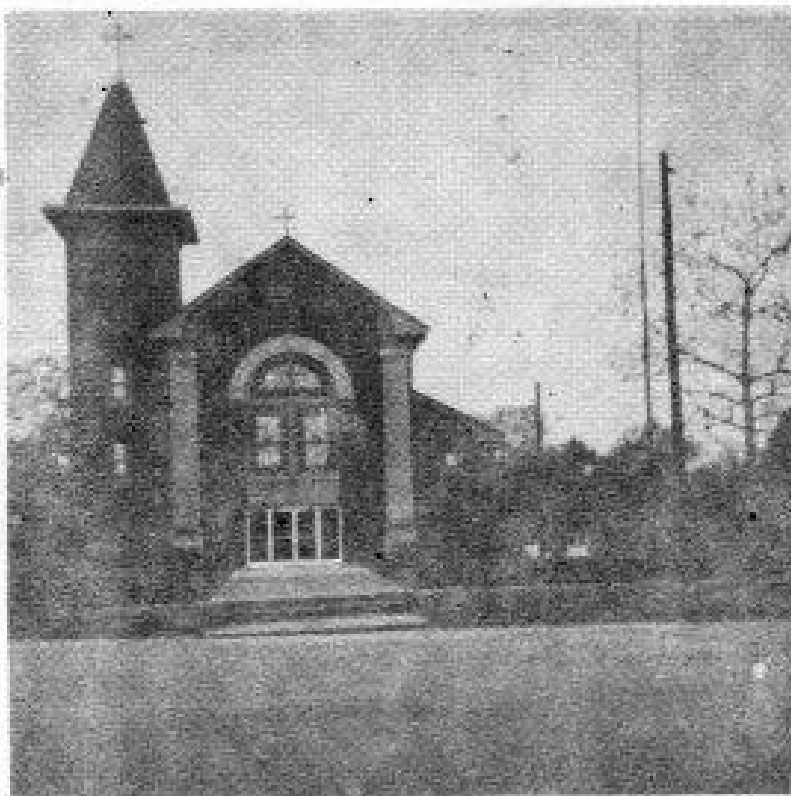


Mary J. Bradley

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA
Catholic Church

1880 - 1972



Birmingham, Alabama



Father Patrick Sullivan



The Rectory - 1972



The School built in 1960

a history of...

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

Catholic Church

Birmingham, Ala.

1880 - 1972

compiled by Mrs. John J. Wallace, Jr.

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Birmingham was named for and dedicated to a saint who only a few years ago was named to the ranks of the Doctors of the Church.

This young woman, only thirty-three years of age when she died, was an enigma to her superiors and still is to those who study her life.

The fact that she was recognized as a Doctor of the church is in itself astounding. For one reason, she was a woman. Also she was illiterate in comparison with other of those highly educated men, renowned for their writings.

Although she had no formal education, St. Catherine wrote one book, her Dialogue, which with her many letters, influenced contemporary society and future generations, from the lowest criminals and the worst sinners, to Pope Gregory XI.

Born in 1347, the youngest of twenty-five children, St. Catherine's life for Christ began when she was only six years old with Christ's first of many appearances to her. At fifteen, she became the first unmarried woman to enter the Mantellate, the third order of St. Dominic, an organization strictly for married women and widows. She went with them to attend the sick, to serve the poor, and to strive for the conversion of sinners. Her service to the afflicted, of both soul and body, was so successful that three Dominicans were especially assigned to hear the confessions of the many converts.

In 1370, she experienced a series of visions and received a call to enter public life. She corresponded with, and was consulted by Princes, the Italian rulers and high church officials. In 1377, her pleas and negotiations resulted in the return to Rome of Pope Gregory XI who had been living in exile.

During all her years of dedication and service, Catherine had lived in agony, suffering terrible physical pain and living for long periods with little or no food, except the Blessed Sacrament. Finally in 1378, she offered herself to Christ to bear the sins of the world and asked Him to receive her body for the unity and renovation of the church. This petition was

answered by a vision in which the Bark of Peter was laid upon her shoulders, crushing her with its weight. She died on April 29, 1380, after a long and mysterious illness, during which she was paralyzed from the waist down.

DEDICATION CEREMONIES

May 4, 1919



Participants on the porch of the rectory



Parishoners and clergy in front of the church

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

Catholic Church

1880 - 1972

Saint Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, Birmingham, Alabama was officially organized and the parish established in 1896. However, the church was at that time sixteen years old and had already out-grown one building. The history of St. Catherine's church began in the summer of 1880, when Father John J. Browne visited the little mining camp at Pratt Mines, seven miles west of Birmingham. Father Browne had arrived in Birmingham just a few months earlier as the first resident pastor of St. Paul's Church.

At Pratt Mines, or Coketon as it had been called earlier, Father Browne found four Catholic families who had been making the long trip to St. Paul's to attend Mass. Seeing the needs of these people, he celebrated the first Mass at Pratt Mines in the home of Mr. Thomas Devereaux.

Thomas Devereaux was a native of France who had settled at Pratt Mines where he found work as an engineer. He was married to the former Helen Covey and they were the parents of five children. The Devereaux family later moved to Ensley where they attended St. Anthony's Church.

Thereafter, Fr. Browne visited the mining camp monthly and celebrated Mass in the homes of the Devereaux's, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Sullivan, Mrs. Johanna Sullivan and Mr. John Silk.

Stephen Sullivan and his wife, Catherine, were natives of Ireland. They had several children and many of their descendents are members of St. Catherine's to-day. Sister Aloysia and Sister Anastacia Ramsey, Brother Florian McGinniss and Rev. Don Grainger are descendents of this couple.

Mrs. Johanna Sullivan was the widow of Daniel Sullivan who had died a short time earlier. His death, August 17, 1880 was the second listed in St. Paul's records of deaths and burials. Mrs. Sullivan

before her marriage was Johanna Foley. They, too, had several children and their descendants are also members of St. Catherine's. Among their descendants are their grandchildren, Father Eugene Flynn and Sister Dorothy Flynn.

