

St. Michael's to celebrate 50th anniversary

From a very modest beginning of approximately 15 families, St. Michael's Parish has grown to over 300 families in the past 50 years. This isn't counting the summer vacationing families that average from 100 to 200 families yearly.

In 1939, a stone church was completed in Hardy, with a seating capacity for 50 people. This church was expanded twice, once

in the early 1960's and again in 1968. Ten years later in 1978, approval was obtained to build a new church in its present location in Cherokee Village. This church was dedicated and consecrated for use, March 11 by Bishop Andrew J. McDonald of the Catholic Diocese of Little Rock.

With the tremendous growth in the Cherokee Village area, St. Michael's church now has the sec-

ond largest Catholic congregation in this tri-county area.

It is with pride and thanks that the parishioners will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of their church, Sunday, July 16, starting with an 11 a.m. Mass, celebrated by Bishop Andrew J. McDonald. Concelebrating will be St. Michael's parish priest, Rev. Ralph Esposito, and former pastors Rev. Venatius Preske, Sherman Wall

and Conan Mawhor. Assisting the Bishop at Mass will be Deacon's Robert F. Clark and Victor Stepka. Honor guard will be provided by the Knights of Columbus Council 6969, of Cherokee Village and Horseshoe Bend.

A dinner is planned following the Mass celebration at the Highland Elks Lodge for parishioners and guests. Anniversary handouts will include the highlights of the

church's history, and a place card souvenir picture of the first church in Hardy, and the present one in Cherokee Village.

The Master of Ceremonies for the dinner is Robert Zeck. Committee chairpersons for the decorations and dinner are Ruth Chandler, Margaret Yedinek, Cecilia Orosz and Ruth Vitko.

Congratulations to St. Michael's for their 50 year journey.