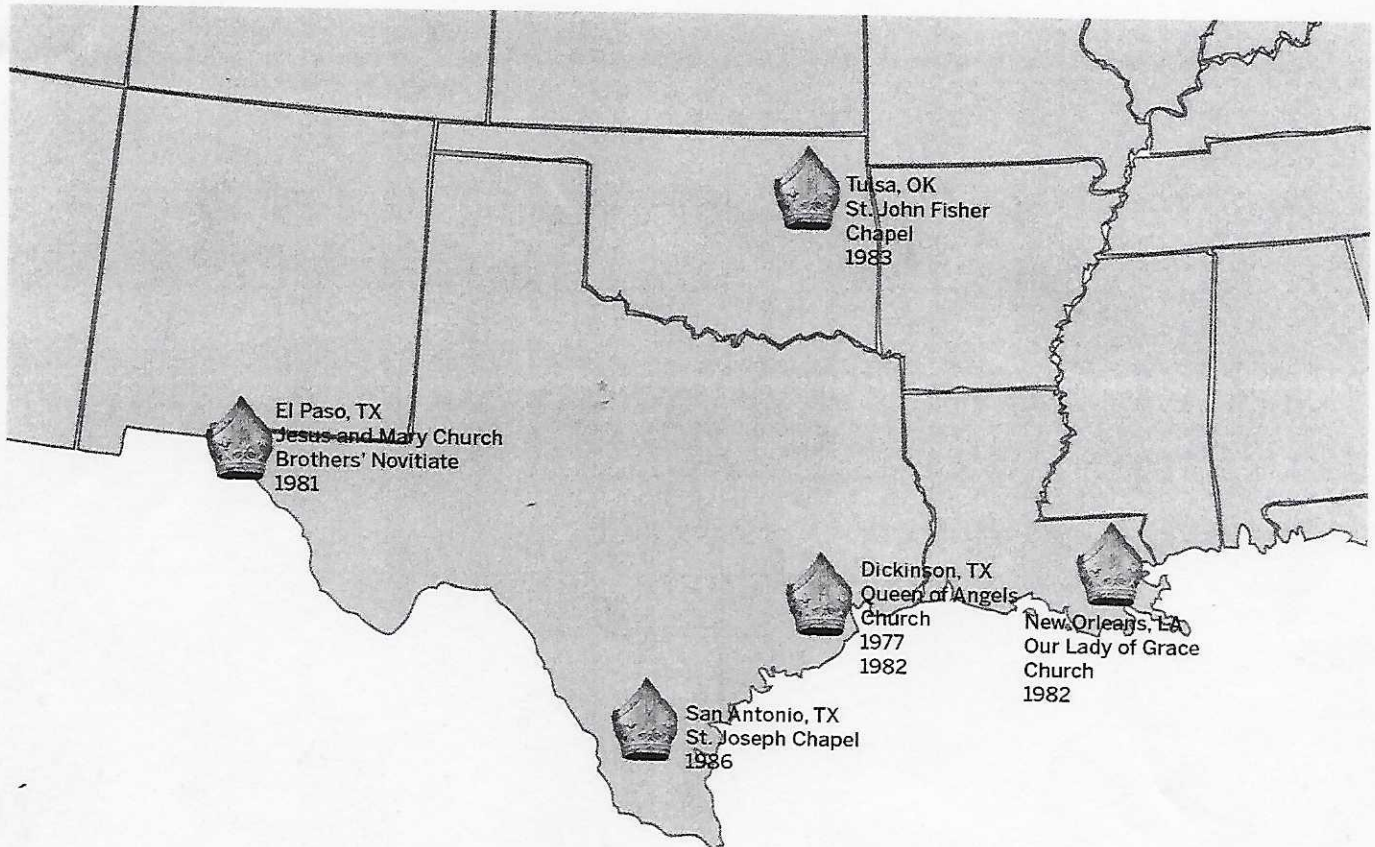
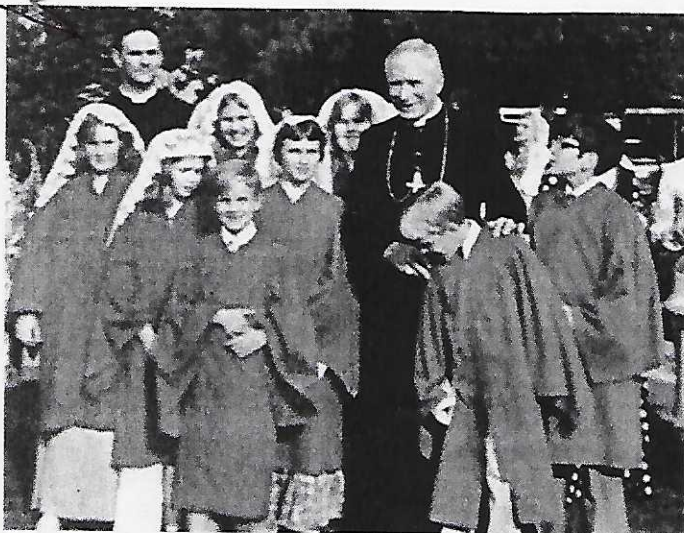


