Conversation

By Joyce S. Hebert

Native son marks 25th anniversary of ordination . . .

A special 25th anniversary mass and reception Sunday at St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church in New Orleans marked the silver anniversary of the ordination of The Rev. Monsignor Earl Gauthreaux, son of Mrs. P.E. Gauthreaux of Plaquemine and the late Mr. Gauthreaux. A large group of family and friends from Plaquemine and the area joined Father Gauthreaux for the day's festivities.

Msgr. Gauthreaux attended St. Joseph's Seminary in St. Benedict, La., under the tutelage of the late Msgr. Leonard Robin following his graduation from St. John High School in Plaquemine. He also attended Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans and Catholic University in Washington, D.C. His first assignment following his ordination, June 8, 1956, at St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans, was as an assistant pastor at St. Francis de Sales Church in Houma. Msgr. Gauthreaux also served as associate pastor at St. Leo the Great in New Orleans, St. Catherine of Siena in Metairie, and St. Mary Magdalen in Metairie. He also served as chaplain at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. He was named pastor of St. Maria Goretti 13 years ago, and immediately undertook an ambitious, and imaginative building program which has come to include a new church, the new Goretti Center and a new rectory. His parish now consists of some 3,500 registered families, the largest in the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Father Gauthreaux, as he was known to most Plaqueminites, was named a member of the Papal Household of Pope Paul VI in 1975, with the title of the Reverend Monsignor. He is the Officialis of the Archdiocesan Metropolitan Tribunal and has served on the Tribunal for 19 years. As Officialis, he is in charge of the Canonical Judicial System for the Archidocese.

Msgr. Gauthreaux has been a professor and lecturer in the fields of Canon Law and Pastoral Theology at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans for a number of years. He is also chaplain of St. Thomas More Catholic Lawyers Association, and Dean of City Park-Gentilly Deanery which is composed of 17 parishes.

Una Heffron, secretary at St. Maria Goretta Church, said, "We are mighty glad to have Msgr. Gauthreaux with us. He started a pre-school and religion programs for parishioners, undertook a successful athletic program for children in the parish, and planted the seed of just about every parish organization in existence here now. We had nothing until Msgr. Gauthreaux came. He has made St. Maria Goretti into a very active parish." He was active in the Catholic Youth Organization in all the parishes in which he served, and began a CYO chapter in St. Maria Goretti Parish shortly after beginning his pastorate there. He organized the Parish Council, the Boosters Club, and serves as spiritual director of the Holy Name Society and the Altar Society, and on the boards of all parish organizations.

Msgr. Gauthreaux also started the annual St. Maria Goretti Parish Fair 13 years ago. The event has developed into a successful fund-raiser with the proceeds going toward the construction of the modern new parish complex which he now administers.

A large group of family and friends from the Plaquemine area joined with Msgr. Gauthreaux for Sunday's celebration. Following the Mass at St. Maria Goretti Church and the reception at Goretti Center, the group enjoyed a tour of the new rectory. Those enjoying the trip on chartered Greyhound bus included Mrs. Mabel Gauthreaux, mother of Msgr. Gauthreaux; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Comeaux Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Comeaux Jr. and family, Amy and Mark Comeaux, Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Comeaux, Miss Brenda Comeaux, Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Gauthreaux and family, Cyril, J.A., Missy, Melanie, Melissa and Mary Joan, Mrs. Cyril Eby and daughters, Peggy and Marie, Miss Linda Holt, Mrs. Essie Bezet, Mrs. Evelyn Dunnehoo, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Richard, Mrs. Boots Rills, Mrs. Paul D'Albor, Mrs. Marie Hebert, Mr. and Mrs. Buddi Rills, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Trepagnier, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Rivet and Mickey Rivet, Mrs. Dottie Barbay and Mr. Scott Gauthreaux. Others driving to New Orleans for the occasion were Mr. and Mrs. Toby Gauthreaux and daughters, Alyson and Penny Gauthreaux, Mr. Kelly Gauthreaux and Miss Karen Chiasson, Mr. and Mrs. Al McGinnis, Mr. and Mrs. Carey Schwartz, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Gauthreaux and family, Lance, Randy, Hayley and Chris, Miss Cele Guilbeau, and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Earl Gauthreaux and Sacha. Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Puckett of Baton Rouge also attended, and family members from New Orleans were Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Gauthreaux, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Gauthreaux and Mr. Ernest Gauthreaux.



MONSIGNOR AT DEDICATION . . .

The Rev. Msgr. Earl Gauthreaux, left, a native of Plaquemine, is shown with Archbishop Philip M. Hannan at the dedication of the monsignor's new church, St. Maria Goretti in New Orleans. Monsignor Gauthreaux was honored last Sunday by his parishioners on the occasion of the Silver Anniversary of his ordination to the Roman Catholic priesthood in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. He is the son of Mrs. P. E. Gauthreaux of Plaquemine and the late Mr. Gauthreaux.