John Silk was a miner, a native of Ireland. He and his wife, Violet, had six children and operated a boarding house. The list of boarders included the following: John Sullivan, John Travis, J.A.Crawley, Cornelius Sullivan, Thomas Duggan, Joseph Kelly. This group of people formed the nucleus of what was, later, to be Saint Catherine of Siena Church.

The little town of Coketon, later Pratt Mines, and soon after the turn of the century, renamed Pratt City, was a community which had grown up adjacent to the Pratt Mine.

Jefferson County had been settled early in the eighteen hundreds by settlers, mostly from Georgia, Tennessee and the Carolinas. There were several settlements in the county, but the main influx of people started only after the city of Birmingham was organized in 1872. But Birmingham's future was insecure. The cholera epidemic of 1873 had all but wiped out the little city and the railroads had failed to bring the expected progress.

In February of 1879, the Pratt Coal and Coke Company opened the first large, successful coal mine in Alabama and constructed a railroad. The opening of this mine was the impetus Birmingham needed and the progress that inspired the title "Magic City" was felt. It was near this mine that the little town of Pratt Mines was established.

People from all parts of the United States and immigrants from Europe began to settle there as they found employment in the mine. By 1881, the mining camp had grown enough that it was necessary to build a church to take care of the religious needs of the people.

On October 24, 1881, Bishop John Quinlan purchased a plot of land from the Pratt Coal and Coke Company for the nominal sum of

one dollar " and other consideration" for the expressed purpose of building a Catholic church. It was stated that should this land cease to be used for that purpose it would revert to the Pratt Coal and Coke Co. This deed is of interest because of the descriptions of the location. It states, in part, as follows:

"One acre lying in the shape of a parallelogram 210 feet by 220 feet situated in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 19, Tsp. 17, Rg. 3 W., near the NW corner and situated in the said sec. More particularly described as situated and beginning at a point on Church Street about 600 feet in a NE direction from Pratt Mines schoolhouse running along said street 210 feet to Jasper Road then parallel with said street in a NW direction to a point of beginning." (Deed book 48, Pg. 112, Jefferson County Probate Court, Birmingham, Ala.)

The church was built that same year, 1881, and named in honor of St. Catherine of Siena. It was the second Catholic church in Jefferson County and was directed as a mission from St. Paul's from that date, until 1895, with Fathers Patrick O'Reilly, Michael Filan and James R. McCafferty serving as priests during this period. In 1882, Fr. J.F. Roche was appointed to take charge of all the missions, by then six in number.

St. Catherine's mission church not only served the people of Pratt Mines, but being the only church in the western sections of the county, served the surrounding area as well. The section now known as, Ensley, Wylam, Brookside, Edgewater, and East Thomas all came into being soon after Pratt Mines and some may have been settled earlier, but St. Catherine's served these communities until such time as churches of their own were built.

The first school was built in 1891 with Miss Mary Rabitte as its first teacher. The school was a small, one room, frame building. Mr. William Logan, over 90 years old when this was written, informed me that he attended this school and that some of his classmates were Mrs. Grace Hanningan O'Brien, Mrs. Bridget Logan Camps, Tecumseh Green and others whose names he could not remember.

Although other schools are mentioned in records of that period, at various times St. Catherine's was the only school available and was attended by Catholics and non-Catholics. Mention has also been made by the older generation that before the school was built, some of the children attended school in the Methodist Church which is said to have been located, for a while, in the vicinity of St. Catherine's.

The records of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials for the period 1880-1896 were kept at St. Paul's. For brevity, I have listed only a few of those records.

Baptisms, Book I, St. Paul's Church Records.

Page 1 Feb. 25, 1880 Theodore Devereaux, born Dec. 25, 1878.
March 5, 1880 John Silk, born March 10, 1879.
Page 4 Oct. 26, 1880 Mary Antoinette Lestre, born Dec. 13, 1879.
Oct. 26, 1880 Thomas Roche, born Oct. 4, 1880.
Page 10 April 7, 1881 Margaret Travis, born March 19, 1881.
June 20, 1881 Margaret Helen Trullius, born Feb. 17, 1880.
Page 11 July 11, 1881 John Scholes, born July 5, 1881.
July 25, 1881 Thomas L. Devereaux, born July 18, 1881.

Marriages.

Page 3 James Ramsey to Catherine Sullivan, April 18, 1881.
4 Thomas Nash to Catherine McClosky, August 11, 1881.
5 Caroline Odum to August Chanagnet, Feb. 1, 1882.
12 J.W. Brown to Mary J. Foley, Sept. 3, 1885.
13 Patrick McArdle to Mrs. Christine Roach, Nov. 30, 1885.
14 Andrew McCann to Elizabeth Barrett, July 2, 1886.
17 Peter O'Hare to Emma Quinn, June 19, 1887.
19 Daniel Logan to M. Merrigan, Oct. 22, 1886?
22 Adam Stass to Lizzie Schlegel, Jan. 12, 1888.
24 Michael Sullivan to Bessie McArdle, Jan. 4, 1889.
28 Michael Flynn to Johanna Sullivan, Sept. 24, 1889.
39 William McArdle to Johanna Sullivan, April 15, 1891.
41 Michael Duggan to Ellen Newman, May 4, 1891.

These names and records will give a little information on the people of St. Catherine's in its mission days.

By 1895 the Catholic population had grown so much that it was deemed advisable to build a larger church. This building was begun in the latter part of that year, finished and the parish officially organized in 1896.

As soon as the church was finished and in use, the school was enlarged by joining the old church and school by means of a large room erected between the two buildings. It was in this year, 1896, that the Benedictine Nuns assumed the teaching responsibilities. Sisters Patricia, Gertrude and Camilla came from Holy Angel's Convent at St. Paul's on the old "Dummy" street cars to teach and returned to St. Paul's at the end of the day.

