

ALL SAINTS PARISH, LAKEVILLE, MN

Settlers began arriving in the townships in 1854 we now know as Lakeville, Lebanon and Empire. Joseph Brackett and Griffin Phelps had started a settlement in 1853 near Prairie Lake (Make Marion) and in July 1854 Mr. Brackett had contracted with the United States Government for a mail route between St. Paul and Faribault. There being no roads the route followed the Black Dog and Big Sioux Trails.

When the Hastings- Dakota Railroad was built a station was located some distance from Brackett's Lakeville Town and was named Fairfield. Soon after the the business houses in Lakeville Town moved to Fairfield and in about 1878 Fairfield was renamed Lakeville.

Among the settlers who arrived in 1854 were Brennans, Sheridans, Caseys, Hylands, Devitts, Finnigans and Morans. The large percentage being Irish, although a sizable number of German settlers had arrived very few of them were Catholic. The nearest Catholic Church was St. Peter, Mendota founded in 1840. In 1855 St. John the Baptist, Burnsville and Guardian Angel in Hasting were established. Missionaries administered to the spiritual needs of the Irish Settlements in Lakeville, Rosemount and Lebanon. By 1867 the Irish Catholic population formed a parish and under Father Anatole Oster built St. Joseph Church on land donated by Thomas Hyland near where the present Pilot Knob and Dodd Roads meet. This church was destroyed in a cyclone May 7, 1880 while Father Michael Quinn was pastor. Meanwhile the parishioners in the village of Lakeville established their parish of All Saints. An article in the Farmington Press makes note of the construction: "Lumber and stone are being hauled for a new Catholic Church." Apr. 20, 1876

This frame church 36x100 served the parish until destroyed by fire in 1931. Father Hart was the planner and overseer of the construction of the new brick church in 1931-32 and also did some of the carpentry work. He met with great criticism for building such a large and grand church in this rural parish. The cost of the building was \$56,000 and a gift from Mrs. Sarah Bagley of \$35,00 provided a

substantial part of the expense. During the building of the church Mass was celebrated in Shen Theater and for many months we found ourselves genuflecting when going to the theater for a movie. The population of the Lakeville area increased rapidly the past twenty years and All Saints parish found it necessary to build a new, larger church to accommodate the increased membership. A beautiful new church and school have been built on a hill in the north end of the city. Some of the stained glass windows from the church of 1932 have been placed in the Eucharistic Chapel. Three of them are memorials to our relatives, John E. Brennan, John L. Brennan and Thomas Sheridan.