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His biggest impact in the U.S. has been the Archbishop's role in the formation of good Catholic schools. Without them, my family would be in sad shape. There was no other place for the children to go to receive a proper Catholic education.

Mr. Carl Boddy of St. Michael's Chapel in North Houston, TX

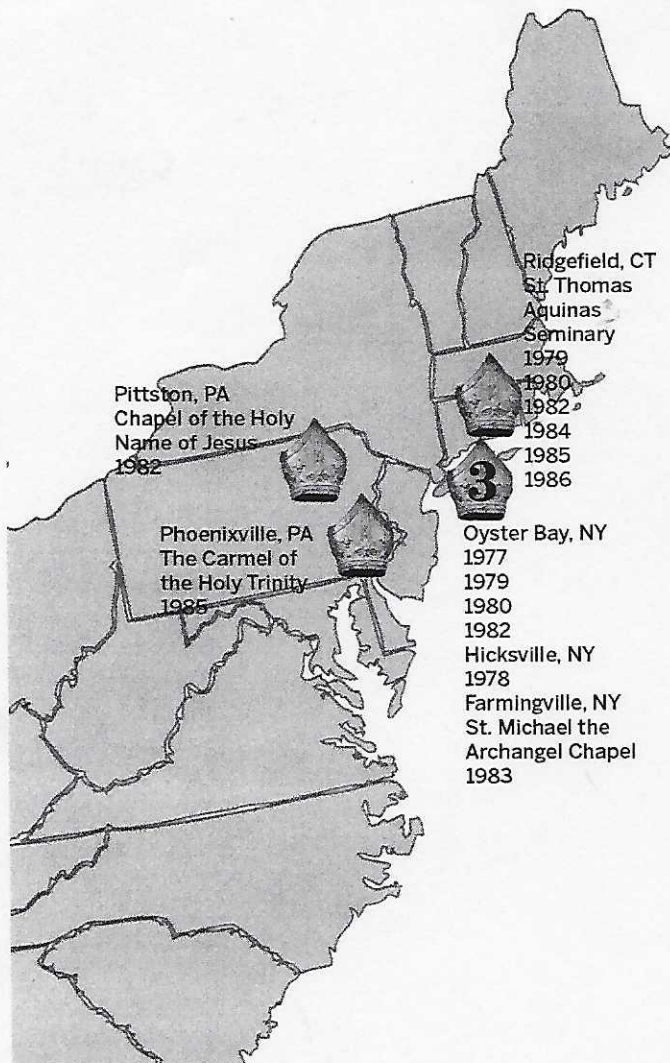


The newly confirmed with Archbishop Lefebvre and Fr. Bolduc in Dickinson, TX in 1982.

Archbishop Lefebvre dedicated Queen of Angels Church in Dickinson, TX on July 10, 1977, one year before Angelus Press was founded by Fr. Carl Pulvermacher, O.F.M. Cap. He returned for the Angelus Press fifth anniversary banquet on the evening of May 2, 1982. He celebrated Solemn Mass that morning followed by an interview with Louis Moore, Religion Editor of the *Houston Chronicle* and conferred the sacrament of Confirmation in the afternoon. The next day he toured the Angelus Press offices. Almost a year and a half earlier on January 4, 1981, he visited the other side of Texas, where he dedicated a newly-acquired property which would serve as a Brothers' Novitiate House and is now Jesus and Mary Church in El Paso. During his last visit to Texas in April 1986, he dedicated St. Joseph Chapel in San Antonio and conferred Confirmation. In all, the Archbishop visited the great state of Texas more than six times.

