N.O. Archbishop to Officiate

St. Andrew's Parish Birth Dates Back 123 Years

Church, Rectory Named After Builder

AMELIA, La. — Archbishop Philip M. Hannan of New Orleans will officiate at the formal dedication of the St. Andrew Church and Rectory Sunday, Nov. 20, at 3 p.m., according to Rev. Fr. Adrian J. Caillouet, pastor. Chaplains to His Excellency will be Rev. Fr. Leon Cauf, pastor, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and Rev. Fr. Gerald Barrett, pastor, Holy Cross Catholic Church, both of Morgan City. The Very Rev. Roy J. Champagne, dean of the Kenner - Riverlands Deanery, Jefferson Parish, will give the sermon.

The Parish of St. Andrew, Amelia, was officially established in January, 1965, under the administration of Archbishop John P. Cody. Caillouet said Friday there are 400 families in his parish, an area covering some 88 square miles and including Gibson, the Bayou Black area and the outskirts of Donner. The church property covers a tract of some 7 1/4 acres.

The dedication of St. Andrew Church Sunday comes 123 years after the first chapel was built in the Bayou Boeuf community, which was settled in the 1840s. There were enough Catholic families to warrant a chapel and the establishment of a parish in 1843.

The parish, called Chacahoula, was formed by Bishop Antoine Blanc of New Orleans who visited Bayou Boeuf in a skiff in 1844, rowed from Bercy.

The first pastor was a Fr. Perraud and Braheur (Morgan City) became a mission of Chacahoula, with the town's first Catholic Church, a house converted into a chapel, dedicated in January, 1859.

This was the forerunner of the Catholic development in Morgan City, with a second church blessed as St. Clotilde in 1868. This church was designated a parish by Archbishop Perche in June, 1870, with Bayou Boeuf as its mission. After the 1882 flood, the church was enlarged and renamed Sacred Heart of Jesus on Aug. 15, 1885.

Fr. Andrew Souby was the fifth resident priest of the Sacred Heart Parish. He found the church property in "disgraceful disrepair" on his arrival June 24, 1886. The church had been hit by a violent storm in 1888 and was still held together by hog-chains, according to a story researched and written for the Morgan City newspaper in 1960 by Mrs. Leila Lehmann.

Souby is remembered for his part in constructing a new Sacred Heart Church, which took a quarter of a century and was dedicated in September, 1924, and still serves the Sacred Heart parish. During this time, and until his death in 1938, he served the Bayou Boeuf mission at Amelia, which bore his name even then, by horseback, boat and train until the arrival of modern transportation.