Reverend Louis Galland came to St. Catherine's in January of 1897. He was the first resident pastor and lived at the home of one of the parishioners until the rectory was built a few months later.

On September 24, 1897, Bishop Edward Patrick Allen purchased another small plot of land, this time from the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company. He paid ten dollars for this. The rectory was built and on June 22, 1898, he again added to the size of the church property with yet another purchase at a price of \$33.20. (Deed book 235, pg. 354, Jefferson County Probate Court, Birmingham, Ala.) This time the convent was erected and the sisters had a home in Pratt City. Sister Auxila was then sent from Covington, Ky. as the superior of the school.

These must have been hard, busy times for the little flock that had gathered at Pratt Mines. In only sixteen years they had built two churches, a school, a rectory and a convent and had made an enlargement to the school. In these endeavors they were assisted by the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

In September of 1897, Bishop Allen preached his first sermon at St. Paul's. Later at a gathering in the church hall, Reverend P.A.O'Reilly, pastor of St. Paul's, praised the A.O.H. for building

the church at Pratt City. J.R.Monk was the spokesman for the group and extended a cordial welcome to the Bishop on his first visit to the area. (Birmingham Age-Herald, Sept.9,1897).

Through all the construction in the parish, life went on as usual. Baptisms, marriages and deaths took no vacation. The first marriage recorded at St. Catherine's was that of Daniel Sullivan to Miss Alice Delaney. They were married by Father Galland on February 25,1897. Serving as witnesses were Ben Jacks and Ida Hunt.

The first baptism recorded in the new church was that of Jane McGinty. The daughter of Frank and Agnes Carlin McGinty, she was born December 26,1896 and baptized on January 17,1897. Other records for that year were:

Marriages

John A. Carlin to Miss Kate Crawley, July 26, 1897.
Charles Vallyely to Miss Agnes Dugan, Oct.27,1897.
James Burdis to Miss Jennie Schools, Oct. 27,1897.
Patrick Vallyely to Miss Ellen Dugan, Dec. 29, 1897.

Buried from St. Catherine's that year were:

Thomas Dugan, Feb. 7, 1897	Marie Nash, June 5,1897
Silva Bonoura, April 5,1897	Margaret Crawley,June 26,1897
James McCann, April 13,1897	John Cusack, July 31,1897
Edward McIntyre, May 29,1897	Fannie Roberts, Aug.25,1897
Edward Searson, Aug. 31,1897	Adam Stass, Sept. 3,1897
Salvatore Giangrossa, Sept. 15	Veronica Sullivan, Sept.17
John McMichael, Sept. 26,1897	Henry LaSage, Oct. 15,1897
Catherine O'Hare, Oct. 17,1897	

Baptisms

Patrick and Edward Barrett, Catherine O'Hare, Clara Chamborden, David Mosko, Mary Jane McArdle, Veronica Sullivan, Philomina Giles, Ferdinand O.Thomas, James P. Bessiere, Lizzie Mullen, John O.Neil, Vincent Hannigan, Julia Giles, Mary Ann Gallagher, Paul Sullivan, John Mitchell, Joseph Trongolla, Ellen Hannigan, George Shaffer, Mary Kate Donnelly, John Carlin, Mary Mekin, Charles Dugan and a few others.

Confirmation, April 24, 1898

The first confirmation was held in the organized church on April 24, 1898 by Rt. Rev. Edward P. Allen. Sponsors for the group were Mr. and Mrs. Michael Shevlin. The class included; Margaret Delaney, Agnes Mary Scholes, Bridget McArdle, Anna Emily Merrigan, Agnes Josephine Thomas, Mary Agnes Patricia McDonough, Mary Cecilia Harvey, Mary Catherine McCrawley, Elizabeth C. McCoy, Delilah M. Harkins, Mary Anna Roberts, Margaret C. Clark, Elizabeth M. Carlin, Elizabeth Gertrude Stass, Catherine M. Duggan, Anna Catherine Clark, Mary E. Breslin, Matilda M. Chamborden, Catherine Theresa Delaney, Catherine E. McCann, Mary Ann Wallace, Elizabeth M. Paxton, Agnes Frances Mullen, Julia M. Braslin, Mary Ann E. Schoolies, Edward J. Paxton, William J. Paxton, Thomas Cornelius Sullivan, Joseph S. McDonough, Alfred J. Giles, Andrew J. McCann, John A. Sullivan, John J. O'Hare, Margaret M. Hartigan, Sarah J. Miller, Virginia C. Burdies, Margaret E. Trulsius, Kate Walburg Sullivan, Catherine E. McMichael, Emily M. Merrigan, Loretta F. Travis, Bridget E. Gallagher, Johanna M. Crauley, Bridget A. Murphy, Lillie R. Miller, Julia T. Bessiere, Mary Veronica Barrett, Johanna Ramsey, Charles S. Ramsey, Patrick A. McGowan, Patrick J. Meacham, Francis J. Murphy, Joseph J. Cuniff, Peter J. Kelly, Henry J. Bessiere, Francis J. Wallace, Owen L. Dugan, James P. O'Hare, Wm. J. Currans, Fenton P. Burns, James O. Ramsey, Wm. F. Savage, Patrick J. Barrett, Martin M. Ford, James C. Delaney and Emile F. Godi.

After nine years of labor at St. Catherine's, Father Galland was transferred to Our Lady Of Sorrows Parish, where he died only a few months later. He was replaced at Pratt City by Fr. Henry O'Grady, who remained there until 1914. Father O'Grady celebrated his Silver Anniversary during his stay at St. Catherine's.

