

## All Saints raises money for Trinidad mission <sup>8/2/87</sup>

Trish Coady, Laurie Poinboeuf, Joanne Taran-  
to and Julie Bufi, from left, wash cars to earn  
money for their upcoming missionary trip to  
Trinidad through All Saints Catholic Church in

Dunwoody. The group is about \$2,500 short of its  
goal. For information on donating call 393-3255.  
See related story on Page 7A. (Staff photo by  
Donna Williams)

## ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH

At the time when Dunwoody was first experiencing a surge in growth, All Saints was formed as a mission under the guidance of St. Jude's parish. The story of All Saints has always been one of steady and well-managed growth. The generous contributions, wonderful spirit, and physical labor of the founding families were the basis for the splendid parish that is All Saints today.

With seating for 900, the church was designed to blend with a beautiful natural wooded setting. The Parish Center, with fifteen classrooms, social hall, library, and offices was carefully developed to meet the needs of a growing parish, and a house in an adjacent neighborhood was purchased and modified to become a rectory.

Spiritual growth accompanied the physical growth and a parish community, strong in its faith and ready to put that faith into action, expanded and diversified. In addition to the liturgical ministries, over 30 spiritual and social organizations and community outreach programs developed. A strong religious education department with more than 150 volunteers, dedicated to the formation of Catholic Christians of all ages, continues to grow. All Saints also maintains a high civic profile by serving as a polling place and site for numerous civic services and organization meetings.

In 1985, the Joseph J. Beltran Activities Center, with a gym, racquetball court, and adult education facilities, was added. Sports opportunities for the youth and adults of the parish became a way of involving the people in the activity and community of the church. Soon Kiernan Hall was built to accommodate the growing number of boys and girls who choose scouting as a way to participate in parish life. A two level addition to the Activities Center was needed to accommodate the growing adult education, R.C.I.A., youth, and fitness activities of the parish.

Two years ago, a mission in Peachtree Corners was established under the direction of All Saints. The mission of Mary Our Queen has grown to over 300 families, yet All Saints continues its own growth, now at over 3500 families. As the parish matures and the needs of the people change, new programs, services, and facilities continue to evolve.

## **BRIEF HISTORY OF ALL SAINTS PARISH**

On Mount Vernon Road, the highest point in DeKalb County, four contemporary buildings sit in a rustic setting: All Saints Catholic Church.

Most visitors' first impression is a feeling of peace, solitude, and good will. Yet in this quiet oasis is a vibrant, active parish family where thousands of people worship the Lord God. It is a place of faith, hope and love. Though still a rather young parish, All Saints offers a variety of opportunities for the young, the old, the family, and the individual, for faith enrichment and communal growth.

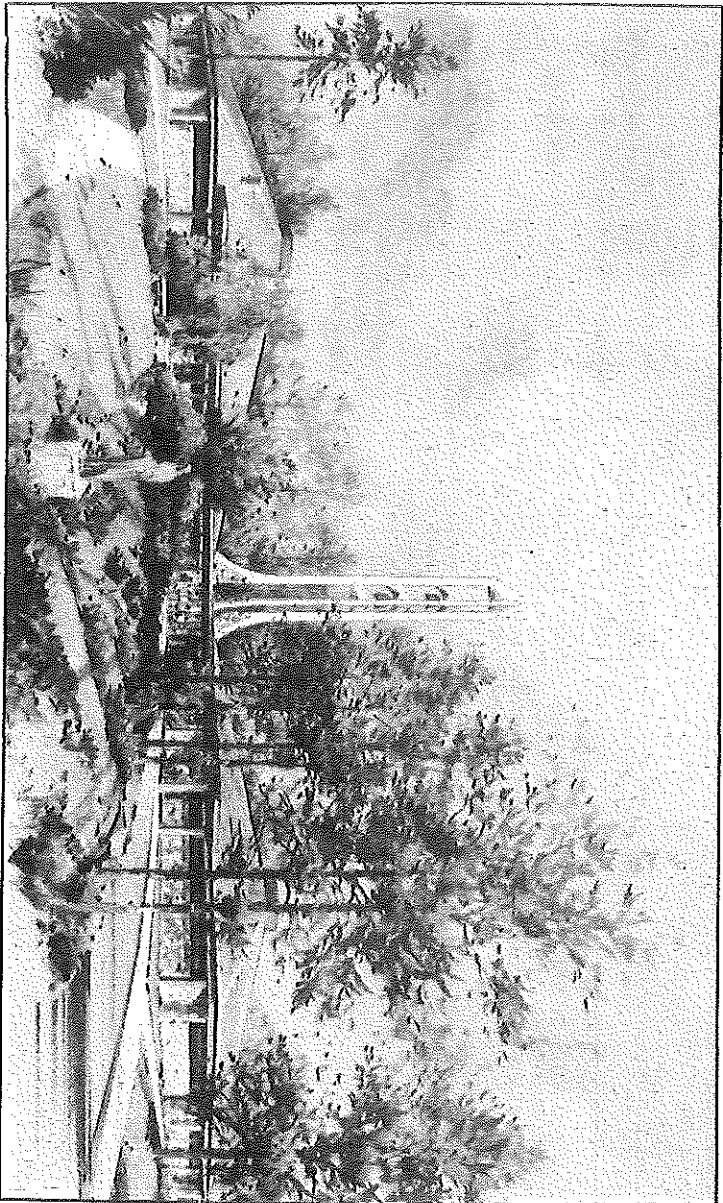
In 1977 Archbishop Thomas A. Donnellan established the Catholic Parish of Dunwoody which took in territory from our neighbor parishes Saint Jude, Holy Cross, and Our Lady of the Assumption. Father Joseph John Beltran was appointed the first pastor of this new Catholic community. On April 13, 1977, our first parish meeting was held in the Dekalb Federal meeting room in Dunwoody Village. An overflowing crowd of men, women, and young people filled with enthusiasm and faith, came to share in the beginnings of this new parish. These characteristics have continued in the projects, programs, and activities of our parish family.