On May 1, 1982 Archbishop Lefebvre dedicated Our Lady of Grace Church in New Orleans, LA. Traditional Catholics from every part of Louisiana overflowed the church. Following the dedication, the Archbishop bestowed his blessing upon the faithful. A year later he visited Tulsa, OK.





What are the facts which count for us? The seminaries! To make priests! To make traditional priests, priests according to Tradition, to make good and holy priests in our seminaries. That is the work we must carry on with and the work which counts in Rome.

So, I trust you will remain faithful and that we will be able to continue working together for the greater good of the Church.

Archbishop Lefebvre in Farmingville, NY November 1983

One of Archbishop Lefebvre's first visits to New York was to dedicate the brand new U.S. District in Oyster Bay Cove on Long Island on November 6, 1977. His Excellency visited there many times, conferring tonsure and minor orders and ordaining priests. In 1978 he also visited Hicksville, NY to administer First Communion. In November of 1983 the focus in New York shifted to Farmingville on Long Island, where the Archbishop gave Confirmations and publicly consecrated Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In 1979 the seminary moved to Ridgefield, CT. The Archbishop visited there to ordain priests and confer minor orders. He returned to ordain four in 1984 and four in 1985, until 1986 when he visited for the last time, ordaining three priests in April.

"Over 1,000 people gathered at St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Ridgefield, Connecticut, site of the Society of Saint Pius X's American seminary, to assist at ordination[s]..."

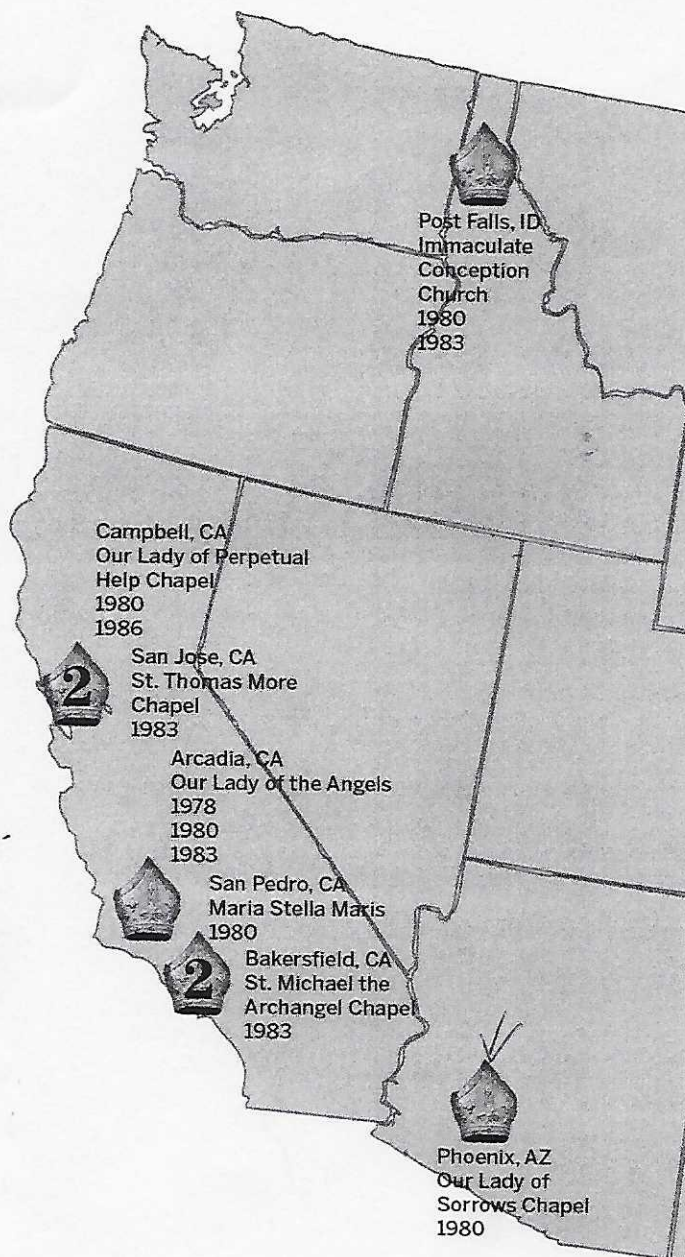
"A large number of seminarians received tonsure, and minor orders... During his visit to Ridgefield, Archbishop Lefebvre blessed the seminary and chapel and conferred the sacrament of Confirmation on some fifty candidates... In his address to the faithful, His Grace encouraged them to remain faithful to the Mass and the Sacraments. He reaffirmed his right to continue saying the Mass of All Time and his determination to continue to ordain holy priests for the Church and the needs of the faithful.