Reverend Otto J. Dus replaced Fr. O'Grady in 1914. Because of ill health Fr. Dus' stay at St. Catherine's was a short one. He died February 28, 1916. He had learned to love the little parish and according to his wishes Fr. Dus is buried on the lawn of the church he loved.

After the untimely death of Father Ous, the Reverend J.A. Malone took over the reins of the church. Father Malone had his work cut out for him as he had been at St. Catherine's only a few months, when on December 9, 1917, both the church and the school were destroyed by fire. The best way to relate the events of that day is to give the details as they were given in The Birmingham News on December 10, 1917.

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL BURN

A mass of charred timbers is all that remains of the pretty chapel of St. Catherine's Catholic Church and the adjoining school building on the North Highlands of Pratt City, the two buildings and their contents having been destroyed by a fire which broke out about 1 o'clock Sunday afternoon. The fire originated in the church and is thought to have been from the over heated furnace. No one was in the building at the time and the fire was not discovered until the interior was filled with smoke so dense that it was impossible to save any of the contents.

Both buildings were frame structures and fanned by a brisk breeze were quickly consumed. The fire department from Ensley went to the assistance of the Pratt City force, the work of fighting the flames being seriously handicapped by the low pressure of the high altitude. Gallant work was done by the firemen and volunteer helpers prevented the rectory from being damaged by the flames.

The loss is covered by insurance. The church was valued at \$5,000 and its fixtures at \$2,000. The school building's value is given at \$3,000 with fixtures at \$300.

The fire was a tragedy for the small parish. Money was scarce as it always was for the people of a mining camp and the numerous strikes that had plagued them over the years had done little to improve their financial situation. However, they were a determined people and with their determination and the resourcefulness of Fr. Malone the school was rebuilt. It was a much nicer building than before the fire, of brick construction, and although small as com-



In the above picture may be seen the church, convent and school as it appeared before the fire in 1917. On the extreme right is the original church, built in 1881. The lower picture shows the remains after the fire.



pared to the schools of today, it was large enough to accommodate the children of St. Catherine's Parish. It was used for both church and school until the church could be rebuilt. Funerals were held from the school and at least one wedding was held there. It was that of Miss Mary McGinty, daughter of Frank and Agnes McGinty to Charles Bradley, on October 6, 1918.

The new church was erected, this time a brick building, also. It was dedicated on May 4, 1919 by Rt. Rev. E.P. Allen, Bishop of Mobile. Bishop Allen was assisted by the Very Rev. Dean Coyle, Chaplain Patrick Turner, Rev. W. Tobin, Rev. James Downs, Rev. A. Malone, Rev. Fr. Bonaventure, Rev. Fr. Sylvester, Rev. John Kelly, Rev. J.A. Malone.

The program for the dedication listed the following committees concerned with the erection of the church.

General Chairman....S.J. Sullivan Secretary...E.L. McAllister
Finance Committee..John F. Meagher, P.T. Hannigan, Eugene C. Meehan
John J. Brislin, Hugh Lynch, Joseph Rigotti,
Ed. Flynn.

Building Committee....Chairman, John J. Brislin; other members; M.J. Shevlin, Hugh O'Brien, S.J. Sullivan, Frank McGinty, J.J. Keyes, E.L. McAllister and John F. Meagher.

Division I.A.O.H.... William McArdle, Robert Fox, S.J. Daly, R.J. Starson, James Meehan, William Stack.

Holy Name Society... W.W. Powell, V. Beilitz, D.J. Sullivan, Thomas Clark, William Mackinaw, John J. Carlin and J.R. Burdis.

These men are not the only ones who labored so hard and faithfully, but were the ones listed on the program for the day. Many others had worked in the background to rebuild the church they loved.

Wedding bells could not wait for the church to be finished. John J. Roden and Miss Harriet Flynn were married on January 22, 1919, before the interior of the church was completed. This was the first wedding in the new church. The first infant baptized in it was

Helen Frances Vallely, the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Vallely. She was born December 30, 1918 and baptized on January 26, 1919.

For a while all was quiet in the parish as the people went about their daily lives, until one night in June of 1925, misfortune again struck St. Catherine's parish. The convent burned. I believe the best way to tell of the horrors of that night is, again, to let the newspaper tell the story. The following article appeared in The Birmingham News, June 29, 1925.

NUN TRAPPED AS FLAMES DESTROY CATHOLIC HOME

Pratt City Residence of Sisters Mysteriously Destroyed

Anxiety to recover a few treasured trinkets after they had fled the burning sisters' home at St. Catherine's Catholic Church, Pratt City, nearly costing the life of Sister Beatrice when she dared the leaping flames and dashed back into the roaring building Monday morning at 3 o'clock. She was seriously injured. Two other sisters sleeping in the building barely escaped with their lives.

Fighting her way through the smoke-filled hall, Sister Beatrice found every avenue of escape, but an open window, cut off when she reached her room on the second floor. Nearing suffocation, Sister Beatrice went to the window, only to find that Father Charles Meyer, pastor of the church, and the two other sisters had been unable to raise the ladder to her. She leaped.

Sister Beatrice was picked up, suffering from a broken leg and rushed to St. Vincent's Hospital in Womack's ambulance, where it was said later she may have suffered injuries to her back also. She was reported resting easily despite her injuries and harrowing experience.

Considerable speculation was engaged in in Pratt City Monday as to the cause of the fire. Rev. Fr. Meyer stated there had been no fire of any kind in the building all day Sunday.

No stove, lamp or furnace, had been burning and he was at a loss to explain how the fire started. Firemen reported the blaze of undetermined origin.

Father Meyer said he does not suspect incendiarism. He states, however, that the house burned with surprising rapidity and the smoke had the odor of burning rags. When he first saw the flames, he said, they were blazing brightly about the front of the house on the first floor. By the time he had run to the Pastors home, a short distance away, and returned with a ladder, the flames had extended to the back of the house and were up to the second floor.

