

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian

Vol. XII

3-2-90

No. 9

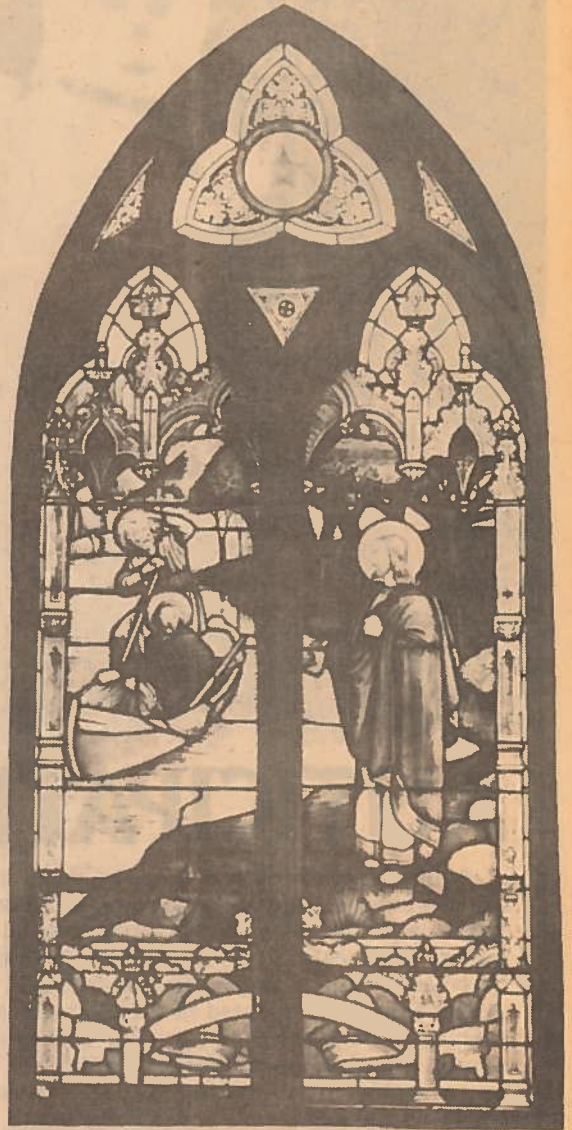
STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

"And as He was walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus noticed two brothers, Simon, called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. He said to them 'Come! Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.' And at once they abandoned their nets and followed Him."

Matt. 4:18-20

Our stained glass figural subjects this week are from an intriguing and delightful window located at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Medina. The theme is very straightforward simply based on Matthew as quoted above. This window therefore, might well be entitled "The call of Peter and Andrew" or "Fishers of Men." Placed on the north side of the nave in the church, we see in this original 1903-04 installation, Jesus calling Peter and Andrew. It is a Gothic revival window with a center wooden mullion which divides it into two Gothic lancets. In the upper portion the wooden tracery forms a triquetra in the apex which is an early symbol of the Holy Trinity.

In the right lancet we see Jesus standing by the Sea of Galilee saying "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." The left lancet portrays Andrew and Peter in a fishing boat. Andrew is about to cast a net into the sea. His older brother Peter behind him shades his own face from bright light to get a better look at Jesus who has just called to them. Jesus is dressed in a white robe denoting religious purity over which is a red mantle signifying divine love. Andrew however, is wearing green which is a symbol of hope of the future while Peter wears violet or purple, a color associated with martyrs. Accordingly, he was scourged and crucified. Peter and Andrew were the first two disciples of Christ. In the background of the Sea of Galilee to the immediate left of Peter's head we see in the distance, another boat which, I believe, alludes to the following text: "Going a little further He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and He called them. So immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him." - Matt. 4:21-22. In the foreground and behind Jesus we see some rocks which are a part of the landscape. Although incidental, these are a symbol of the Lord. This meaning is derived from the story of Moses, who smote the rock from which a spring burst forth to refresh his people. St. Peter has been referred to as a rock, the cornerstone of the church, because of Christ's statement "...that thou art Peter, and upon the rock I will build my church" - Matt. 16:18. Trees and mountains in the background here are



simply decorative. In the triquetra is a single star which is a symbol of the Virgin in her title "Stella Maris, Star of the Sea" which casually relates to the pictorial theme of the window.

The entire window was created by use of painted glass which was fired to make the colors permanent. The base of the window contains a little banner upon which is lettered "Urban and Dorothy Hasenohr." When St. Mary's church was erected various individuals subscribed to purchase windows and other accouterments. Such was the case with Mr. and Mrs. Hasenohr who resided near the church on Eagle Street. Urban Hasenohr was for many years a barber, having a shop on Main Street in Medina.