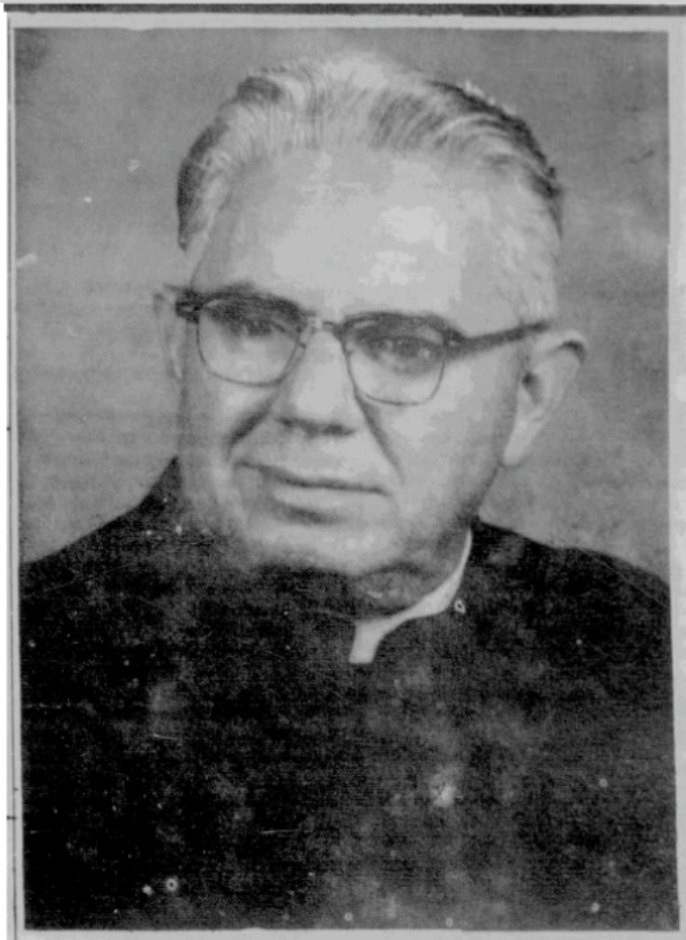


Rev. Sebastian Arjonilla

On October 30, 1897, in the small town of Stan Creek, British Honduras, Reverend Sebastian Arjonilla, Pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Raceland, first saw the light of day. He was reared among the Jesuits of Honduras and came to America to study for the Priesthood. He was to take up his studies with the Jesuit Fathers in St. Louis, but Father Christbun, in complying with the wishes of his Holiness, to open a colored seminary, the first in the history of the U.S., asked the Reverend Arjonilla to join him. They opened the seminary in Greenville, Mississippi, in 1919, and 1920. He studied there until 1923 when they were driven out, coming to Bay St. Louis, where the present seminary is established.

After His study was completed, Father Arjonilla went to Notre Dame in 1925 to complete for the Priesthood, being ordained on July 12, 1931, by His Excellency Archbishop Shaw.

Our Lady of Good Consul under the heading of Monsignor Burling sent him home on Vacation in 1931 to say Mass in his native soil. He was then sent to the newly created St. Agnes parish in Jefferson, as first assistant, where a church and school were established in a closed night club. When sufficient funds were procured, a church and school was built.

During this time, there was an influx of people from the Irish Channel section of New Orleans, into Shrewsbury, where Masses were said until the congregation got large enough, and the Parish of St. Christopher was established. After two years there, Rev. Arjonilla was ordered to St. Agnes Church in Baton Rouge. He spent one year building up St. Agnes.

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After St. Agnes, His Excellency the Archbishop, sent Rev. Arjonilla to Grand Isle, where it was decided the people of the Island needed ministrations. There were many other priests to go to Grand Isle, at various intervals, but the regular attendant was Rev. Shutton, whose work Father Arjonilla followed. During the four years of Rev. Arjonilla's stay at Grand Isle, a road was properly established, and he was influential in bringing telephone service to Grand Isle, through Mr. Joe Fontenot. After Grand Isle, he was sent to revitalize Chegby. There he stayed 12 years. He brought out the mission to some recognition. During this period, roads were built, the St. Patrick Highway, St. James road and Choctaw. He was instruemental in getting lights, telephones and blacktopped roads for the people in this area.

He went to Kenner, next, which was in a peculiar situation because of a growing population. He accomplished in six years, a gym, church and sub-divided the Kenner Parish to make what is now St. Magdallen. Another portion is known as West Gate, which cost over $200,000.00. Rev. Digglie is now the Pastor. A cafeteria and teen-age center was built, as well as a school. In six years, the enrollment went from 600 to 11 hundred children. A play-ground was built, the school was renovated, the Knights of Columbus were established, also the Catholic Daughters of America. The mission Rev. Arjonilla planned for Kenner, is now a reality. A church will be established in Little Farms by Father Bendix.

Rev. Sebastian Arjonilla is now in Raceland for a purpose. That purpose is to afford a better opportunity for the people to understand their faith through a school. As a beginning, the Knights of Columbus was re-activated and a fair was given on July 25 and 26th, so that people can meet and understand each other, through their faith in a better way.

Reverend Arjonilla said that he hopes to get the co-operation of his people in completing the mission he has planned for their Parish of St. Mary Pamela.

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