross of each craft, priests began to pull-out and cast away for some 10 months west the shrimp fleet.

About 10 months of the year in the shrimp season. The season begins officially August 15. Most of the largest may still be alone, but men living aboard, shrimp are netted and returned by special boats until the ship. From Chauvin and other sections they are either the east or sent fresh to the New Orleans and other markets.

The ceremony Tuesday was filled by three more ceremony for decades in the wars years.

According to John Chauvin, president of the shrimp boat association, and B. F. Pearsall, a veteran of some 40 years in shrimping, this year’s fleet is the largest in a decade.

**Procession Moves from Church to Shrimp Fleet**

**Sacred Heart Church, Shrine of Fishermen**

**Headed Down the Bayou After the Blessing**