



St. Mary's
Cathedral

Saginaw, Michigan

1866-1966

1866

Our

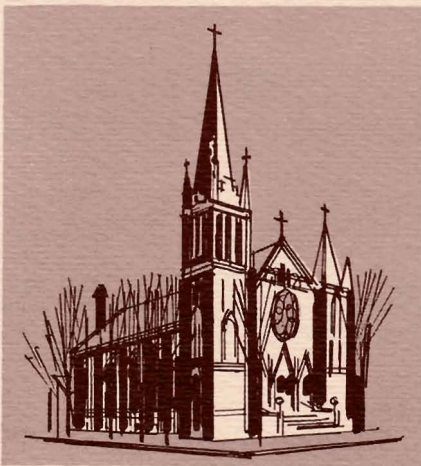
CENTENNIAL *Year*

1966

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL

Founded as a parish Sept. 30th 1866 by Father Francis X. van der Bom

Foreword

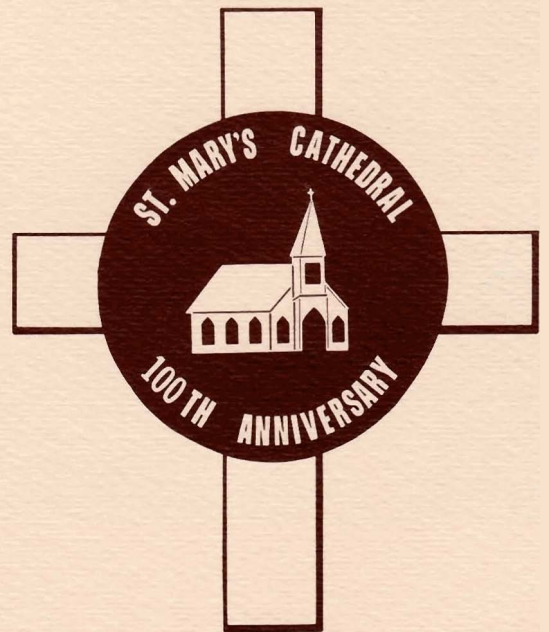


The purpose of this booklet is twofold. First it is an attempt to preserve some of the incidents connected with the 113-year history of St. Mary's Mission, Church and Cathedral. It tries to "*Gather the fragments . . . lest they be wasted*" (John, 6, 12).

This is a partial, poorly-told account of the happenings here on the East bank of the Saginaw River. This is just a hop, skip and jump over the years of St. Mary's history, an outline merely. Volumes could be written of the lives and times of the various bishops, priests and people who brought St. Mary's parish into being 100 years ago, and who struggled, often in trying, disheartening circumstances, to keep this beloved Church in existence down through the years.

But we hope, and this is the second reason for this effort, that what is written down here will serve as an inspiration to present and future parishioners, that it will arouse in them a pride in the accomplishments of the founders of their parish, and that it will help to instill in generations to come some of the spirit of sacrifice, devotion and love of God that characterized the early days of St. Mary's Cathedral parish.

*"The Lord our God be with us,
as he was with our fathers, and
not leave us, nor cast us off"*
(III Kings, 8, 57).



Most Reverend Stephen S. Woznicki, D.D.

Second Bishop of Saginaw (1950-)

DIocese OF SAGINAW
CHANCERY
124 N. HAMILTON STREET
SAGINAW, MICHIGAN

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

July 5, 1966

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Eugene A. Forbes
Pastor, St. Mary's Cathedral
615 Hoyt Avenue
Saginaw, Michigan

Dear Monsignor Forbes:

It has come to Our attention that our St. Mary's Cathedral will observe its centennial as a residential parish on Sunday, October 2, 1966. This jubilee observance is reason for celebration and much rejoicing because of the great spiritual good accomplished by means of this parish through the years.

Only Almighty God Himself knows how much has been achieved through the instrumentality of this Church over the past 113 years from the time it was established as a mission of Bay City St. Joseph's in 1853 by Father Henry J. H. Schutjes.

We should mention that St. Mary's had the first parochial school in Our diocese dating back to September 2, 1868, when, two years after taking up residence, Father Francis van der Bom opened a two-room parish school under the supervision of the Monroe IHM Sisters.

Calvary Cemetery, first Catholic cemetery of the area, was established for the parish in 1868.

St. Mary's Hospital, the first hospital in Saginaw, was started in 1874 from St. Mary's parish.

St. Vincent's Orphanage, presently the only orphanage in Saginaw, also stemmed from the zeal of its pastor and parishioners.

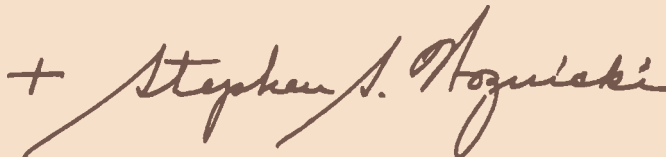
What could be more natural, when in 1938 the Diocese of Saginaw was founded, than the selection of St. Mary's as the Cathedral or mother church of the diocese?

Its church is commodious and beautiful, its sanctuary quite suited for ordinations and pontifical ceremonies. It is one of the largest parishes of the See city, over 1,000 families, and possessing an elementary school and a North Central accredited high school.

St. Mary's, the mother Church of all Saginaw City and County East of the Saginaw River, is steeped in a century of tradition of Catholic life and activity. It is this tradition which we salute and commemorate with grateful hearts during this "Centennial Year."

May I take this occasion to congratulate you, and particularly your good people, for all that they have accomplished, with God's help, during the past one hundred years. May God continue to bless this parish through the changes that will take place in the course of the coming years.

Cordially yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Stephen S. Woznicki". The signature is written in dark ink and is preceded by a small cross symbol.

Bishop of Saginaw

Monsignor Joseph Felix Vogt, fourth pastor, was born in Helden, Germany, November 12, 1881, coming with his family to Grand Rapids, Michigan, when he was two years of age. He attended St. Mary's Parochial School, Grand Rapids, graduating from high school in 1898.

His seminary college course was undertaken at St. Gregory Minor Seminary, Cincinnati, Ohio. His philosophical and theological education he received at The Grand Seminary, Montreal, Canada.

On June 24, 1909, he was ordained in St. Andrew Cathedral, Grand Rapids, by the late Most Reverend Henry Joseph Richter.

Monsignor Vogt was first appointed assistant at St. Simon Church, Ludington, Michigan. On

May 1, 1914, he became pastor of St. Philip Church, Reed City, Michigan, remaining there until September 1, 1921, when he was named pastor at St. Mary Church, Cheboygan, Michigan.

He served the Cheboygan pastorate for 14 years until he was appointed pastor of St. Mary Cathedral Church, Saginaw, on November 1, 1935.

He also served as State Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus from 1923 to 1926.

Monsignor Vogt exercised the office of Dean of the Saginaw District continuously for 19 years from the time of his first appointment by Bishop Pinten on April 27, 1936.

Monsignor Vogt was named a Domestic Prelate and invested by

Bishop Murphy in St. Mary's Cathedral, Saginaw, on October 25, 1945.

In 1941 Monsignor Vogt saw to the extensive remodeling and re-decorating of the Church itself. The rectory was completely made over and enlarged in 1949. An addition was made to the school building in 1951.

Because of ill health, the Monsignor resigned his pastorate on September 7, 1955, and was immediately appointed "Pastor Emeritus" by the Most Reverend Stephen S. Woznicki, Bishop of Saginaw.

He died at St. Mary Hospital, Saginaw, on July 1, 1958, and is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Saginaw.