"Archbishop Lefebvre stated in his address that if St. Pius X were here today he would repeat his former statement that the enemies of the Church are within its walls, that they include not only priests but bishops and cardinals as well. He asked the faithful to pray for His Holiness Pope John Paul II." (Extracts from the June 1980 issue of *The Angelus*)



Archbishop Lefebvre at The Carmel of the Holy Trinity in Phoenixville, PA.





The Archbishop in Colton, CA in 1983.

Our Lady of the Angels Church in Arcadia, CA first saw Archbishop Lefebvre for Confirmations in May of 1978. The previous day the Archbishop had visited San Jose for Confirmations, where a grateful audience gave him a standing ovation when he announced he would be sending another priest to help Fr. Gregory Post in California. His Excellency travelled extensively in California because of the large numbers of faithful there.

"It was our good fortune to have His Excellency's visit on Ascension Thursday, May 15, 1980 when the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation were administered and a High Mass was celebrated... at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel in Campbell, California... San Jose's Channel 11 TV station covered our Ascension Thursday event which was seen that same night on the 11:00 o'clock news... His Excellency addressed the confirmandi and the congregation in French, beautifully translated by Father Hector Bolduc. His Excellency's message was that we must hold fast to our Catholic Faith and pass it on to our children... 'Stay close to Our Lady,' His Grace said, 'and remember her messages at Fatima.'

"After the Confirmation ceremonies, the Archbishop celebrated High Mass... he graciously allowed the people to greet him individually after Mass and an informal but substantial supper was served to some 300 guests, marking the end of a very busy and inspiring afternoon." (Extracts from the June 1980 issue of *The Angelus*)

In 1983 His Excellency's very busy visit to California began with an unexpected evening phone call to Fr. Post, asking to meet in Bakersfield. He blessed St. Michael the Archangel Chapel in Bakersfield, conferred Confirmations, attended an afternoon luncheon and then arrived in Campbell later that evening. The next day he did the same for the chapel in San Jose. On Sunday the Archbishop celebrated High Mass there, following which he spent some time on the front lawn greeting people, blessing children and religious goods, signing books and holy cards. The chapel's women's club served breakfast, and he left for Post Falls, ID to do the same thing there.

Following dinner, in his remarks to the enthusiastic audience, Archbishop Lefebvre said: "Certainly you will read in the local papers that my visit to this Diocese is not appreciated, but I say to Archbishop Quinn and to the other Bishops that if they were discharging their duties to the Church of All Time my presence here would not be necessary!"

"The Archbishop's Tour" *The Angelus* June 1978





# Interview with Fr. Gregory Post

## When did you first meet Archbishop Lefebvre?

I met him in Pittsburgh, PA in March 1971. My mother had been in contact with Professor Robin Anderson. He was a British professor living in Rome teaching English classes, and they had a mutual interest in Cardinal Merry del Val. My mother mentioned that she had a son interested in traditional priesthood and she had heard that Archbishop Lefebvre had started a traditional order. Professor Anderson was also in touch with the Archbishop during his time in Rome following his resignation as the Superior of the Holy Ghost Fathers. He wrote back to mother telling her, "Have your son write a letter to Archbishop Lefebvre and send it to me. I will pass it on."

The Archbishop wrote back saying, "I am coming to the U.S. in March to visit with a couple bishops to get permission to start the Society in their dioceses," and to meet him in Pittsburgh. I met His Grace at the Holy Ghost Fathers' house in Pittsburgh (or was it Kentucky?) I arrived halfway through Mass that morning, and I served the rest of Mass. We ate breakfast, and then he gave me forms to apply to Ecône. A little while later on October 5, 1971, I was notified that I had been accepted.

First of all, I attended a retreat for the beginning of the school year. When I was finished, the Archbishop called. He said, "You've done most of your studies already, so I am sending you to Fribourg for your last two years of seminary." I had been a Discalced Carmelite and already received tonsure and minor orders by then.

