

Shrine of the Holy Cross, Daphne

While Fr. Vincent Warren, SSJ, was pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Mobile, he began outreach work in Daphne, Alabama, an area in Baldwin County, east of Mobile Bay. In 1948, 10 acres of land were purchased. A Quonset hut was assembled to serve as a church, a nearby combination dance hall and tavern was moved to the property and converted into a three-room school-house and a house and stable on the property became, respectively, a convent and rectory. The new parish was named the Shrine of the Holy Cross.

In 1949, a school was opened, staffed by the Franciscan Sisters of Baltimore. In 1955, a new five-room school was built and the old school was converted into a parish hall. School busses brought children from a wide area of the county including a small settlement named Bromley, 24 miles to the north.



Fr. Vincent Warren, SSJ

Much of Fr. Warren's 60 years as a Josephite priest was spent in the Archdiocese of Mobile. In 1936 he became pastor of Most Pure Heart of Mary Parish. During his years as pastor, Most Pure Heart of Mary School and High School underwent a phenomenal growth. In 1944 he helped develop Blessed Martin de Porres Maternity Hospital and served as its director. In 1944 he became the first resident pastor of St. Joseph's parish in Maysville, AL and in 1948 he became the founder and first pastor of the Shrine of the Holy Cross in Daphne, AL.

100 years
The Josephite + African
Community - 2000

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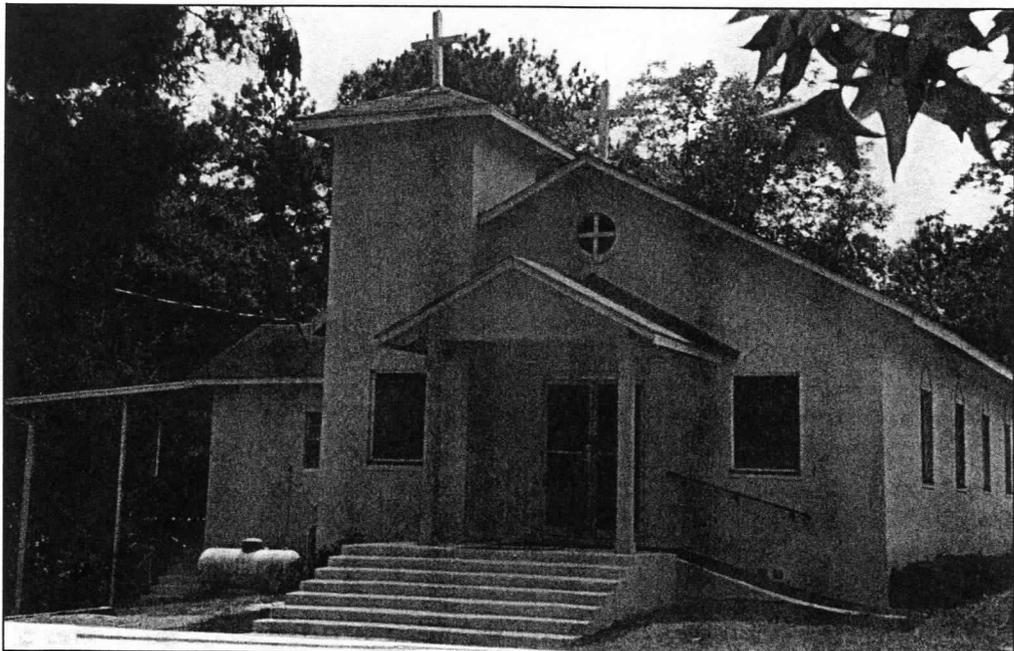
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SHRINE of the Holy Cross, DAPHNE, AL.

Fr. Warren began offering Mass in the home of a parishioner in Bromley and, in 1953 was able to build a mission chapel, which was named St. John.

The original Quonset hut church began to deteriorate and, I 1990, a new modern church was built and rededicated by the last Josephite pastor, Fr. Cornelius Sexton, SSJ. In 1990, the Josephite Fathers returned the administration of the Shrine of the Holy Cross and St. Joseph's mission in Bromley over to the Archdiocese of Mobile. It was staffed by a Jesuit priest from the southern province.



St. Joseph, Bromley, AL.