Historic Silver Jubilee Celebrated
At Church Of Assumption In Mire

Marking the Silver Jubilee of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church Parish in Mire, celebration of this quarter of a century anniversary was held with memorable ceremonies last Saturday afternoon, when Bishop Gerard Frey was the honored visitor and principal celebrant of the Mass of Thanksgiving at 4 p.m.

Former pastors who had served Church of the Assumption joined the many present and former parishioners in celebrating this joyous occasion which commemorated the work and devotion of the community in establishing the church Parish as a vibrant and beautiful evidence of honor to God.

The ceremonies opened with a magnificent procession into the Church, where Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus from the Bishop Dubourg Assembly, in full dress uniform with drawn sabres served as Honor Guard along the main aisle to the altar.

"For You Are My God" was the opening hymn, with the Choir of the Church, directed by Paul Champagne who is also the church organist, leading in this and the other beautiful music of the Mass.

Rev. Henri-Paul Chaisson, pastor, served as Master of Ceremonies, with Rev. Donald Hebert, native priest of Assumption Parish, as the Homilist. Crossbearer was Stewart Venable, with Chad Pellerin and Robert Richard as altar servers, and Samuel Babineaux as incense bearer. Ushers included Walter Cahanin, Leonard Comeaux, Howard Lantier and Leonard Prejean, Sr.

Lectors during the Mass were Keith Cahain and Judy McOrrey, and at the Offertory, Mrs. Sully Babineaux, accompanied by her son, Ray Babineaux, and other members of the Babineaux family brought the gifts to the altar.

Among the former pastors and other members of the clergy in the entrance processions were Rev. Louis Bertrand, pastor from 1932 to 1954, during the Mission years in the community, Rev. Edgar Bissonnette who was the first pastor of the newly formed Parish, coming in 1954 and remaining until 1965, Father Raphael Gauthier, pastor from 1965 to 1973, Father Angus Beaton, C.J.M., pastor from 1975 until October of this year, when he became pastor at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Mermentau, Father Aurele Godbout, C.J.M., Associate Director of Family Life and organizer of Les Amis de la Famille, in residence at the Rectory of the Church, Father Jean-Fidele Paradis, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Church Point.

The readings, the Homily by Father Hebert, son of Louis Hebert and Leader Mire Hebert, and a native priest of Assumption Parish, and the beautiful program contributed by Bishop Frey, all centered around the theme of Christ and what can be accomplished in God's name by the love and brotherhood of His people. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians gave the word which is just as applicable today as it was when this Biblical message was recorded so many centuries ago: "Everyone doing the building must work carefully. For the foundation, nobody can lay any other than the one which has already been laid, that is Jesus Christ. On this foundation you can build in gold, silver and jewels, or in wood, grass and straw, but whatever the material, the work of each builder is going to be clearly revealed when the day comes. If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred, and you are that Temple."

In the general Intercessions, Bishop Frey added this significant prayer: "Father, we pray that you will hear the prayers of your children on this special day. Continue to bless us with Your grace and Your guidance."

At the Offertory, as the choir sang "Lay Your Hands", gifts were brought to the Altar by Mrs. Sully Babineaux, member of one of the early families who helped found the church, and others of the Babineaux family. In the symbolic procession, brought to the Altar were the Parish Ledger as a symbol of the loving and generous sacrifices made by all the people of the parish; a burning candle, symbol of faith of the people of the parish which has been passed on from generation to generation; the records of the Parish Council, symbol of responsibility shared by all members of the parish family; an altar linen, symbol of the work of the Altar Society; a Rosary, symbol of the foundation of the parish ministry; a religion textbook, symbol of the children's training; a song book, symbol of the Choir; a banner, symbol of the work of the Worship Committee; rice and soybeans, symbols of the fruit of the earth; the Water, Wine and Altar Bread.

Following the final Benediction by Bishop Frey, the Choir led in singing "Avec les Saints Anges" to conclude the historic Mass and beautiful ceremonies.

Following the Mass, everyone was invited to the Parish Hall where the Silver Jubilee events were concluded with a greatly enjoyed reception.

In the Church and in the Parish Hall for the reception, exquisite arrangements of white gladioli, mums and greenery were used, ornamented with bows of silver ribbon in keeping with the 25th anniversary program.

For the reception, a central table was set against the background of a banner which read "Faith Builds Community", with a replica of the first church titled "Then", and the present brick structure titled "Now". The table was overlaid with white linen coverlet and floor length ruffle in embroidered white linen. Centering the table was a four-tiered anniversary cake, set into a base of greenery, with the top two tiers supported by white columns, and the silver number "25" used on the first tier. Topping the confection was a magnificent Silver Cross surrounded by white confection roses.

Bishop Frey was accorded the honor of cutting the cake as Father Beaton, Father Godbout, Father Chaisson and Father Hebert stood by to assist. Following this ceremony, Cara Paul assumed the service of this delicacy.

Still another long U-shaped service table provided a choice of many delicacies, sandwiches, sausage bits, and Swedish meatballs in heated service dishes, dips, chips, breads, and other wonderful foods, with ladies of the Church in charge of this service.

The reception provided a wonderful opportunity for many former parishioners and members of early families of the Church to return "home" and renew the ties of Christian friendship which prevailed throughout the Mass and reception, with Bishop Frey being the center of much visitation as he enjoyed the celebration thoroughly.

As a treasured part of the Silver Jubilee plans, a handsome booklet was designed and compiled as a special keepsake of the occasion, with much of the history written by Joyce Cormier with research done by Charlene Castille. Joe Besse assisted as photographer, with Ronald Mire as typesetter, Donald Mire as printer, and Jeff Cormier and Leslie Leger as artists.

Chairpersons for the Anniversary were Joyce Cormier and Thelma Martin, with a large and dedicated committee of co-workers assisting them. All organizations of the Church also gave full cooperation, and the Silver Jubilee was one which will be remembered always as the result of a Church "family" working together.