Monsignor Martin celebrates 50th

By CHERYL PAPA
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DUSON — Monsignor Ignatius Martin, pastor of St. Theresa Parish here, celebrated on Friday the 50th anniversary of his ordination with a special mass and reception.

Martin, a New Iberia native, was ordained on June 7, 1941, at St. John Cathedral in Lafayette.

"My heart is so full today," Martin said at the mass, which was held at St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Church in Duson.

He said anything he has achieved is because God saw him through.

"My deepest and most conscious feeling today is that God pulled me through," he said.

Bishop Harry Flynn gave the homily, saying that Martin has touched the lives of all types of people, including those that needed courage, those that needed support, and those that had a "heavy heart."

"Tonight my dear Monsignor, I thank you and we all thank you," Flynn said.

He said one of his most satisfying experiences was his involvement with the building of Vermilion Catholic High School in Abbeville.

Martin spoke fondly of the school's opening, referring to it as the time of "Camelot," partly because the school put on a production of "Camelot," and partly because the time was so special.

During part of the time that he served as superintendent, Martin also served as pastor of St. Mary Magdalen Church in Abbeville.

Martin has served in other pastoral assignments, and also has served in many other capacities, including the Diocesan director of radio and television and Diocesan director of the Propagation of the Faith. He has also been serving as a member of the Council of Priests.

We have so much tonight for which to be grateful," said Flynn.

Martin said in an interview prior to the Mass that he has enjoyed his priesthood, although he has experienced some "tough times."

One of the many positions that Martin has held was that of Diocesan superintendent of Catholic Schools from Feb. 26, 1947 to June 1, 1967.

The Rev. Ignatius Martin gives communion to his parishioners at the St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Church in Duson on Friday. A special Mass was conducted for the 50th anniversary of Martin's ordination.