Re-dedication of
Our Lady Of The
Sacred Heart
Church
& Investiture of
Monsignor Frederick
Otto Swenson
Sunday, November 21, 1999

Reverend
Monsignor
Frederick Otto
Swenson

Reverend
Bishop
Edward
O'Donnell

A Supplement to The Church Point News
Wednesday, November 17, 1999
Parishioners of
Our Lady of the Sacred
Heart Church
and
St. John’s Chapel
are invited to attend
the Rededication of Our
Lady of the Sacred Heart
Church and the Investiture
of
Reverend Monsignor
Frederick Otto Swenson
Sunday, November 21, 1999
Feast of Christ the King at
the 10:00 a.m. Mass
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, in remembrance of those first settlers and Jesuits of Church Point who brought with them their great love and devotion to the Catholic Church, their descendants, succeeding them, have kept Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church viable for longer than this century for God, family and community. As the Jesuits brought the message of God to those first settlers, we are blessed to have those that devote their life to bring God's message to present generations, and

WHEREAS, Reverend Monsignor Frederick Otto Swenson, V.E., has served Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church parish as pastor since June, 1997. He has accomplished much in his short tenure as pastor. He has shown his dedication to this parish through the repair and renovation of the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, as well as, the spiritual and physical well-being of the church parish and the community in general. During his 32 years as a priest of the Roman Catholic Church, he served in several capacities in church parishes and at the Diocesan level in the Diocese of Lafayette. He serves as a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem, spiritual director and education leader of several Catholic educational institutions including Immaculata Seminary, Notre Dame High School, St. Michael Elementary School, and Our Mother of Peace Elementary and Episcopal Vicar for the Western Region of the Diocese of Lafayette which encompasses the civil parishes of Acadia and Vermilion, and

WHEREAS, his greatest contribution to the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church is the recognition he has brought by his elevation to the rank of Prelate of Honor to His Holiness with the title of Reverend Monsignor by His Holiness John Paul II upon the recommendation of the Most Reverend Edward O'Donnell, Bishop of Lafayette, and

WHEREAS, It is befitting that the rededication of the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church coincide with the prestigious honor bestowed on Reverend Monsignor Swenson at a celebratory mass.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Roger Boudreaux, Mayor of the Town of Church Point do hereby proclaim Sunday, November 21, 1999 as "REVEREND MONSIGNOR FREDERICK OTTO SWENSON, V.E., DAY"

Mayor Roger Boudreaux

In Witness Whereof, I affixed this 12th day of November, 1999, hand and caused the great seal of the Town of Church Point, Louisiana to be affixed.
A message from the pastor of O. L. S. H. parishioners

Forty-five years ago this month, construction on Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church was completed. In his message on the day of dedication, Msgr. C.A. Bienvenu, pastor, wrote the following:

"For God's service we now have a great church, but you my dear parishioners, a strong people, a self-sacrificing people, a generous people have made it possible. You toiled and you sacrificed and you gave generously from the blessings that God bestowed upon you. With a willing and cooperative spirit, you joined with your pastor and with your fellow parishioners to bring to reality the dreams of your own and the dreams of your forefathers. God looked down and was pleased, and He made this project prosper. So at this season of Thanksgiving, we render humble thanks to a God of love and goodness."

Those words written forty-five years ago still ring true today. As we gather to give thanks to God and rededicate our Church and ourselves to Him and His will, we do so aware that we also will walk into the new millennium hand in hand as God's holy people and pass on to future generations the Faith that has nourished and sustained us for the past two thousand years.

I look forward to making this journey to the Father with you well into the new millennium, God willing. And may the Lord's choicest blessing be on us now and forever.

Msgr. Frederick Otto Swenson, Pastor of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church since June of 1997

Monsignor Fred
Your smile and sense of humor are contagious...
Thanks for being here!
Lee & Brenda Olivier & Family

Congratulations to Monsignor Fred and the rededication of Our Lady of Sacred Heart Church
Paul Bourdier Architect

"Monsignor Fred"
Thank you for a Blessed job on our church and community.
Izetta Bearb

Congratulations on the Re-dedication of OLSH Church.
We were happy to be a part of the renovation!

UNITED SCAFFOLDING, INC.
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(225) 774-1480
Parishioners of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church and St. John Chapel in Lewisburg welcomed the arrival of a new pastor, Father Frederick Otto Swenson in June of 1997. Since his arrival here he has contributed to the spiritual and physical well-being of the church parish and the community in general.

Two years have passed since Father Swenson arrived in Church Point and many improvements have been made to the church and its facilities and his presence has also been felt in the community.

On Sunday, November 21, 1999 the investiture of Msgr. Swenson will take place at the 10 a.m. mass. He was named Prelate of Honor to His Holiness, John Paul II, (Monsignor) June 21, 1999.

This is the first investiture of a monsignor to take place in the church parish.

Before being named a monsignor, another honor was bestowed on Msgr. Swenson. In June of 1999 he was named Episcopal Vicar, for the Western Region for the Diocese of Lafayette, civil parishes of Acadia and Vermilion.