So I completed my studies in 1972 and was ordained by the Archbishop at Our Lady of the Prairies Shrine in Powers Lake, ND. I taught at Ecône for a while. Fr. Anthony Ward had taken seminarians to Ecône, and they had difficulty with French. Starting at the beginning of 1974 I

was teaching courses at Ecône for the English speakers. By Easter it was an English-speaking place. Then I came back to the U.S. where I was stationed in Detroit. I was there for a couple months when I spoke with Archbishop Lefebvre about the large numbers of people who wanted the traditional Mass in California. I asked for permission to go to California and start Mass centers, which he gave me.



## What do you think his impact in the United States has been?

It's been good and strong. Through his efforts almost all traditionalists in the U.S. have been associated with us, including quite a few individual priests. The Society is by far the strongest traditional movement in the U.S. and it is growing. More people attend the Mass centers all the time. The Society represents a good influence.

## What is your last memory of him?

I visited Ecône several times. Sometime before he died, I remember coming into the main building in Ecône. The Archbishop happened to be standing in the corridor. At that time he was pretty elderly. He did not look as vigorous as I remembered. I embraced him. This was probably in 1989 or 1990, a short time before he died.

The most spectacular visit to Post Falls happened in May 1980, when the Archbishop formally dedicated Immaculate Conception Church, administered Confirmation and attended an evening banquet held in the Student Union Building at North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene. He exhorted parents to encourage their children to consider religious vocations and

thereby ensure the future of the Church. When he departed Sunday morning it was probably the last flight out of Spokane only hours after the eruption of Mount St. Helen's, and he had a spectacular view of the volcanic ash clouds from a private plane piloted by Mr. Herman Belderok, who was also the headmaster at St. Mary's Academy in St. Mary's, KS.





When Fr. Bonfil Battazzo requested Archbishop Lefebvre's help in Detroit, MI to provide Mass and the sacraments to his faithful, it was possible for the second SSPX seminary in the world



One could feel and sense the deep love and respect that not only the priests, but also the laity felt for him. It is always amazing to see the vitality and conviction with which he defends the Faith and encourages the priests to stand firm for the traditions of our Faith.

from "St. Joseph's Shrine: A Very Special Week" by Irene Slovak  
June 1985 *The Angelus*

to be founded in Armada, MI. The Archbishop began his visits there in 1973 starting with the opening of the seminary. Confirmations, ordinations and a Corpus Christi procession in Armada, followed by a conference in Dearborn, highlighted his visit in 1978. In 1979 His Excellency dedicated a newly restored chapel in Redford, MI, and in 1985 he attended the Society of Saint Pius X's annual priest retreat, led by Fr. Urban Snyder, along with thirteen priests, four deacons and three subdeacons held at St. Joseph's Shrine in Armada.

In Wisconsin His Grace visited St. Michael's Chapel in DePere in 1978 as it celebrated its 10 year anniversary and conferred Confirmations. In 1982 he was hosted by the Beemsters, and 139 were confirmed at St. Michael's Chapel.

His visits to Minnesota began in 1982 when Fr. Pierre Vignalou of Canada accompanied his Grace to St. Paul, where a host of priests had gathered to assist the Archbishop in dedicating the new Sts. Processus and Martinian Chapel. He conferred Confirmations before leaving. His Grace visited one more time in 1984, at the Mission of the Society of Saint Pius X in Minneapolis.

1. Concerned Catholics of Detroit, MI with the Archbishop in 1974.  
2. Priests' Retreat in Armada, MI in 1985.





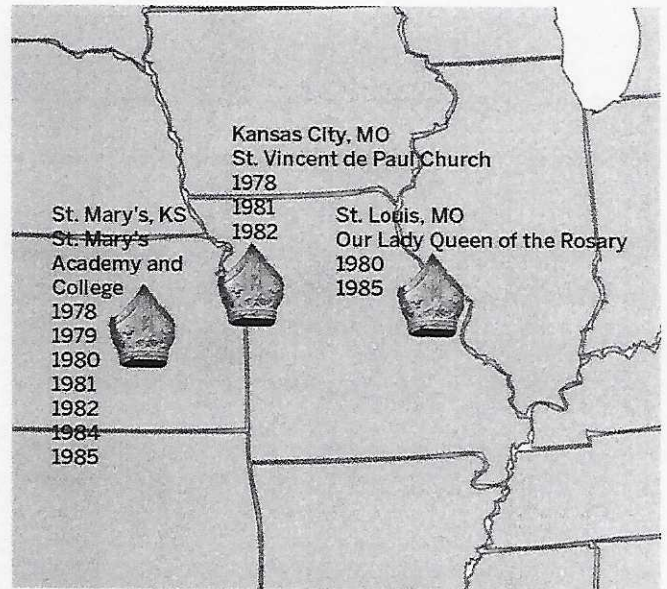


A couple years later in 1986, he was in Chicago, IL for Confirmations, which the local paper noted began his month long tour of North America. This was the Archbishop's last such visit to the U.S. District. Confirmations and the Mass following took place in the Astor ballroom of the Westin O'Hare Hotel.

