

History of St. Joseph Parish continued.

1925 – 2003

Mrs. Ford (Margaret) DeHaven



rs. Ford DeHaven, one of these early teachers, had arrived in 1916 as Margaret McCabe and here met a nephew of the Inmans, Ford J. DeHaven who was, of course, active in the citrus business. They were married in 1920 in the early church. Mrs. DeHaven was an indefatigable worker for the church. She was the first organist, organized the first choir, and trained the first altar boys. Her service to St. Joseph continued over the years. She was a president of the Catholic Women's Club which grew from the early Altar Society, and was one of the organizers of the West Coast Deanery. One of her memories was of the early days when the Florence Villa Hotel was filled with people coming to Florida by train to Lake Alfred or Bartow and taking horse and buggy over clay roads to reach the hotel.



Mrs. DeHaven served not only her church, but also the growing city as well. For example, she served on the Winter Haven Library Board for forty-two years. Once, when the Library was about to close for lack of funds, she went from door to door soliciting contributions. In 1967, the Chamber of Commerce presented her the Banker's Cup for her outstanding contributions to the city.

She also ran a successful catering business, which grew from a tearoom she operated in the Lake Region Hotel. Later she managed the



**Mrs. Ford DeHaven accepts the
Papal Blessing from Fr. Tobin**

dining room in the Haven Hotel. All this she accomplished while raising four children, three girls and a boy. She remarked of her work at St. Joseph, “Outside of my wonderful family it (the church) has been my life.” Women like Mrs. DeHaven have given much to the church over the years.