HISTORIC CHURCH
HAS CEREMONY
By CLAIRE PUNKEY
(T-P Boscar Lafourche Bureau)
DONALDSONVILLE, La.
Two centuries of service to God in the Catholic church parish of
Ascension were commemorated here Sunday in ceremonies that
began with a noon thanksgiving
mass. 8-14-12 column 4
Four bishops were among
concelebrants of the mass in the
historic church, with Bishop
Robert Tracy of the Diocese of
Baton Rouge as principal celeb-
brant.
The bishop concelebrants
were, Bishop Maurice Schex-
nayder, Diocese of Lafayette,
Auxiliary Bishop Abel Caillouet,
of the Archdiocese of New
Orleans, and Bishop Joseph Vath
of the Diocese of Birmingham,
 Ala., a former assistant pastor
here.
The three former pastors of
Ascension Catholic Church were
among the many concelebrants
of the mass. These were Msgr.
R. C. Labit, Houma; Msgr. E.
J. Glubler, Belle Rose; and the
Rev. Leo Guilott, Port Allen.
The Rev. James Kincaid, the
present pastor, was a partici-
pant in the ceremony.
The church parish was founded
Aug. 15, 1772, the Catholic
feast of the Assumption by Fath-
er Angel de Revillagodos, a
Spanish Capuchin. Most parish-
iners were Acadians who had
been dispossessed of their Nova
Scotian homeland.

YEAR DIVIDED
The year of celebration was
divided into two parts, with the
initial mass and dedication of a
marker in May commemorating
the feast of the Ascension.
The closing event of the ob-
servance came Sunday with the
second mass, a reception, and a
dinner for members of the clergy.
Garb of the 1772 period and
modern dress mingled at the
mass as at which Bishop Tra-
cey called for a "spiritual
renewal so that we can devote
ourselves to projecting the pres-
ence of Christ in the life situa-
tion in which we find our-
selves."

SIDE EVENTS
There were many side events
Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Louis L.
LeBlanc, believed to be the liv-
ing couple with the oldest mar-
rriage record, 62 years, had
seats of honor in the church and
had a family reunion during the
day.
Members of the Lassard fam-
ily were in attendance.
This family once owned much
of what is now Donaldsonville.
Among them were two great-
granddaughters of Mrs. Mar-
guerite Allain who sold the land
on which Donaldsonville was
founded to William Donaldson.
These great granddaughters
attended the celebration as
guests were Mrs. Frank Douglas
and Mrs. John Parker, both of
Metarie.
As the celebration of the
church's 200 years came to a
close, the week-long observance
of the 150th anniversary was
getting ready for its start Mon-
day, a celebration that will con-
tinue through the week.