Many people got a glimpse of the Archbishop at the Kansas City airport on May 22, 1978. In May of 1980 he returned to Kansas City, accompanied by Fr. Hector Bolduc, to see the newly acquired St. Vincent de Paul Church. He also visited Our Lady Queen of the Rosary in St. Louis. In 1981 he returned to Kansas City to rededicate and bless St. Vincent de Paul Church.

On May 4, 1982 his Grace was at the Kansas City airport again on his way to St. Vincent de Paul Church from Dickinson, TX. After a short visit he went on to St. Marys, KS. That evening the Archbishop dined at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Belderok. This was not his first visit to St. Marys and would not be his last. The first visit had been in 1978 when he inspected the grounds and urged Fr. Bolduc to continue negotiations to purchase the property. The Archbishop visited in May 1979 first to bless the newly acquired property and then to administer Confirmations. As the Archbishop's plane circled low over the College property, the children, assembled in the form of a huge cross, all waved white cloths in greeting. He returned in August.

Archbishop Lefebvre visited St. Marys at least four more times between 1980 and 1985. In 1981 he toured St. Marys Academy after performing ordinations at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Kansas City. In May of 1982 he asked the faithful at St. Marys, especially the children, to accept the motto, "Your chapel is the heart of your school." This was his fifth visit to St. Marys, and his schedule included First Communion, Confirmations, benediction,



1. The Archbishop in St. Louis, MO in 1985.  
2. Dedication of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Kansas City, MO in 1981.



see next page for picture desc.



"You must ask the Mother of God, the Blessed Virgin Mary, to help you keep in your heart the Name of Jesus for all your life." At the final banquet as he was leaving, he said, "Now I return to New York and then to Switzerland, and I shall ordain many priests in Switzerland. The Society is growing; it is like St. Mary's which is growing. God bless you!"

Archbishop Lefebvre at St. Marys, KS May 1984

blessing acreage set aside for Our Lady of Peace cemetery, and the May crowning. Then in December he returned to tour the school and administrative offices with Frs. Williamson and Fellay. In 1984 the Archbishop administered Confirmations, First Communion and attended the parish spring festival. In April 1985 His Grace visited St. Marys for the last time and consecrated the parish and schools to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He also stopped by Our Lady of the Rosary in St. Louis



The Archbishop is coming! Below in the quadrangle hundreds of pilgrims were streaming toward the front of the property. We hurried to join them, lining both sides of the drive. In moments the car we awaited rolled through the gates, and with heartfelt applause we greeted Archbishop Lefebvre, "the man," as Michael Davies said in his speech, "who had done more than any single individual to uphold the Church. None of this would be possible without him. Thanks to the stand one man made."

It was good to have him among us those few days. It was a privilege to attend his Mass, said slowly and quietly, and but for the two deacons assisting on either side of him, like any country priest of God; and a great privilege to receive Our Lord from his gentle hand.

The pilgrims thronged around him, orderly, yet so eager to see him. He said little, but blessed them, smiled gently and patted the children. A peace emanates from Marcel Lefebvre, a quiet strength. No "rebel" this, but a true shepherd who is happy to serve his flock.

When he entered the banquet room on Wednesday, a thousand people rose as one for a standing ovation from their hearts, and it rolled on as though it would never stop.

On Wednesday morning we had been detained at the gates while one of the frequent freight trains rumbled by. When the last car rattled past what a sight met our eyes: hundreds of pilgrims climbing the steps of the Immaculata for the cornerstone laying - a new beginning for Saint Mary's.

from "The Pilgrimage" by Mary E. Gentges  
The St. Mary's Magazine Christmas 1988





