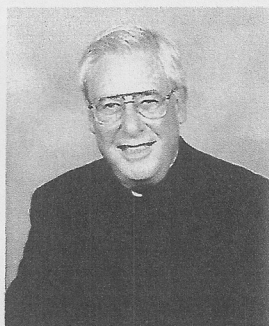


# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC PARISH

2500 ARBEITER ROAD  
JOLIET, IL 60431

## ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

St. Francis Xavier was born on April 7, 1506 in the family castle of Xavier, near Pamplona, Spain. He was sent to the University of Paris in 1525, secured his licentiate in 1528, and met Ignatius Loyola, who reminded St. Francis Xavier of Jesus' words from Sacred Scripture, "What will it profit a man to gain the whole world and to lose his own soul?" and convinced St. Francis Xavier to be one of the first seven Jesuits. St. Francis Xavier became a great missionary, preaching and baptizing in Mozambique, India, and Japan. He converted tens of thousands to Christianity. Before being able to reach China, St. Francis Xavier died on December 3, 1552. He was canonized in 1622 and after being proclaimed patron of all foreign missions and of many dioceses, including the Diocese of Joliet, in the 450<sup>th</sup> year following his death, St. Francis Xavier would be declared the patron of the newly established parish in Plainfield/Joliet.



On May 29, 2002, Most Rev. Joseph L. Imesch, bishop of the Diocese of Joliet, established a new parish in the Joliet/Plainfield area: Catholic Center of Plainfield.

1<sup>st</sup> Mass as a Parish  
Oct. 6, 2002

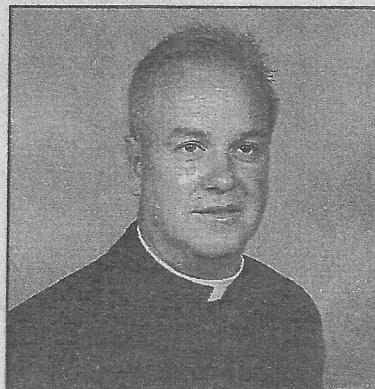
## New Plainfield parish is named

JOLIET—Bishop Joseph L. Imesch announced Nov. 22 that the newest Catholic parish for the Diocese of Joliet, located in Plainfield, has been named St. Francis Xavier Parish.

"We are hopefully going to be a very distinctive parish, so we were looking for a distinctive name. ... No other parish is named for the patron saint of the Joliet Diocese, St. Francis Xavier. We thought we could be the church for the new millennium," explained Father Dennis Lewandowski, pastor of the parish where 10 a.m. Sunday Mass is currently offered at Ridge Elementary School in Plainfield.

Father Lewandowski said the name for the diocese's newest parish is also appropriate because "we are on the outskirts of mission territory, and St. Francis Xavier is the patron saint of all missions." He

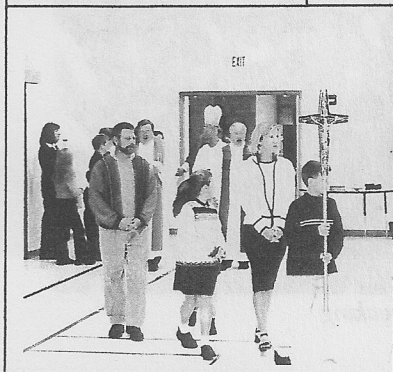
noted that the saint, who was reported to have baptized over 40,000 people, spent 10 years as a missionary in India, the East Indies and Japan.



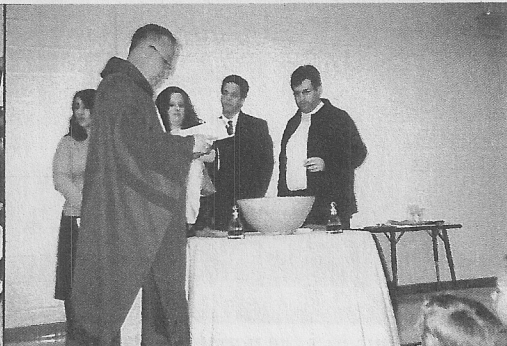
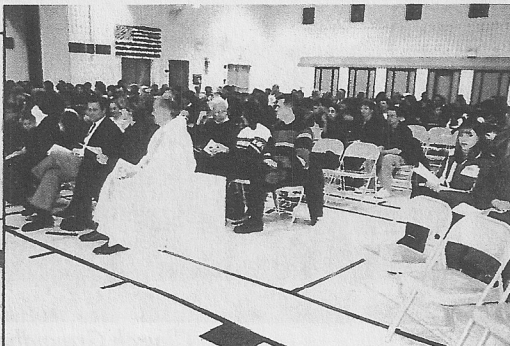
Father Dennis Lewandowski



St. Francis Xavier

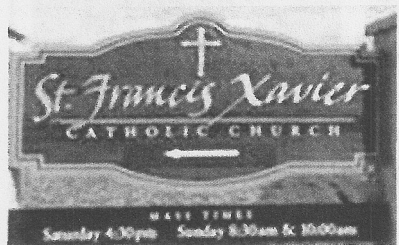


Christmas Eve Mass, 2002 in the Gym

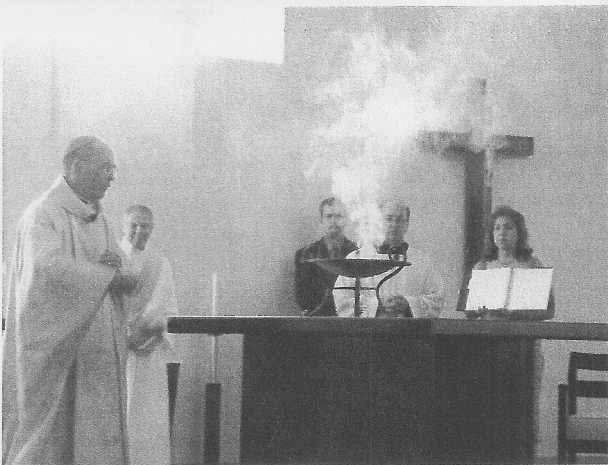


One of our first baptisms: Lillian Elizabeth

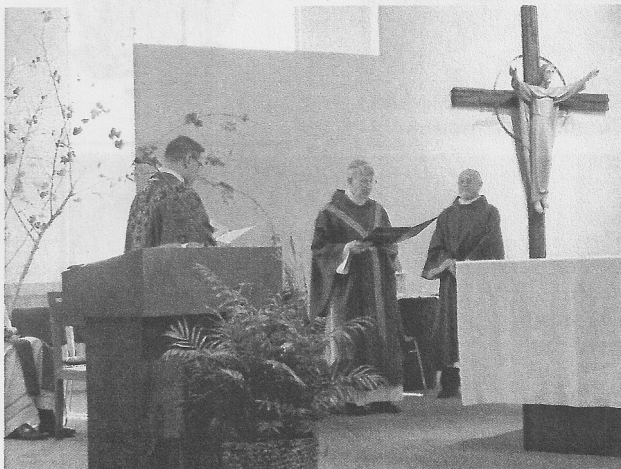




*Dedication of the Church of St. Francis Xavier  
August 12, 2006*



*Archbishop Sartain consecrates the altar.*



*Bishop Conlon visits the parish for the first time.*



*Church Groundbreaking*