

Pastor Succumbs, Was Here 31 Years

New Orleans--Rev. Fr. John Francis Bastly who devoted 31 years of his life in the re-creation of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic church in Destrehan died in New Orleans Monday about 12:30 a. m. He was 74.

At the time of his death, he was serving as pastor of St. Augustine's church in New Orleans. He served as pastor of St. Charles church from 1918 until 1949.

Credited with having done all of the pioneering work towards the present church and school plans in St. Charles Borromeo parish, Fr. Bastly was known as an eccentric but determined priest.

Prior to his appointment as pastor of the church, the ecclesiastical parish had been under interdiction off and on for 23 years because title to church property was in the hands of laymen. No pastor was named for the parish during those years and only during periods when the interdiction was lifted was mass celebrated in the parish.

Under the leadership of Pat Kelly, one of the officials of the Mexican Petroleum Company which was then operating what is today the Pan Am Southern Corporation, persistent efforts were made to restore title to the church property to ecclesiastical authority. Finally the church property was restored to ecclesiastical ownership in 1918 and Fr. Bastly became pastor.

Under his leadership, part of the church property, which at that time included 80 acres, was sold to build the present church and rectory in 1921.

In 1928, Fr. Bastly obtained the services of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and open the St. Charles Borromeo school adjacent to the church. In 1929, the present auditorium was built.

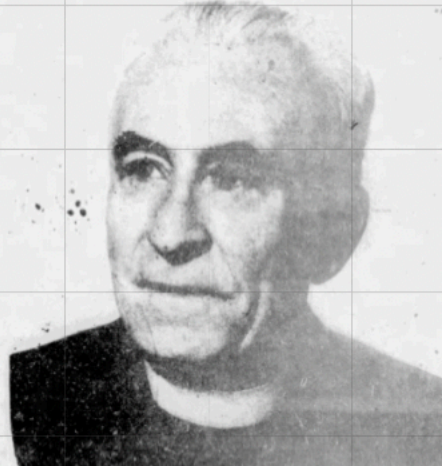
Fr. Bastly also directed the construction of Sacred Heart Chapel in Norco and St. Isidore Chapel in Montz. (At the time, the Montz area was in St. Charles church parish.)

Funeral services were held from the St. Augustine's church Wednesday at 10 a. m. followed by interment at St. Joseph's Abbey, St. Benedict, near Covington.

Fr. Bastly was credited by many as being a financial expert and he is known to have donated thousands of dollars to many religious causes.

He was born in Jonzieux Loire in France and attended school there before coming to New Orleans to study at the old St. Louis seminary in 1906. He also studied in St. Louis, Mo., before being ordained to the priesthood in June 1908. He served as assistant pastor at St. Vincent de Paul church and at Sts. Peter and Paul church before becoming pastor of Chacahola and missions in 1913.

His body was taken to the New Orleans church Tuesday for requiem mass at 9:30 a. m. and then lay in state until Wednesday. A solemn pontifical mass was celebrated at 10:30 a. m. Wednesday by Bishop I. Abel Caillouet. Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel presided. Rev. Fr. Malcolm B. Strassel, Fr. Bastly's successor at Destrehan, was deacon.



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Expansion Listed

Norco Library Plans Move to New Quarters

List Plans for Benefit Contests

Luling--In connection with the Luling Fair, benefit of the St. Anthony Chapel Building Fund, Saturday August 18, 1956, there will be a cake, pie and candy making contest at the Knights of Columbus Home in Luling.

All entries should be at the K. C. Home by 2 p. m. Saturday Aug. 18. Qualified judges will be on hand to judge the entries at 3 p. m. You may deliver your entries to the K. C. Home between 10 a. m. and 2 p. m. on Saturday August 18.

After the contest all entries will become the property of the fair and will be sold at the fair. For further information, please contact Miss Elbert Haley of Luling at 6224 or Mrs. Gerald Brady at 5651.

Traffic Division Plan Is Studied

Hainville--A traffic enforcement division of the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's office is being considered, Sheriff Leon C. Vial, Jr., said Monday. He said that the division would devote its efforts solely to traffic control.

Sheriff Vial pointed to the number of fatal accidents in the parish as necessitating

Norco--with the library demonstration period coming to a close on September 1st our new library becomes a permanent parish institution. The state library from then on will act in an advisory capacity only although the same service for special requests of books will be maintained.

Now, says Mrs. Charlotte Gaylord, parish librarian, some definite plans for the future are in the process of being drawn up. The first change will be the location of the Norco branch. Now located in a duplex house on Good Hope Ave. the Norco branch proved itself

far too small within a month after opening its doors and from then until the present time it has become smaller and smaller. On September 1st the library will move across the street and directly behind the bank in the building owned by Mr. Percy Alliman and formerly occupied by J. T. Lambert as an electrical appliance store. These new quarters are ideal for the library states both Mrs. Gaylord and Mrs. Wabel Walker, Norco branch assistant. Mrs. Walker believes that now more people than before will make use of the library with some of the patrons reading in the library since there will be fluorescent lighting and such a feeling of spaciousness.

The Hainville branch is to be completely remodeled, the space here being adequate. Mrs.