Tuesday morning, April 23, dawned grey and rainy. Under umbrellas, a large crowd of parishioners, teachers, and students of St. Mary's gathered in the front driveway to bid farewell to Archbishop Lefebvre. His Excellency was at the convent telling the Sisters goodbye, and insisted upon walking with U.S. District Superior Fr. Laisney down the wet driveway to the circle where everyone was waiting for him. While walking all the way to the main gates at the end of the drive, he spoke to a few persons and shook hands. He gave his blessing to all, and stood for a moment looking over the assembled faithful of St. Mary's. Did he know that it would be his last look at this place he had loved so much? With a final wave to the students, he entered the waiting car and was carried slowly through the main gates and out onto the wet highway going east toward Topeka. It was his last farewell.

from "St. Marys Remembers Archbishop Lefebvre"  
by Mary E. Gentges *Alma Mater*, Summer 1991

1. First Holy Communion 1982 at St. Marys, KS.
2. Altar servers at St. Marys and the Archbishop in 1983.
3. Boy Scouts with the Archbishop in St. Marys in 1984.
4. Last visit to St. Marys in 1985.





## Mr. Herman Belderok Remembers...



On one visit in 1980 the Archbishop was flying from Spokane to San Francisco. He had been visiting the chapel in Post Falls. Everything was going well and the Archbishop and the people traveling with him boarded the plane.

So we took off, flying down to California. As we got closer to California, we saw black smoke in the distance, far away. It was nothing to get excited about, so I kept on going. The next thing is I get a call from air traffic control. "Aztec 193, I have a new clearance for you. Ready to copy?"

I say, "Ready to copy."

While receiving this new clearance I knew he was routing me over higher terrain. I read back the clearance and said, "I do not accept."

I was thinking as pilot in command, I can refuse clearance with good reason. I was concerned that the change in altitude to something much higher would cause the passengers to have difficulty breathing.

He said, "Well, sir, do you see that black smoke up ahead of you there?"

I said, "Yes."

"Well, that's Mount St. Helen's. She just blew up. The plumes are at 40,000 feet and expected to go to 70 almost 80,000 feet."

I said, "What?! Okay, I accept."

You know, there's pumice in that smoke. That's what you scrub the sink with. Well, if you get it in the engine, guess what it does to an engine? It just destroys it. So I couldn't go through that cloud because of the debris. The edges of the debris are really sharp and would damage the plane. Anyway, I took the new route.

Of course with all the changes, things were a little different than expected. So when we landed, after I had taken care of the airplane, I went to look for the Archbishop. When he saw me, he thanked me for a safe and spectacular flight.

"Just a moment," the Archbishop said.

I asked, "What can I do for you?"

He said, "Sit down. First, have your lunch."

They brought me a hamburger, French fries, and a coke.

Then he said, "You should eat more." I respectfully declined and said if I ate more I might fall asleep during the flight; then who would take over?

Mrs. Belderok added to the story. "During the flight he, the Archbishop looked out the window in the plane and said, 'Gee, I guess the devil doesn't want me here. He's blowing up half the landscape.'"

Mr. Belderok continued, "We flew to L.A. to see Msgr. Donahue and his chapel. That place was jammed. It was standing room only. So many there, you couldn't move and we had people standing outside listening through open windows to him. Every time we would go to one of these chapels, the Archbishop would do Confirmations and all that. And it was the same at every place – crowds of people there to see him and receive the sacraments."

*Mr. Herman Belderok was the Business Manager at St. Mary's Church Academy in St. Mary's, KS. He also served as headmaster of the St. Mary's Academy beginning in 1979. Perhaps one of the most memorable things he did was fly the Archbishop to the various Mass centers and chapels in the U.S. This was often necessary because of the tight schedule and the number of visits that the Archbishop would make while he was here. It is from this venerable gentlemen and servant of the Church that we have this story as told to Patrick Murtha of St. Mary's, KS.*

In 1971 His Excellency visited his friend Bishop Ackerman, also a member of the Holy Ghost Fathers, in Covington, KY. Through Fr. Ramsey, a seminary professor for the diocese, the Archbishop met three American seminarians from New York, who would become his first American trained priests after he founded the seminary in Armada, MI.

