
Links With The Past.

Today marks the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the arrival of the first white man to set foot on this territory. It was on December 5, 1679, that LaSalle and his companions in exploration and discovery, after ascending the St. Joseph River from Lake Michigan, disembarked at the Portage to the Kankakee at a point almost due West from Notre Dame.

Historical Landmarks.

Accompanying LaSalle was Father Gabriel Ribourde, a missionary of the Recollect Order of Friars. While LaSalle, eager to push on his way of discovery, went to explore the surrounding country, Father Ribourde busied himself about other matters. With his axe he cut a cross in the trees at the landing as a guide to others that might follow. You may see the trunk of one of these trees in the Museum of the Northern Indiana Historical Society, beyond the Court House.

This Is Holy Ground.

This pious act on the part of the good Recollect Friar may be said to be the first consecration of all this region. Certainly he could not foresee then that two great institutions, dedicated to the glory of God through the training of youth, would raise their cross-tipped spires two hundred and fifty years later within sight of the spot where he wielded his axe. The next day they began the portage to the Kankakee and we can reasonably presume that either of these two days marked the first celebration of Holy Mass on the banks of the St. Joseph.

Another Anniversary.

Sunday marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. It was on December 8, 1854, that Pope Pius IX, to the joy of all Christendom, announced that it is a matter of Catholic Faith to believe that the Blessed Virgin, Mother of God, was free from all stain of sin, original or actual, from the first moment of her existence.

Notre Dame was fourteen years old when this dogma was proclaimed; you may well imagine what rejoicing it brought to the struggling community here to have this new honor conferred on their heavenly Protectress.

We are seventy-five years older now, and have just that many more blessings for which to thank God and His Holy Mother. And here is an appropriate act of thanksgiving for the two favors we commemorate these days:

1. Spend at least a half-hour in adoration tomorrow before the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the church all day;
2. Offer Holy Communion Friday, Saturday and Sunday, as a triduum in honor of the Immaculate Conception.

On the territory dedicated by that first cross of Father Ribourde there will be received this year between 6000,000 and 700,000 Holy Communions, if we include the members of the communities here and at St. Mary's, the students there, and the Summer School here. If God has shown a more singular favor to any similar territory in the world, we have not heard of it. And we are deeply grateful.

Eugene Cavanaugh Is Worse.

A third operation was performed on Eugene Cavanaugh Tuesday; it disclosed a condition the doctors described as hopeless.---Eugene Rohlf's grandmother died Tuesday. Five special intentions, three of them very urgent. An uncle of Paul Dailey is very ill.