

ALL SAINTS PARISH-LAKEVILLE

In the early years of the Irish settlements in Lakeville, Rosemount, and Lebanon townships the Missionary priests administered to their spiritual needs, but by 1867 the large Irish Catholic population formed a parish and built a church on land donated by Thomas Hyland near where the present Dodd Road and Pilot Knob meet. The parish was that of St. Joseph. In 1876 the people of Lakeville established their own parish, that of All Saints, under the direction of Father Oster Anatole. A storm destroyed the St. Joseph Church and it was rebuilt at Rosemount about 1881. The cemetery near the former church, known as the Hyland Cemetery continued to be used until 1947. The records of that church lists Brennans, Sheridans, Morans, Gibbons, and Garveys among the parishioners and the tombstones record the names of many of our ancestors.

Among the pastors who touched the lives of many of the Brennans and Sheridans we have heard of the work of Father Michael Quinn and of Father William Hart. Both officiated at many of the funeral, baptisms, and marriages of our people. Father Hart, the well-known WWI Hero, was pastor at the time of the fire which destroyed the frame church of All Saints in 1931. He was planner and overseer of the new church 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 Sarah Bagley of \$ 35,000 provided a substantial part of the expense. Sister was present when during the time of the fire and the rebuilding of the church and she related of how Mass was celebrated in the Shen Theater during the building and for months

afterward they would genuflect when going to a movie at the theater.

I am sure that the next generation rejoices that Father Hart had the foresight to envision the future of All Saints and plan accordingly.

As Lakeville experienced a large growth in the community, the parish grew as well. The need for a new larger church arrived.

A new All Saints Church was built atop the hill to the north of the existing site and downtown Lakeville on Holyoke Avenue in 1997. The leaded glass windows dedicated to our ancestors from the Old Brick Church Downtown also made their way into the new Church on the Hill. The members of the Lakeville Community turned the Old Brick Church into The Lakeville Area Art Center where local performing artists now display their talent.

From the St. Joseph 's Church to Lakeville's own All Saints Original Prairie Church (1877-1931) to The Old Brick Church Downtown (1931-1997) to the new Church on the Hill (1997 to present) our families in the parish have been part of All Saints history. In 2007, the parish published a book about the history of the parish and the four churches. Sister Zacchaeus Ryan was listed in the book as the historian and contributor of information. The wedding photo of her parents, Frank and Margaret (Brennan) Ryan is graciously displayed in the book. The parish was honored to host the Memorial Mass for "one of their own daughters of the parish" after Sister's death in 2008.

