



**NEW CHURCH:** Fr. Aureli, parishioners and others break ground on new church home for St. Augustine.

The idea of another new church began in the spring of 1985. Since then, plans for expansion were discussed, including widening the old church, building a smaller building next to the old church, building a large building were all reviewed in keeping with the parish's ability to support such a building. It was noted that if the parish grew physically, the parishioners would have to take a large responsibility towards being self-sustained.

With the building of this new church, St. Augustine parish took a big step towards its maturity as a church community. Since St. Augustine was a mission parish in which most of the monies came from outside the parish, the parish needed to be supported from sources outside its members. One of the greatest joys of the parish was building the new church without outside financing. It had some help from the United States Board for Indian & Black Missions, Extension Society, and the Diocese to build this building, but its primary source for finances was the

parishioners themselves. Almost all of the parishioners were committed to a sacrificial giving program, not just to sustain the building, but also to give back to the Lord in thanksgiving for what the Lord had given each of them. St. Augustine no longer saw itself as a mission parish but as a parish with a mission. With this new perspective of seeking to be able to give, and a mission to build a new church it now hoped to share these gifts with the community, and by doing so, to at least double in size with the help of the Lord. It also hoped to use this new building as a spring forward, by which it can share its gifts with all who are members of the Church in Arkansas.

## NEW CHANGES

Father L. Warren Harvey, a Conway native was appointed to the church on June 4, 1989. Fr. Harvey was the first African-American priest to be ordained in the state of Arkansas. Along with his duties at St. Augustine, he served as Associate Pastor at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Little Rock.



**A NEW FIRST:** Fr. Warren Harvey, the diocese's first and only black priest conducts a baptism in 1991. He served as pastor of St. Augustine for 18 years.

On December 13, 1990, only two years and three months after the church dedication, Stations of the Cross carved by George Hoelzeman of Little Rock were presented and hung. They were carved in an African motif and fit beautifully with the decor of the church. George was new to wood carving and the final results exceeded expectations. The stations were featured on the front cover of *Modern Liturgy*. On the inside of the magazine was written: "African Way of the Cross," by George Hoelzeman, the Bene winner in the 1993 Visual Arts Awards contest, Permanent category.

The stations focused on the details of the passion rather than attempting to capture the entire scene. Within the "Way," the cross was reduced to a yoke-like cross member derived from a German memorial to victims of the concentration camps.