

The Rev. Roy Aiken Has Resigned From St. Anthony Church

The Rev. Roy Francis Aiken who came to Walterboro in 1932 as the first resident pastor of St. Anthony's Catholic Church announced his resignation to the congregation on Sunday morning. His resignation has been accepted by the Bishop the Most Rev. Francis Reh of Charleston to become effective Sept. 15. Father Aiken is also pastor of the Hampton church. An announcement of Father Aiken's successor will be announced by the Bishop before he leaves.

Father Aiken will go from here to Washington, D. C. where he will be a student at the Graduate Col-



The Rev. Roy F. Aiken

lege of Arts and Science of the Catholic University of Maryland as a candidate for his Ph.D. degree.

Since Father Aiken came to Walterboro he has headed the building of two churches and a rectory, the present St. Anthony Church and rectory and the Hampton church of which he became pastor in 1953. The erection of St. Anthony was completed in 1957 and the Hampton Church in 1958.

Father Aiken came to Walterboro from Charleston where he had been serving as secretary to Bishop John J. Russell at the Cathedral. Young and ambitious he immediately began making plans for a new church building and rectory for St. Anthony's. Members and friends told him it would take at least 10 to 20 years to accomplish what he had in mind. Too his ideas about the type of building were thought by many to be too modernistic. Within five years St. Anthony project was completed and in another year the Hampton Church.

Father Aiken's ideas were carried out and the St. Anthony's Church building turned out to be a thing of beauty and is recognized by architects and planners as outstanding. It was featured in an article with photographs which appeared in the Liturgical Art Magazine issue November 1959. This church will seat 225. The Hampton church of contemporary design has also received wide recognition for its design.

Father Aiken is a member of the Walterboro Ministerial Association, has served as chairman of the Diocesan clerical commission and he has just completed serving a term on the National Board of Directors of North American Liturgical conference.

Father Aiken a native of South Carolina, received his A.B. degree at Spring Hill College, Mobile, Ala. in 1941, studied philosophy and theology at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Md. and was ordained to the priesthood June 15, 1946 in St. Francis de Sales Church, New York City. After his ordination he became assistant pastor of St. Peter's Church in Columbia where he served until 1950. He went from there to Charleston.

Father Aiken said, "I have enjoyed my work in Colleton county. I have found everyone friendly and cooperative. I don't think anyone can work in a community as long as I have and not become attached to the people who live in it."

Before Father Aiken came to Walterboro, St. Anthony was a mission church of Beaufort with a priest coming from there on Sundays to say mass.