

Links With Sea Parish, Pastor Have

BY RAHN ADAMS

It is somehow fitting that the pastor of Shallotte's St. Brendan Catholic Church is an avid boater—St. Brendan being the patron saint of navigators.

But then, the Rev. John Richardson had a part in naming the church four years ago, when he came here from Whiteville to form the parish.

"I was looking for something connected with the sea," Father Richardson said, adding that he discovered the name in the book, "The Brendan Voyage," by Tim Severin.

It made no difference that Father Richardson was a member of the U.S. Power Squadrons, and had previously served as the organization's national chaplain, as well as a squadron commander and district chaplain.

He said the church needed a special name since it was to be in Shallotte.

"This place was unique in that the people were asking for a place before the Church realized there was a need for it," he said.

He explained that before St. Brendan Parish was formed, the closest Catholic churches were in Southport and North Myrtle Beach, S.C.

The new mission here began in the cafeteria at Union Primary School, then moved to a local restaurant before finding its present home on U.S. 17 South near Brunswick Memorial Gardens.

"It's the most rewarding experience a pastor can have, to start a pastorate in a new place," he said. "There's a different spirit—a closeness—because everybody's in it together."

At present, 160 families from Supply to Calabash make up St. Brendan Parish year-round. And in the summer tourist season, as many as 800 people attend mass each week, he said.

"This parish is probably 70 percent retirees," he said, "but that's great when you want someone to work for the church, because they have more freedom."

Father Richardson started one other church—Raleigh's St. Raphael Catholic Church, in the 1960s. It is now the largest Catholic parish in eastern North Carolina, he said.

The 60-year-old Massachusetts native was educated at St. John's Seminary in Little Rock, Ark. He was ordained in May 1954 in Asheville.

His past assignments in the Raleigh Diocese also include churches in Edenton, Winston-Salem, Asheville, Laurinburg, Jacksonville, Chapel Hill, Fayetteville and Pinehurst.

He has served as Diocesan Director of the Society for

the Propagation of the Faith and the Holy Childhood, an organization which supports mission work of the Catholic Church under the supervision of the pope.

Even though Father Richardson said a previous meeting with the pope was "one of the highlights of my life," he didn't go see Pope John Paul II during the pontiff's recent visit to Columbia, S.C.

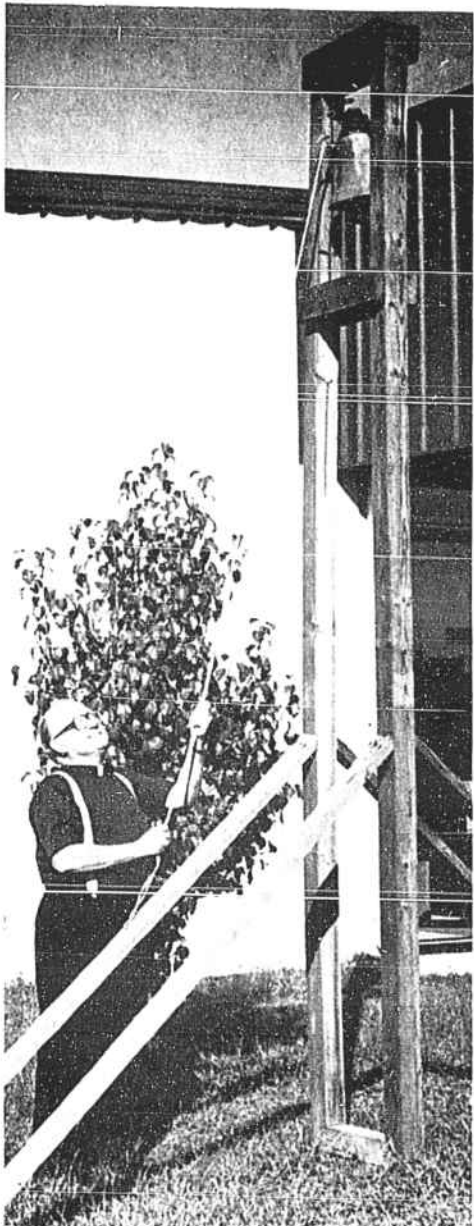
"I got scared away by the newspapers, with all the talk about the congestion and traffic," he said.

