City Hall dedication mark of civic pride

Culminating seven years of determined effort and community need, on Saturday, Apr. 19, Church Point officials were joined by the entire community and many other area leaders in the Blessing and Dedication of the new Church Point City Hall, with Mayor Harold Beaug as Master of Ceremonies for the 10:30 a.m. program.

Mayor Beaug recounted the seven years involved in bringing about completion of the fine new facility, paying full credit to past and present members of the City Council for their continued support and voicing Church Point's special thanks to Senator Cecil Picard, Representative Dale Sittig, both present to share in the Dedication, as well as the Louisiana Legislature for final action in March, 1985, when bonds were sold in the amount of $240,000 to provide the necessary funding for the City Hall.

After opening remarks, Mayor Beaug called on Fr. Gene Tremie, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, for the Blessing of the building, Rev. Ricki Pavlu, First Pentacostal Church, and Rev. Alan Rust, First Baptist Chrch, who gave Scripture readings and prayers.

At this point, the American Flag was presented by Gordon Daigle, president of the WOW Camp 444 to Mayor Beaug, who, in turn, presented the Flag to American Legion Post 225 Commander Jay Collins. The Louisiana Flag was next presented and, as the assembly sang the National Anthem, Commander Collins and Legionnaire Nolton Wilks officiated in the solemn Flag raising, the emblems flying from the two splendid steel standards on the front grounds of the City Hall. Completing the Flag displays, Mayor Beaug showed a design of a proposed Town of Church Point Flag, which, when approved and completed, will be flown below the Louisiana Flag.

Brief congratulatory messages by Rep. Sittig and Sen. Picard received special response and thanks for their contributions, both leaders pointing to the new City Hall as evidence of what can be accomplished by state and local agencies working together. Both commented on the City Hall architecture as a “beautiful design of our own Acadian culture.”

Mayor Beaug invited Picard and Sittig to join the Council members and other leaders in the official Dedication and ribbon cutting, Council members including Reivers Faul, Mayor Pro Tem; Robert Thibodeaux, James Duplechine, Percy Venable and Sylvia Sims, along with City Clerk Shirley Kadeer and other municipal and parish officials.

In a final portion of the outdoor ceremony, Fr. Tremie made the presentation of a handsome Holy Bible, giving an appropriate message, before placing the Bible in the foyer and office area of the new City Hall, where it will have a permanent place for the public in the future. Following a blessing of the building interior, everyone was invited to tour the new City Hall and enjoy coffee and refreshments.

Mayor Beaug complimented the architects, Corne, Sellers and Associates of Kaplan, for their interpretation of the “idea” offered by the Church Point officials, a structure in keeping with the Acadiana community — a building which expresses “Bienvenue” — “Come In” — and his comments were echoed on every hand by the many proud Church Point citizens and guests from throughout the area, who, along with Acadia Parish officials, expressed many congratulations on the new City Hall.

In the Council Chambers, pictures of all the former Church Point mayors and Mayor Harold Beaug are of great historic significance, only a part of the many other points of interest and attractive and functional design and furnishings — truly a municipal building which will grow in value and community service with the passing of the years — an asset of which Church Point has every reason for great pride!

And providing another lasting touch of the background of “Pointe d’Eglise”, official posters for Church Point’s Buggy Festivals are a part of the City Hall interior decor. Adding much to the tradition and color of the City Hall Dedication, Teasey Cary, chairperson, the King of the Buggy Festival, Leo Comeaux, and Lucille McBride, reigning Cajun Queen, and the delightful Cajun ladies in their colorful costumes and their “Garde Soleil” bonnets were on hand to add to the welcome and “Acadian” look for the occasion.