The pastor said he does intend to make an inspection of the church, school and pastor's home to see if there was anything suspicious about the premises.

No investigation has been requested, he said, and added he would not ask for an investigation without first consulting the leading men of the church. He said he did not know whether he would consult them.

Smoke filling the building about three o'clock awakened Sisters Beatrice, Alagunda and Rosalie, occupants of the house. All fled down the stairs as the flames mounted. Hardly had Sister Beatrice reached safety when she made her near fatal dash back into the building.

The building was valued at \$4,000 and the contents at \$3,000. Insurance of \$3,000 was carried, it was stated. (Father Meyer was a temporary replacement while Father Malone was on vacation.)

The convent was immediately replaced with a brick building. Due to the heavy expense of replacing the previously destroyed buildings, money was more scarce than ever and Father Malone was once more faced with the necessity of raising money. As he had done before, he spent many hours each day writing letters to friends and former parishioners asking for donations and pledges to finance the new convent. He reasoned that a letter cost approximately three cents and that if he could get one dollar in return it would help in raising the needed funds. The money was soon raised and the sisters had a home in Pratt City once more.

Father Malone served St. Catherine of Siena Church faithfully for twenty years, until in 1936, his health failing, he went to live with his brother in Winchester, Massachusetts. He died there a few months later.

The following poem was clipped from The Birmingham News shortly after the death of Father Malone and was supplied to me by Mrs. Mary Daly.

FATHER MALONE

1872 - 1936

By Bess Stout Lambert

Hail and farewell to his brave gallant soul
While angels proclaim that high heaven's his goal.
A worn weary body at rest 'neath the sod.
A pure christian spirit gone home to his God.

He lived so quietly, this kindly priest
Who went about his duties, sun or rain.
We hardly knew his tired heart had ceased
Its labored beat. And now we look in vain
To see him pass. How little we can say
To lend sweet solace to the friends he left.
Who knew his cheering comfort day by day....
We weep with them, disconsolate. bereft.

He was an ardent soul; a noble creed
A bright recording angel kept his score
Of kindness heaped shining deed on deed.

Reverend Joseph M. Sheridan came to Pratt City following the death of Father Malone, to serve as pastor of St. Catherine's church. He remained nine years until after a short illness, he died in 1945. A short time after his death, a small strip of land was conveyed by the church for the street fronting St. Catherine's. It was named Sheridan Road in his honor.

Reverend John O'Sullivan took over the pastorate after the death of Father Sheridan. He was at St. Catherine's less than five years when he was killed in a tragic automobile accident in Virginia while on vacation. Father O'Sullivan's death left a great sense of loss in the hearts of the parishioners and other people who, over the years had come in contact with him. His friendly personality made him many friends. Besides his other priestly duties, he conducted continuous instruction classes and brought many new faces into the church. He did much to cement relations with the non-Catholic population of Pratt City.

Reverend Alban O'Hara was the next pastor, coming to St. Catherine's after the death of Father O'Sullivan. During his twenty years here, Fr. O'Hara made many improvements. Church organizations were reorganized and some new ones were formed. Much needed repairs were made to the buildings. The church and sanctuary were completely remodeled. The ceiling was tiled, a new floor was laid, new pews and a marble altar was installed. The entire church was repainted and air-conditioning was installed.

In 1960, a new school was erected at a cost of \$85,000. The old schoolhouse was demolished and the grounds were made into an enlarged playground and parking area.

The school had been for many years, although small, an efficient, well-run institution with excellent teachers. It was established for the education of the children of St. Catherine's parish, however, it was considered by the non-Catholics as the better school and was attended by many of them as long as there was room.

Most of the children who attended the school lived near but there were some who walked several miles each day to get their education. There were still others who boarded in the home of the sisters.

Due to the convent fire in 1925, the earliest complete records in the file are for the year 1929, which is the annual report to the state of Alabama. That year there were 49 boys and 41 girls being taught in the twelve grades by three teachers. The number of grades taught varied, according to the need, until 1937. The autumn of that year saw the advent of an eight grade school.

There was a well rounded list of subjects taught, especially in the high school. This was surprising because of the small number of students. The list for the years 1925 through 1937 included all phases of English, French, Spanish, Latin, Algebra, bookkeeping, Business Arithmetic, several courses of History, Art, Civics, Science, Religion, Geometry, Typing and Music. The nuns were very much in demand as music teachers by people over a large area. They taught both, voice and instrumental music.

Over the years, enrollment averaged from 60 to 103 students, with either three or four teachers. The Benedictine Nuns taught at St. Catherine's from that first year in 1896. The last few years lay teachers were employed to supplement the teachers.

In the spring of 1968, after 76 years, St. Catherine School closed its doors for the last time and the children were transferred to Saint Joseph's School in Ensley.

Father O'Hara remained at St. Catherine's twenty years until his transfer to Huntville, Alabama in 1970. He celebrated his Silver Jubilee while at St. Catherine's in 1964. The Most Rev. Archbishop, Thomas J. Toolin, presided at the Solemn High Mass and a reception was held in the school auditorium honoring Father O'Hara.

Reverend Patrick Sullivan, the present pastor, came to St. Catherine's in 1970, after the transfer of Father O'Hara. Because of

the age and run-down condition of the old rectory, the convent, which had been vacant since the school was closed, was remodeled, redecorated and refurnished to be used as a rectory. The old rectory, built 72 years earlier, was rased.

At this time, a parish council was organized with Mr. Stephen J. Sullivan as its first president.

Other Church organizations and their presidents are:
Holy Name Society, Mr. Charles Perryman;
Rosary Alter Sodality, Mrs. Helen Webster;
Legion of Mary, Miss Fannie Jo Blanks;
Catholic Youth Organization, Mr. Larry Hardin.

In 1971, the school reopened as The West Catholic Grammar School of Religious Education. At the present, there are approximately one hundred students enrolled from several parishes in the western section of the county.