Goldsboro, NC, a small town in the heart of tobacco country, is home to Old St. Mary's Church, which was consecrated the Church of Our Lady of Fatima and Mt. Carmel by the Archbishop on April 30, 1983. During a reception in the parish hall after Mass, he received a certificate of honorary citizenship from the mayor of Goldsboro. The mayor cited the important role played by this church in the community over



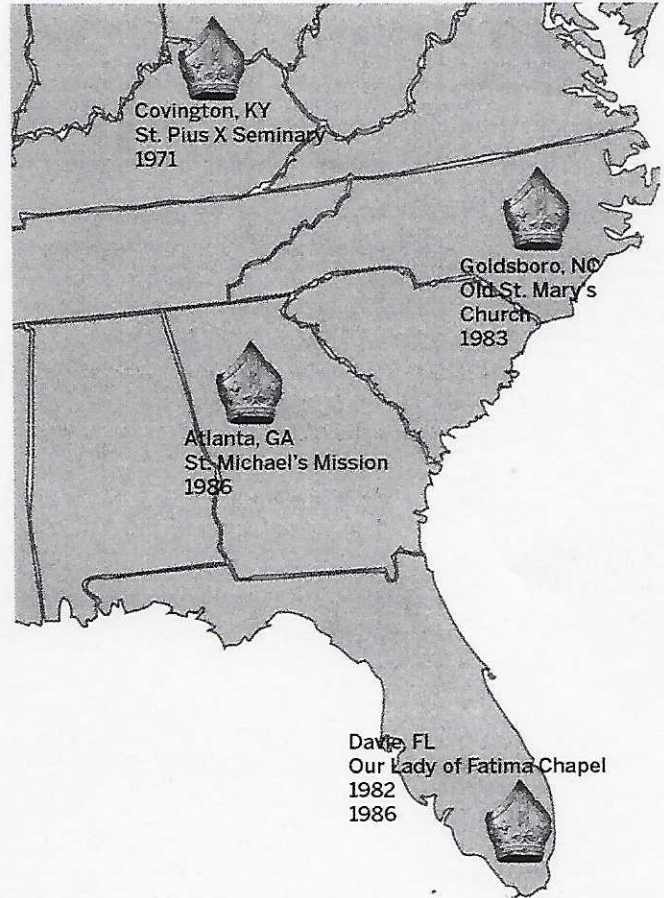


the years and commended the Society for re-opening it.

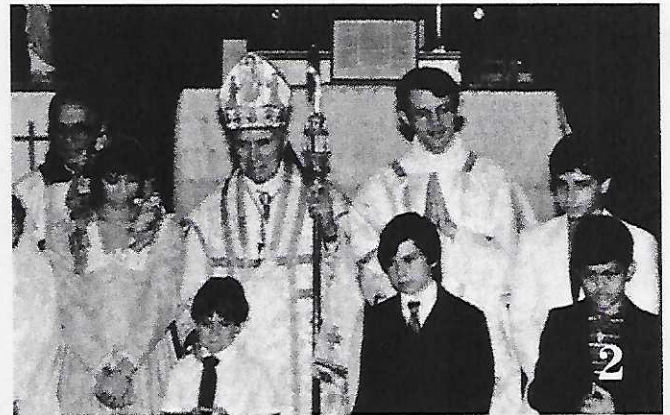
During the Archbishop's very last visit to the U.S., at St. Michael's Mission in Atlanta, GA, he remarked that "since the foundation of the Society I have ordained 250 priests. In the Society there are 152, and 100 more or less who are Benedictine monks or Dominicans or Franciscans." He exhorted families to pray together and remain under the influence of God, Jesus Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

He summed up his life's work:

"It is not my orientation, my attitude. I say many times to the seminarians in Ecône, and in Ridgefield, and everywhere in our seminaries: Don't say, 'We follow Archbishop Lefebvre.' No! Why Archbishop Lefebvre? He's no saint! But you follow Jesus Christ and the Tradition of the Church. You remain Catholic!...I am a Catholic bishop, no more, and I continue my work to preach Catholic doctrine. I do my work to prepare Catholic priests, and through them, the Catholic faithful, and no other thing. No! Don't say 'the doctrine of Archbishop Lefebvre.' I have no doctrine. I have no new teaching. My teaching is that of the Church, the teaching of the Catholic Church and the catechism of the Council of Trent."



1. In 1983, the Archbishop consecrated Old St. Mary's Church in Goldsboro, NC.



2. Archbishop Lefebvre at St. Michael's Mission near Atlanta, GA in 1986.

I give you this advice and encouragement: that is, the source of peace, the source of satisfaction, the source of joy, is in your families when they are under the influence of God, the influence of Jesus Christ, the influence of the Blessed Virgin Mary. When they pray together, when each member of the family works in his proper place, the husband head of the family, the wife the heart of the family under the authority of her husband, and the children under the authority of their parents, that is a good Christian family.

Archbishop Lefebvre in Atlanta, April 1986