

Michigan Every Day **By Patrick Sullivan and Carole Eberly**

Oct. 5, 1833

Detroit makes ecclesiastical history

Many Roman Catholics were a part of the early days of Detroit. But while their significance was great, their numbers were not. Detroit did not become a diocese of the Catholic Church until Oct. 6, 1833. The diocese needed its own bishop and Pope Gregory XVI named Frederick John Conrad Rese to serve in that venerable position. Bishop Rese was born in Germany and ordained there in 1823. He arrived in Detroit to fill a void created by the death of beloved Father Gabriel Richard, who died in 1828. St. Anne Church, which remains in operation today, was the first church to serve as the city's cathedral. When Michigan first was settled, it fell under the jurisdiction of the diocese of Bardstown, Kentucky until 1821 when the Michigan Territory became part of the new Diocese of Cincinnati. The New diocese had 30 priests and approximately 24,000 Catholics, mainly those who had immigrated from France, England, Ireland and Germany. There also were some parishioners who had converted to Catholicism.