The school building, also serves the parish as a center for recreation purposes and other church related functions.

There are approximately 110 families on the membership roll of Saint Catherine of Siena Church. A list of the present members is included in the closing pages.

PRIESTS WHO SERVED SAINT CATHERINE'S CHURCH
1880 - 1972

Brown, Very Rev. John J. - was born in Cork County, Ireland in 1840. He came to the United States in 1860 with Bishop John Quinland. After completing his education for the priesthood, he was ordained in the Cathedral at Mobile, Alabama by Bishop Quinland, August 10, 1866. Father Brown's appointments include: St. Patrick's, Mobile, Alabama; Administrator of the Cathedral Parish, Mobile; St. Paul's, Birmingham, and its attached missions and St. Mary's, Mobile. He died in Mobile, February 13, 1884.

Roche, Rev. John F. - was appointed in 1882 to take care of St. Paul's missions at Attala; St. James, Gasden; St. Catherine of Siena, Pratt Mines; St. Joseph, Warrior; Oxmore and Wheeling. In 1885, he became Pastor of St. Mary's, Mobile. In 1888, he resigned to follow the strict life in a European monastery.

O'Reilly, Rev. Patrick - was born in County Cavan, Ireland, in 1855. He was ordained in Mobile, on December 19, 1879 by Bishop John Quinland. Father O'Reilly's appointments included the missions around Mobile; St. Bridget's Parish, Whistler; St. Paul's, Birmingham. During his years in Birmingham, Father O'Reilly, among other things, established St. Vincent's Hospital, where a monument to his memory now stands. He died in Birmingham, July 28, 1904.

Filan, Rev. Michael F. - was assistant Pastor of St. Paul's Parish, Birmingham, in 1885. He had been appointed to St. Paul's missions immediately after his ordination. He later served as Pastor of St. Mary's, Mobile, from which he resigned because of ill health. After his resignation, he served as Chaplain of St. Vincent's Hospital, Birmingham and DePaul Hospital, New Orleans, La. He died there, May 2, 1922 and was buried in Mobile, Alabama.

McCafferty, Rev. James P. - was born in Mobile, February 5, 1852. He was ordained in 1877 and served as assistant Pastor in Mobile parishes, Tuscaloosa, and as administrator of St. Paul's missions until his appointment in 1880 as Pastor of St. John's, Tuscaloosa.

In 1900, he was transferred to St. Michael's Church, Pensacola, Florida. He died January 17, 1904.

Galland, Rev. Louis H. - For first two years of his priestly life, Father Galland served as Assistant Pastor of St. Peter's Church in Montgomery, Alabama. In January of 1897, he became the first resident Pastor at Pratt City, where he labored for ten years. The rectory, convent and school all stand as a monument to his work in St. Catherine's Parish. In March, 1906, Father Galland was transferred to Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, where he died December 7th of that same year. His body was removed to Elmwood Cemetery at a later date.

D'Grady, Rev. Henry E. - was ordained by Cardinal Gibbons, December 17, 1887. He served as a missionary in Alabama and in the west before becoming Pastor of the Huntsville, Alabama church, which he served from 1896 until 1898. He became Pastor of St. Catherine's Church in 1906. He remained there until 1914, celebrating his Silver Jubilee at St. Catherine's in 1912.

Dus, Rev. Otto J. - was born January 14, 1867, a native of St. Gall, Switzerland. He was ordained by His Eminence, Cardinal Gibbons, January 29, 1892, for the Diocese of Mobile. Father Dus served at the Cathedral, Mobile; St. Mary's, Mobile; St. Patrick's, Apalachicola, Florida. In June of 1914, because his health was failing, Fr. Dus resigned and went North for a while. There, he was assistant to Very Rev. William O'Hara, who died a few days before Fr. Dus in Elmhurst, New York. On his return South, Fr. Dus was appointed Pastor of St. Catherine Church, Pratt City, where he remained until his death, February 28, 1916. At his own request, he is buried on the church grounds at St. Catherine's.

Malone, Rev. Joseph A. - Was born in New York City, October 20, 1872. He was ordained February 10, 1915. Previous to his appointment to St. Catherine's in March, 1916, Father Malone was in charge of the missions in Birmingham, and assistant Pastor of St. Paul's. He was

A FEW OF SAINT CATHERINE'S PRIESTS.



Father Louis Galland



Father John O'Sullivan



Father Otto Due

Below
Father J.A. Malone



Father Alban O'Hara

Pastor of St. Catherine's Church at Pratt City twenty years until, shortly before his death in 1936, he went to live with his brother in Winchester, Massachusetts. He died there later that year.

Sheridan, Rev. Joseph A. - was born in County Cavan, Ireland, February 6, 1883. He was ordained at Mount St. Mary's, Emmetsburg, Md. after having received his A.B. degree there in 1909 and his A.M. degree in 1911. He came to the Diocese of Mobile for his first appointment in the Cathedral Missions and subsequently served at the following: Blockton, Decatur, St. Clement's, Birmingham; St. Stephen's, Pensacola; St. Matthew's, Mobile and St. Catherine of Siena, Pratt City until his death, August 12, 1945. Father Sheridan was buried at Elmwood Cemetery.

O'Sullivan, Rev. John - was born in Limerick, Ireland on Nov. 12, 1905. He was ordained in Ireland, June 21, 1931. Upon coming to Alabama he served at Our Lady of Sorrows, Birmingham; Apalachicola, Fla.; St. Augustine's, Birmingham and in 1945 was sent to Pratt City as Pastor of St. Catherine of Siena. He remained at St. Catherine's until his death in a tragic automobile accident, August 22, 1950, in Virginia. Father O'Sullivan was buried at Elmwood Cemetery.

