



The promenade from the old Methodist Church to the new, August, 1966, Gaylord. L. Flag bearer - Becki Wilbur, Pam Compton, Mrs. Jean Compton, Craig Compton, Rev. Lewis Compton, R. Flag Bearer - Jeff Fullmer.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Jesuit Missionaries traveled to Gaylord each week to found the St. Mary's Catholic Church in 1880. Rev. Francis Szulak supervised the building of the first frame Church on lots obtained from the Michigan Central Railroad in 1884. The Church bell in use today was purchased at this time. The first resident pastor, Rev. Opyrcholski, occupied the frame rectory which was built shortly thereafter.

Rev. Casimir Skory, in 1893, oversaw the erection of a two-room frame school, with an auditorium on the second floor. In 1900-01 the Church of today was built after the old Church building was removed. The rectory was moved and remodeled for the Dominican Sisters, who took charge of teaching in 1910. The present rectory was built that same year.

Rev. Francis T. Kaminski came to Gaylord in 1928 and is still serving at St. Mary's.

The old convent burned in 1939 and the present building replaced it the following year. In 1949 the clock tower was rebuilt and electrified.

The present High School and gymnasium were completed at a cost of over three hundred thousand dollars in 1954. The old grade school burned in 1960 and the new school was built in 1961-62.

In July 1971, the Gaylord Diocese came into being,

including the 21 Counties of the Northern half of the Lower Peninsula. The Teen Center on West M-32 was bought and remodeled for the office of the Bishop of the Gaylord Diocese. At the present time a new Cathedral is being built on North Ohio Street.



St. Mary's Catholic Church, Gaylord, as it appeared in 1905.