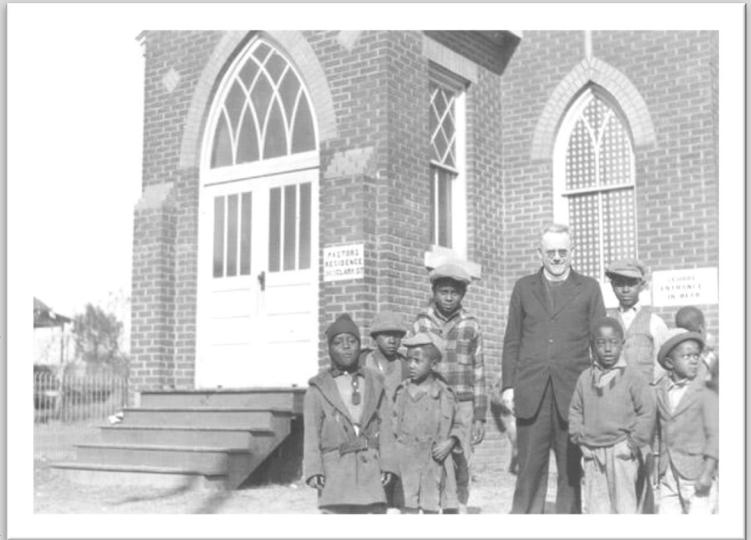


ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH HISTORY 1929 – 2019

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

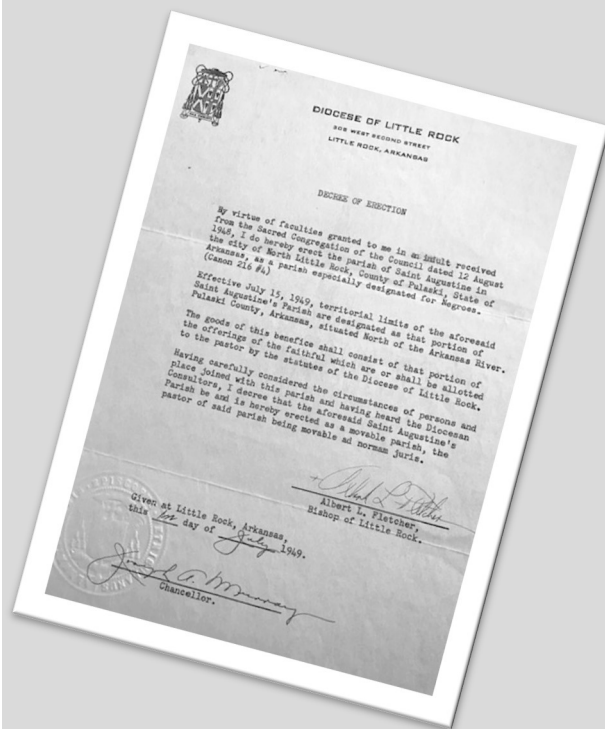
Bishop John B. Morris founded Saint Augustine Roman Catholic Church on September 8, 1929 named after the great teacher, Saint Augustine. The Very Rev. Dr. S.J. Peoples, Dean of Missions, presiding at the ceremony, formally opened the new church. Members of St. Bartholomew, the predominately black church located on Little Rock's parish turned out en masse. Their choir provided the music while Rev. Father Tetzloof, S.V.D., played the organ. Father Joseph H. Haaman, a member of the Society of the Divine Word Order, arrived the following day and served as the first pastor. Bishop Morris requested the Blessing be postponed until he returned from a journey to the Vatican in Rome. The church was also home to Sisters Inviolata and Susanna of the Missionary Sisters, Servants of the Holy Ghost.



IN THE BEGINNING: Father Joseph Haarman, SVD, stands with the first pupils of St. Augustine School in North Little Rock in September 1929.

SCHOOL OPENS

The second floor of the church served as classrooms for the school. On August 21, 1929 the first day of school, the Sisters registered 50 children. After visiting homes in the community, the number increased to 101. On March 19, 1930, a flag raising ceremony was held at St. Augustine's Catholic School. A large crowd witnessed the ceremony. Alderman W.A. Raney presented the flag to the school and Mayor Lawhon delivered the address. More than 100 students of the school participated in the program. In 1930 a major mile stone was reached as the church celebrated their first Easter Sunday and Rev. Haaman solemnly baptized 34 children (19 boys and 15 girls) before a capacity crowd. The Sisters of the Holy Ghost of St. Bartholomew convent provided the music.



DECREE OF ERECTION: Official letter from Bishop Albert L. Fletcher declaring St. Augustine, a parish "designated for Negroes" in the Diocese of Little Rock in 1948.

DEDICATION OF NEW CHURCH

The solemn dedication of St. Augustine's took place on May 28, 1930. It was a time for many firsts. Ceremonies included solemn dedication, the great sacrament of Confirmation for 22 children, diplomas for the first eight graduates of the school and groundbreaking for the new school. St. Bartholomew's provided the music and Rev. Conrad Kinder, a renowned musician, played the organ.

Father Steig arrived at St. Augustine's in 1931. The first adult members were baptized in 1933. Father Steig served the parish for 15 consecutive years until he was relieved of his duties in 1946. Father Theodore Martian, an Army Chaplain, replaced him and Father Alvin Trublowski succeeded Father Martin in August 1947. The school's first cafeteria for hot lunches was built during the summer of 1948. Property across the street was purchased in 1953. Father Boerding replaced Father Trublowski and remained for two years until he was reassigned to a parish in Washington, Louisiana.