

Assumption Drive, N.E.

St. Jude's parish had been established by the Diocese of Grand Rapids in 1946 to serve Catholics living north of Three Mile Road. The parish property was located on Plainfield Avenue, approximately where the Plainfield Plaza was later built just north of the I-96 freeway. Fr. Charles D. Brophy, appointed second pastor in November, 1952, opined that the location and setting of the parish property was not conducive to its mission. In his search for a better parcel, he was told of an elderly widow living nearby off Elmdale Street on 40 acres of wooded land with a small lake. He convinced her that if she sold to the church, she could remain in her home as long as she lived, and that the property would always remain relatively pristine compared to what residential developers might do. It was on August 15, the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that the lady agreed to sell. When the time came to develop a small portion of the land to sell as lots to finance the rest of the building project, Fr. Brophy settled on the name "Assumption Drive" in honor of the feast and the intercession of the Mother of God.