O'Hara, Rev. Alban J. - was born in Sligo, Ireland, October 12, 1915. He received his education in Ireland and was ordained at St. Pater's College, Oxford, June 4, 1939. He arrived in the Diocese of Mobile-Birmingham, September 2, 1939. He served, thereafter, at St. Thomas on the Hill; Director of Birmingham Missions with residence at Blessed Sacrement; St. Patrick's, Apalachicola, Fla.

In September, 1950, he came to St. Catherine's where he remained more than twenty years. He was transferred to Huntsville in 1970. He was appointed Dean in 1971.

Father O'Hara was the third son of eight to be ordained Priest. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Michael O'Hara hold a world's record for ordinations in one family.

Sullivan, Rev. Patrick - was born, April 10, 1938, Kenmare, County Kerry, Ireland. He was educated and ordained in Ireland. After his ordination on June 13, 1963, he came to the Diocese of Birmingham. His first assignment was to the staff of the North Alabama Missions and in 1966 he was appointed Marriage Counselor. He studied Marriage Counseling at the Marriage Counseling Center of Los Angeles, California and at the Catholic University of America.

In November, 1967, Father Sullivan was appointed Administrator of the newly erected Parish of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Birmingham. In January of 1970, he was appointed Pastor of St. Catherine's Church.

RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS FROM THE PARISH

Flynn, Rev. Eugene - The son of Michael Flynn and his wife, the former Johanna Sullivan, Father Flynn was born in Pratt City, October 19, 1906. He was ordained at St. Bernard's Abby, September 27, 1932. He has served parishes in Florence, Tuscumbia, Foley and Birmingham and as registrar and Vice President of St. Bernard's College. On March 12, 1968 Father Flynn was appointed Chaplain of St. Vincent's Hospital in Birmingham.

Stack, Rev. John Henry - The son of William and Sarah Carlin Stack, Father Stack was born in Pratt City, August 29, 1909. He was ordained in Rome by Cardinal Marchetti, December 8, 1935. He celebrated his first Mass at St. Catherine's church, May 24, 1936.

Father Stack's appointments included; St. Stephen's, Pensacola, Florida; Holy Redeemer, Eufaula, Alabama; St. Columba, Dothan, Alabama; St. Aloysia, Bessemer; St. Stanislaus, Wylam. He died on February 11, 1972 and was buried at Elmwood Cemetery.

Grainger, Rev. Donald J. - Son of Robert Cecil and Stephanie Travis Grainger, he was born in Birmingham, November 28, 1928. Father Grainger was ordained May 17, 1958, after having served as Chaplain in

the United States Army almost two years. After his ordination, Father Grainger served churches at Huntsville, Jacksonville, Piedmont, Alabama and as campus minister to students at Jacksonville University. After having been located, for a while, at Blessed Sacrament Church in Birmingham, Father Grainger is now serving in Gadsden, Alabama.

Smith, Rev. James E. - The son of James S. and Mary Meehan Smith, Father Smith was born in Birmingham, October 1, 1926. He served with the medical corps of the United States Army for two years. After completing his studies for the priesthood, Father Smith was ordained at St. Paul's Co-Cathedral, May 19, 1956. Since that time he has served churches in Anniston, Grovehill, Ala. Pensacola, Fla. and Quincy Fla. He is now Pastor at St. Eugene's Chapel at Tallahassee and Sacred Heart Church at Lanark, Fla. Father Smith also serves as Chaplain for the state institutions at Tallahassee and is a state counselor of youth.

McGiniss, Bro. Florian - A brother of the Sacred Heart, Brother Florian was born in Pratt City. He was the son of Patrick and Julia Sullivan McGiniss, and was an accomplished music teacher. He died in Bay St Louis, La. in February, 1964.

Ramsey, Sister Anastasia - born Catherine Ramsey in Wylem, Alabama February 27, 1891, she was the daughter of James and Catherine Sullivan Ramsey. Sister Anastasia entered Sacred Heart College in 1905 and took her final vows in the Benedictine Order in 1910. She celebrated her Silver Jubilee in 1932 and her Golden, in 1957. Sister Anastasia, now retired, taught many years in the schools of the diocese and spent her last active years teaching Music at St. Paul's.

Ramsey, Sister Aloysia - The sister of Sister Anastasia Ramsey, Sister Aloysia entered the Benedictine Order on July 4, 1902, taking her final vows in 1907. Sister Aloysia died in June of 1957.

Flynn, Sister Dorothy - The daughter of Michael and Johanna Sullivan Flynn, Sister Dorothy was born in Pratt City. She entered Sacred Heart Convent at a very early age. She took her vows in the Benedictine Order in January of 1915 and celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1967. Sister Dorothy has served the Catholic schools of Birmingham since 1933, teaching Home Economics at John Carroll many years. She is the sister of Father Eugene Flynn.

Rigotti, Sister Dominica - The daughter of Richard and Mary Louise Wilder Rigotti, was born in Pratt City, July 3, 1922. She entered The Benedictine Order, October 29, 1939 and celebrated her Silver Jubilee in 1966. Sister Dominica is presently, Administrative Assistant at John Carroll High School.

BENEDICTINE NUNS WHO SERVED AT SAINT CATHERINE

The Benedictine Nuns took over the teaching at the school at Pratt Mines in 1896. Sisters Patricia, Gertrude, and Camilla were sent to teach at the mines. Since that time the following nuns have taught at St. Catherine's.

