

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA PRESTON

SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL, Bishop Flanagan realized that the Preston area demanded more attention. He placed the mission under the care of Saint Mary of Jewett City. It had been under the care of Saint Mary of Norwich. Sunday Mass was offered in the Preston firehouse.

A generous donation from the family of William F. O'Neill made it possible for the mission to consider a church building. Msgr. Vincent Murphy

saw to the construction of the church. Bishop Vincent Hines was able to dedicate the new church in 1960, the first ceremony of dedication he celebrated as a bishop.

For the next 15 years, Saint Catherine of Siena grew both in number and in faith. With the arrival of Bishop Reilly, it became clear that the community was ready for a resident pastor. On November 1, 1975, it welcomed its first pastor in the person of Father Joseph Finnerty.

