

## • History Of Holy Family Parish

Holy Family Parish was established on September 10, 1963. The first religious services were held on September 15, 1963 in a building formerly used as a barracks. The area comprising Holy Family had been served by the Marianist Fathers from Holy Rosary Parish. The present church and classrooms were dedicated on March 22, 1964. Father Michael A. Maertens and Father Clement De Meersman of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Missionary Fathers ( Missionhurst ) were the first pastor and associate pastor. On November 1, 1963 they moved into the present parish rectory which had been remodeled through the efforts of parish volunteers.

The first census was approximately 1,000 families, compared to the 1,800 presently in the parish. Through the efforts of the priests and parishioners, religious organizations emerged: The Altar Society, Holy Name Society, Knights of the Altar ( Altar Servers), St.Vincent De Paul and Confraternity Of Christian Doctrine (CCD) were established. Holy Family Athletic Council provides recreational outlets offering a variety of sports which have represented Holy Family in many events in the city through the years. The first Parish Council Constitution was written in 1967 and a year later, Conrad Martinez was elected as first Parish Council President. Holy Family has been blessed with leaders whose hard work, dedication, and tireless efforts have been fruitful in benefits to the parish.

Holy Family has always been in community and civic involvement. Some of its Parishioners served in important roles in the founding of COPS, Communities Organized for Public Service. Their constitution was drafted with the help of parishioners Robert Tamez and Arturo Ramos. Andrew Sarabia served as the first president of the organization.

In 1978 the present parish hall was built to better serve the community. The parish also has a fine athletic field providing sports opportunities to our youth and those of the surrounding community. In the near future, Holy Family hopes to complete its parish complex with a new rectory.

Holy Family has a "spirit" of warmth and caring stemming from its faith in its own name and patrons, Jesus, Mary and Joseph.