Sister Mary Auxila	Carolyn Conklin
Mary Agnetis Green	Baptista Wagner
Eulalie Emberson	Sister Beatrice
Eugenia Schmidt	Sister Rosalie
Adelgunde Mulzer	Carolyn Namie
Mary Charles Daly	Margaret Mary Mulvey
Juliana Daly	Camilla Hess
Mary Thomas Daly	Marcella Wolf
Josephine Brumbach	Helen Hoch
Wilhelmina Tomerlin	Behedicta Mc Laughlin
Alice Marie Hoelcher	Clara Kramer
Placida Schaefer	Regina Campbell
Mary Stephen Frederick	Felicitas Nemety
Mary Carol Bishop	Bernadette Sachs
Anita Nicastro	Francine Hasenbein
Genevieve Mancos	Cecilia Obergfell
Mary James Karibo	Alphonsa Graber
Henrietta Varley	Assumpta Tomerlin
Florence Veigh	Machtildis Becker
Hilda Foerester	Bernadette Frieshammer
Louise Eck	Hilda Haas
Antoinette Priest	Wilfred Huettel
Jeanette Eck	Monica Vogt
Mary David Morris	Clementine Williams
Teresita Sellers	Mary Paul Gusmus
Raphael Colosia	Rita Obering

PARISHIONERS, 1972

Adams, Mrs. Helen R. Helen Mary Catherine Robert H.Jr. Joseph Patrick	Carroll, Mrs. Mary Catherine William H. Jr. Mark A. Mary Theresa
Alfano, Mr. and Mrs. Tommie	Chemell, Herman Mrs. Louise Bennie J.
Avery, Mr. and Mrs. H.H.	Chicarello, Tony Mrs. Shirley Tony F. Annette
Barrett, Miss Catherine Mrs. Catherine	Conley, Mrs. Frances Cramer, Mrs. Mary Cusimano, Frank, Jr. Mrs. Angela Stephen David Marlyn
Bielitz, Steve Miss Sophie	Daly, Mrs. Mary
Bolin, Mrs. Henry Miss Susan William J. Miss Karen Robert A.	Davenport, Mrs. James C. John Lawrence David Patrick
Bradley, Mrs. Mary J. John J. Mrs. Ann Mary Diane Theresa A. Joseph M. Jerome C.	Dugan, Mr. and Mrs. R.E. Ellis, Mrs. Annie Mr. and Mrs. Donald
Brensinger, Mr. and Mrs. Richard	English, Mr. and Mrs. Edward P.
Brown, John A. Mrs. Joanne Barry Anne Marie	Evans, Mrs. J.M. Rosemary Richard P. Richard P. Jr.
Chancey, Charles Mrs. Helen	Fisselman, Mrs. Clyde
Camponotta, Joseph P. Mrs. Rosalie Joseph C. Rosemary Leigh Ann	Grainger, R.C. Mrs. Stephanie Robert C. Jr. Mrs. Gladys W. Miss Marie John W.

Gaeinger, Mrs. Agnes

Michael

Mary Agnes

Leonard R.

Frances S.

William R.

Mary C.

Linda A.

Theresa M.

Green, Mrs. Annie

Gunter, Mrs. Wayne A.

Theresa Ann

Lisa

Hannigan, Mrs. Fenton B.

William S.

Mrs. Alphonse

Henson, Mrs. Marvin

Daniel

John Marvin

Madeline

Hill, Charles Wayne

Hudson, Mrs. Helen

Kelley

Hulsey, Mrs. W.B.

William F.

Jackson, Mrs. Cecilia

Estelle

Jacobik, Anthony

Mrs. Patricia

Greg

Tony

Jones, Mrs. Audie

Kraft, Miss Janie

Leydecker, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey C.

Logan, W.L.

Mackinaw, Mrs. Hugh F.Sr.

Hugh, Sr.

Patrick

Timothy

Mackinaw, Denis

Michael

Miss Marie Crawford

William J.Jr.

Majerick, Mr. and Mrs. Peter P
James

Marsden, Mrs. Julia

McArdle, John

Stephen A.Jr.

Mrs. S.A.Sr.

William L.

Moreland, Mrs. David N.

Miss Ann

Nelson, Mrs. Lehman

Narro, Herman

Newman, Robert L.

Parker, Mrs. Taylor

O'Brien, Mrs. Grace

Perryman, Mr. and Mrs. Chas.

Charles

Rita Ann

Stephen G.

Mary V.

Lisa C.

Karen F.

Jane A.

Purvis, Mrs. Daniel

Ragsdale, Mrs. Gary

Ragussa, Joseph A.

Mrs. Mary A.

Joseph J.

Mary J.

Johnny

Reynolds, Kenneth

Roden, Edward P. Jr.

John J.

Miss Marguerite

Mrs. Mary S.

Patrick J.

William F.

Roden, Mrs. Catherine Rose

William G.

Timothy

Stephanna

Kenneth

William J.

Scarvey, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. F.

William F. Jr.

John T.

Randall P.

Margie

Michael

Stephen

Robert

Catherine Ann

Janet

Janell

Scarborough, Kinley E.

Mrs. Frances S.

Scholes, Mrs. Mary A.

Shaffer, Mr. and Mrs. James A.

Miss Maurine

Mrs. C.M.

Mrs. William A.

Shepherd, Mrs. Eleanor M.

Stack, Mr. and Mrs. Frank

Miss Mary Jo.

Terrance P.

Stahmer, Mrs. Kathleen

Sullivan, Miss Mary E.

Miss Johanna

Mr. and Mrs. Louis T.

Cicilia

Michael

Sullivan, Michael

Brian J.

Mary Ann

Timothy L.

Stephen J.

Mrs. Elizabeth S.

S.J.Jr.

David G.

Miss Patricia Ann

James P.

Christopher J.

Mrs. Winifred

Tate, Mr. and Mrs. Louis T.sr.

Ann Helen

Tatro, Mrs. Flora

Tortorici, Mr. and Mrs. Henry

Diana

Linda

Vallely, Mrs. Margie

Veitch, Mrs. Henry I.

Wallace, Miss Ann

Miss Catherine

Mr. and Mrs. F.J.Jr.

Joseph

James A.

Mr. and Mrs. John J. Jr.

Robert L.

Webster, Mrs. Jack L.

Jeffery T.

Whatten, Mr. and Mrs. George C.

Hardin, Larry

Doreen

Marlene