

May 13, 1957

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One Hundred Years Ago....

Tonight: Alumni and Walsh halls represent us at the Fatima Shrine

Tomorrow evening: It will be Fisher and Dillon. Hall bells will give the signal at 7:30.

On a bright, spring morning in the year 1857, there was great activity at Sainte Croix -- the quiet, little suburb on the fringe of the cathedral city of Le Mans, a hundred miles south of Paris. It was from this same small suburb, 16 years earlier, that Father Sorin and six Brothers had fared forth bravely across the sea, and into the wild country of Indiana.

The Church in France had been sadly paralyzed by the Revolution, and the task of restoration had not yet been completed. Father Moreau, founder of the priests of Sainte Croix still had much work to do for his little family of Religious which embraced Brothers, and Sisters, as well as Auxiliary priests. But one thing at the moment gave him great joy -- he had just completed the church at the Motherhouse. All was now ready for the ceremony of consecration.

On this fair, warm day, Cardinal Donnet - preceeded by nine bishops, the Canons of Le Mans, priests of the diocese, members of neighboring Religious Orders and members of the Holy Cross community - moved in solemn procession to the new edifice, bearing the relics that were to be enshrined in the altars. Then followed the rite of consecration for both the church and the nine altars. Also present among the distinguished visitors, that day, was the saintly old bishop who had first invited the Holy Cross missionaries to the new world; Bishop de la Halandiere of Vincennes.

Following the rite of consecration came the Solemn Mass, sung by Bishop Nanquette of Le Mans. At the Gospel, Cardinal Donnet delivered a masterful discourse.

The impressive exercises of the morning were followed by Vespers in the afternoon at 4 o'clock. Then came the dramatic moment when Father Moreau advanced to the steps of the altar and, in a voice taut with emotion, read the decree of approbation which placed forever the seal of Christ's Church on his labors. The Rules and Constitutions he had devised for his little religious family had been on trial up to that time. Now they received the full approval of Rome. In the tower of the new church just consecrated, three bells had remained patiently silent until this happy day. Now they rang out for the first time.

#### And Today ...

This morning, one hundred years later, the priests, and Brothers, and Sisters of Holy Cross gathered at Sacred Heart Church for a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving to God. Then they all proceeded to the high ground bordering St. Joseph's lake to break ground for the new seminary that is to honor the memory of the founder. It was in an alien land, in an alien tongue, by a new cast of characters. Yet the family was the same as it honored the memory of its founder, Father Moreau, whose cause for beatification is now pending.

This is a part of the Notre Dame story that should be familiar to all of you, and that deserves your wholehearted support. We're all busy these days canvassing for the funds required to house the Notre Dame teachers of tomorrow and a hundred years from today. God has blessed Notre Dame with an abundance of vocations. Your contributions will help us to provide shelter for them until the day when they join the active ranks of those engaged in the apostolate of Catholic education. And it's one way to make sure you'll be prayed for long after fair-weather friends, and contemporaries, fold their tents and steal off into eternity. What an attractive and sound investment; What a valuable opportunity for a family memorial that is really a memorial!

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 Deceased: William Loughlin, '24; uncle of Tom Rourke of Cavanaugh. Ill: grandmother of Dick Tomasiello of Morrissey; cousin of George Degan (O-C); father of Jim Haney of Howard.