The late Msgr. C. A. Bienvenu, under whose pastorship the church was built, received his title in ceremonies held in St. John Cathedral in Lafayette.

Along with the investiture will be the rededication of the church which was dedicated in November of 1954.

A native of Eunice, Msgr. Swenson was born August 3, 1940 in Eunice to the late Otto Adolph and Hilda Bordelon Swenson. He was ordained to the priesthood June 3, 1967 by Bishop Maurice Schexnayder in the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Lafayette, La.

He attended Martel Memorial Elementary in Eunice, Immaculata Seminary in Lafayette, St. Joseph Seminary in St. Benedict, Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans where he completed college courses with a bachelor of arts degree in History. He then attended the American College, University of Louvain, Belgium and St. Mary's Seminary in Houston.

Msgr. Swenson received CPE Training at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Lafayette for certification as Hospital Chaplain, received his certification as Substance Abuse Counselor, and is a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem.

The new monsignor has two sisters, Susan Massengale whose husband is Walter Massengale and Patricia C. Hebert whose husband is deceased. Nephews are Michael and Daniel Massengale and Michael Hebert and a niece, Deborah Henderson, two great nieces, Jennifer Hebert and Erica Larsen and a great nephew, Shaun.
Rededication, investiture set

Ceremonies for the investiture of Msgr. Frederick Otto Swenson, pastor of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, and rededication of the church will take place on Sunday, November 21, 1999, Feast of Christ the King at the 10 a.m. Mass.

The rededication of the church also marks the 45th anniversary of the dedication of the church which took place in November of 1954. In 1979, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the new church, the church was rededicated and consecrated by the pastor, the late Father Joseph Woerdemann.

Bishop Edward O'Donnell, Bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette, will celebrate the mass with Msgr. Swenson co-celebrating. Homelist will be Msgr. Lorroque. Masters of ceremonies will be Fr. Mitch Guidry and Fr. Cedric Sonnier.

The OLSH church choir, under the direction of choir director, Glen Faul, will render the vocals. Organists will be Cecile Johnson and Alberta Lyons.

Heading the planning committee as chairman and co-chairman for the event are Katherine and Francis Moutte. On the committee are Virgie Courville, Darlene Guidry, Eldine Guilbeau, Linda Boudreaux, Fr. Mitch Guidry, Fr. Cedric Sonnier, Jim Cormier and John K. Lejeune.

OLD CHURCH - In the spring of 1885, "l'Eglise du Sacre Coeur de Marie," was completed. The dedication was on Sunday, April 21, 1885 under the pastorship of Fr. Eby.

COMPLETED IN 1954 - Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, shortly after completion in 1954 under the pastorship of Msgr. C.A. Bienvenu. Dedication took place in November of 1954.

Congratulations
Monsignor Swenson
on your honor
and on the re-dedication
of the Our Lady of
Sacred Heart Church.

We appreciate
the business!

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and Sheet Metal, Inc.
4911 I-10 Frontage Road
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(225) 344-3660

Monsignor
Fred Swenson

We salute you
on your special
promotion and your
dedication
to the beautification
of Our Lady of Sacred Heart
Church and our community!

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INTERIOR RENOVATION BEGINS - In January of 1999, after completion of the exterior work on Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, work began on the interior. On the left, is a photo of the scaffolds, which marked the beginning of the interior renovations. On the right, is a photo of completion of one wall of the church. Stations of the cross and statues were removed from the wall and cleaned.

Parish council and committee

As the re-dedication of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church this Sunday, November 21, 1999, George Brouillette serves as Parish Council President.

The council meets once a month at the OLSH Rectory.

Serving as members of the council with Brouillette are: Julie Arceneaux, Glenn Bourgeois, Wade Delahousaye, Kathleen Domingue, Theo Domingue, Carroll Doucet, Sylvia Doucet, John Kelly Lejeune, Robert Nelams and Glen Winn.

The OLSH Building Fund Committee members are Charles B. Ray, Lawrence Doucet, Terry Guidry, Tommy Murrel, Eldine Guilbeau, Francis Burleigh, Virgie Courville, Anita Guidry, Tessie Cary, Lee Bellard and Susie Thibodeaux.

PASTORAL ASSISTANT - Jim Cormier of Church Point is presently serving as Pastoral Assistant at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church. He is presently studying to become a permanent deacon in the church and plans to be ordained in February, 2000. Photo by Liz Horecky.

Congratulations Monsignor Fred

Our Mother of Peace Elementary is very proud of you and we love you very much!
KC’s clean grounds

A project of the Msgr. C. A. Bienvenu Knights of Columbus Council 2504 was the cleaning of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church grounds in preparation for the celebration of the rededication of the church and the investiture of Msgr. Fred O. Swenson.

The joint celebration will take place on Sunday, November 21, 1999.