Calling himself "rather conservative compared to

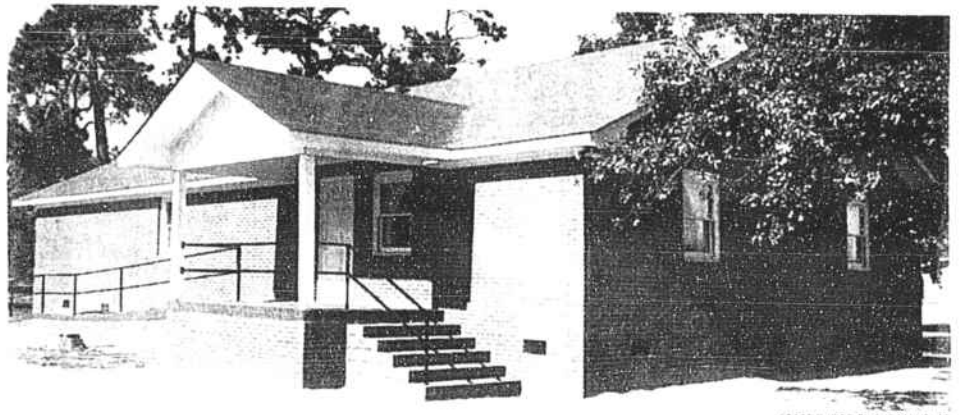
many," Father Richardson commented on the papal visit: "I think the pope hit all the sensitive spots, in reminding us about adhering to church teachings—that there's no room for dissent."

Religion aside, there is one other "spot" Father Richardson intends to "adhere" to, at least after he retires: a house he built for himself at Schooner's Point.

His ambition? "To live long enough to retire and enjoy Brunswick County," he replied. "I've come here to stay."



FATHER JOHN RICHARDSON rings the church bell in front of St. Brendan Catholic Church on U.S. 17 South near Shallotte.



Fellowship Hall Dedicated

Mount Pisgah Baptist Church in Supply dedicated this 32-foot by 64-foot, 120-seat fellowship hall on Oct. 4 during its special Homecoming services. Rev. Hayden

Cartner, a former pastor, presented the dedication message, based on John 2:11, describing the hall as a "net" for drawing people to the church's membership.

United Efforts Yield Results

Percy came from Ohio. Frank is a native of New Jersey. Bill and Art hail from Maryland. Don moved here from Winston-Salem and Lit retired here recently from Durham. David is a long-time resident of Shallotte.



Stan Smith

Together, they are a microcosm of this county. With many new residents moving into Brunswick County, we find persons with different opinions and approaches to problem solving. Simultaneously, these same persons bring countless talents and abilities to meet any challenge.

Last Thursday, the above crew united in an effort to repair a house given to Hope Harbor Home Inc. It will be used for a temporary shelter for victims of domestic violence. Brunswick Electric and the county water department went out of their way to prepare the site before the work party arrived.

With Don Pringle serving as foreman, the above group of churchmen met early one morning to begin work on repairing the roof and laying a water line. Along with humor and gentle kidding among the crew, much was accomplished on that first work day.

Specifically, more than 50 hours of expensive skilled labor was contributed to this project. Without such volunteer help, Hope Harbor Home would be hard pressed to open its doors as early as planned.

However, such a scene concerns more than Home Harbor Home. It is a symbol of how in every aspect of our common life in this country, natives and newcomers can work together to bring about solutions to common problems. Together we must meet challenges Brunswick

all kinds, realizing that everyone has a contribution to make. No one has a corner on the truth.

We would do well to recall the watchword of the American Revolution spoken by G.P. Morris: "United we stand, divided we fall."

This timeless truth speaks to all of us in a changing Brunswick County, as illustrated so well by the Hope Harbor Home work crew.

If all of us do likewise in every arena of our common life, we can accomplish great things.

(Dr. Stan Smith is the minister of Camp United Methodist Church in Shallotte.)

County will face in the '90s. Though all these persons belong to the church, the model of this work party can work in every area of our life including government, education and community volunteer programs such as fire and rescue squads.

If this is to happen, natives and newcomers must develop respect for one another. We must learn to appreciate one another's opinions and gifts. We should avoid polarization of

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