Several names for the new Catholic community were presented to the Archbishop and the name ALL SAINTS was selected to designate the Catholic community of Dunwoody. All Saints is now a household name known to the people of Dunwoody as well as the entire Church of Atlanta.

For the first three years of its existence, All Saints rented space at Exchange Place, an office complex on Peachford Road. During this time several committees in the parish family worked feverishly to plan our new parish buildings.

In November of 1979 we moved into the Parish Center and began a full fledged religious program for the youth of the parish. A few weeks later, on December 22, 1979, our church building was dedicated by Archbishop Donnellan. It is impossible to count the Masses, Sacraments, funerals, weddings and other opportunities of grace and faith that have been celebrated in our church home.

All Saints began with approximately 300 families. We have since grown to over 3,300 families. Families moving in and out of the parish each month make it a bit more difficult to get to know and serve each other as well as we would like. Each year we try to innovate new programs and activities to meet the needs of this growing community. It is hoped that this directory will help you to become a truly active member of our parish family so that together we will leave our imprint of love and fellowship in the history of All Saints, and that our parish motto "pray that all may be one" (St. John 17:21) will be a living sign in all of us.



### Church Bells, Phone Signals Share

A cooperative effort between All Saints Catholic Church at 2443 Mt. Vernon Road in Dunwoody and BellSouth Mobility has resulted in an unusual bell tower for the church. The church wanted a bell tower and the communications company wanted a cellular phone tower. The two decided to combine their efforts and form a 125-

foot bell tower. The church donated the land for construction of the tower and got the bell tower at no cost. The church bells and cellular telephone antennas tower was designed by Slater Paul and Associates and was built by Wehr Construction of Louisville, Ky. Shown is a drawing of the project.

# Gift of

## Catholic group embarks on aid

By Paula Neal  
Neighbor Staff Writer

Cultural exchange and an opportunity to help people stricken by economic recession are primary goals of the All Saints Catholic Church group's upcoming goodwill and aid mission to Trinidad.

But they've also got lots of hard

work planned. About 40 youth group members and adults will travel to Trinidad Aug. 7 through 19 to help build a church and refurbish a drug rehabilitation center.

The group, led by the Rev. Thad Rudd, Monsignor R. Donald Kierman and Youth Group Director Robert Chaput, is raising

\$10,000 for the trip by car washes, doughnut sales and community pleas for private donations. Members have already raised \$7,500 in about two months, Chaput said.

The mission is to help people in the country, whose economy is in recession partially because of a Texaco oil refinery closing, Chaput said. But the mission is also about teaching the youth of the church about faith, he said.

"We're excited to be taking the kids out of their environment, out of this wealthy country, to help them get a perspective on life," Chaput said. We hope this can begin in them a pattern of giving — of reaching outside their comfort zones to help someone else."

The mission promises to be quite a cultural experience, because the village that has the uncompleted church is excitedly preparing for their arrival, he said.

The young people there are readying a Trinidad-American festival complete with native foods and a steel drum band, he said.

Trinidad is the southernmost Caribbean Island, about 50 miles off the northern coast of Venezuela. It doesn't receive much economic support from tourism because its beaches are not considered desirable.

Church officials mailed out letters to six countries to determine where their mission would take them. After an exploratory trip in May, Trinidad was found to be in the greatest need.

"People in Trinidad are very enthusiastic about our coming," Chaput said. "They treated us very well when we visited, showing us the whole island. We approached them through our archdiocese there, Archbishop Pantin."

The village church needs a foundation, which would take the



Staff photo by Donna Williams

**HOLY CONTRIBUTION:** The Rev. Thad B. Rudd, from left and Missionary Program Director Rob Chaput collect a donation from Monsignor R. Donald Kierman for an upcoming goodwill and aid mission to Trinidad.

\*Passa-time  
over.

## faith

### and cultural mission to Trinidad



Staff photo by Donna Williams

**CLOTHES FOR THE NEEDY:** Monsignor R. Donald Kierman and Missionary Program Director Rob Chaput sort clothes donated for the All Saints Catholic Church's upcoming aid mission to Trinidad.

native people somewhere around five to seven years to complete without aid, Chaput said.

The drug rehabilitation center was donated by the government but is in horrendous shape, he said. It's in the urban area of Port-of-Spain, hit hard by drug dealers since the United States crackdown on drug imports has required the creation of alternative markets, he said.

Other projects the group would like to complete are painting a Port-of-Spain cancer hospice and designing and beginning construction on a rectory in Sande Grande.

But Chaput said the center and church foundation project will probably be as much as the group can handle in its first visit.

The younger missionaries will build the foundation, and the adults will work on the rehab center. A participating engineer will determine a long-range plan for the center that can be left for its administrators to use after the group has gone.

All Saints wants this to be a continuing project and hopes it will prompt a trend in projects by local archdiocese, Chaput said.

The group may be able to return to Trinidad next year to work or may go to other needy countries that have expressed an interest in aid, he said.

Completion of their outlined projects is important to the missionaries, but most significant is that the morale of the Trinidad people has been elevated by their visit, Chaput said.

"We hope the level to which we've raised community morale and spirit will be lasting," he said. "To drum up spirit and hope is a big part of what we're trying to do."