OLSH CHURCH GROUNDS CLEANED - On Saturday, November 6 a K. C. sponsored project was underway cleaning Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church grounds. Shown here assisting were, from left, Robert Thibodeaux, Jeff Kidder, Bobby Richard, Glen Bourgeois, Alexis Jagneaux, Jr., Lawrence Doucet and Bert Venable. Also assisting were Mike Daly and Guy Turner.

OFFICE STAFF - Linda Boudreaux, left and Jo Ann Young are long time employees at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart rectory. They have seen many pastors and associate pastors pass through on their journey of doing God’s will. Linda has been employed there for 38 years and Jo Ann for 37 years.

Photo by Liz Horecky

"Monsignor Fred"

May the blessing you deserve continue to be bestowed on you and our church throughout your stay in Church Point

We honor you...

Steve Barry, R.Ph.  James Hernandez, R.Ph.

CHURCH POINT PHARMACY

300 N. Main  684-5475  Church Point

"Monsignor Fred"

We are so happy for you...
Congratulations on a well deserved honor.

J. B., Pat, Blackie, Danita, & Sis.

"Monsignor Fred"

You are the source of much happiness to our family!

We love you,
Anthony, Matthew & Marty and families

Anthony Feed & Farm
102 N. Bellard
684-5403

Golden Touch JEWELERS
684-5371

222 N. Main St.
Beloved pastor remembered

November 21 is another memorable day in the history of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church. Beloved Rt. Rev. Msgr. Clay A. Bienvenu, 70 passed away on that date in 1970 after a critical illness of only a few hours duration. His death was a shock to his family, his church parish and the hosts of friends everywhere who knew, admired and loved this wonderful priest through his long and faithful years of dedicated service to his Heavenly Father and his fellowman.

On Thursday night prior to his death, Msgr. Bienvenu was an honored guest at the Knights of Columbus Ladies Night banquet.

He was a native of St. Martinville, ordained to the priesthood at age 29 in New Orleans on May 25, 1929.

In 1936, His Excellency Bishop Jeanmard assigned him as pastor of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church. The pastor was elevated to the rank of Rt. Rev. Monsignor in 1948. The ceremonies took place in the St. John Cathedral in Lafayette.

Under the leadership of Msgr. Bienvenu the new Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church was built, and dedicated on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1954.

Special recognition was given Msgr. Bienvenu at this time on his 25 years in the priesthood.

He is buried in the OLSH church mausoleum.

Committee member tells story

As the story was told by one of the new church committee member (1953), in 1884 Father Auguste Eby built the old Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church which was much smaller than it is now (1953) and the original church was made into a school. This situation existed until 1914 when Fr. Eby built the convent, the chapel was torn down and the lumber used to construct a barn behind the presbytery.

The barn was torn down only recently by Msgr. Bienvenu, when the new brick garage and utility building was completed. The lumber was again used in the addition of more classrooms to the convent and thus a cycle was completed, from an ordinary building to a chapel; from chapel to school; from an ordinary school to a convent; from a convent to a barn and from a barn back to a convent.

As this incident proves again that not only human beings have their place in this world to serve their Maker, so do the things of nature.

Msgr. C.A. Bienvenu
Pastor from 1936-1970

Monsignor Fred Swenson

Congratulations and "Thank You" for all you've accomplished in our community.

Acadia-St. Landry Hospital
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We exist because of you and for you.

Monsignor Fred

The best of everything is yet to come... and we're glad you are here with us!

Wade Delahoussaye
Administrator
Acadia - St. Landry Guest Home
684-6316
830 S. Broadway Church Point
PROCLAMATION SIGNED - On Sunday, November 14, 1999, Mayor Roger Boudreaux, left, signed a proclamation proclaiming Sunday, November 21 as Msgr. Frederick Otto Swenson Day in the Town of Church Point. On this day, the rededication of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church will be held at the 10:00 a.m. mass along with the investiture of Msgr. Swenson. Photo by Liz Horecky

Planning for the new OLSH church

Plans were made for the new Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church to replace the old wooden church acquired from the Jesuits in Grand Coteau in 1883 by the Diocese of Lafayette.

The first meeting to discuss the building of a new church was held on October 16, 1951. A group of businessmen met with Msgr. C. A. Bienvenu. The general plans of operation consisted of dividing the parish area into districts and selecting the names of some 100 solicitors to contact every person in the parish.

A general meeting was held on October 23. The dates for the drive was November 4 through 11. The spirit of generosity and self-sacrifice of the people of OLSH was revealed at the meeting on November 13. It was announced that more than $70,000 had been collected and pledged.

On May 6, 1952 a meeting was held to organize a building committee for the new church. Edward Daigle was chosen as general chairman of the group and Edward E. "Jack" Daigle was vice chairman.

Another report given on October 28, 1952, was that to date the building fund was up to $108,181. Another drive was coordinated in November of 1952.

Congratulations & Best Wishes
on the re-dedication of
Our Lady of
Sacred Heart Church
and to
Reverend Monsignor
Fredrick Otto Swenson
on his investiture.

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