

Among the key personalities of the Georgia missions, and Dalton in particular, one must recognize Father Joe Driscoll, pastor at Dalton and future vice-provincial. He was born in Brookline, Massachusetts and after studies at North East, Ilchester, and Esopus, was ordained to the priesthood by then-Archbishop Patrick Hayes of New York in 1922. He was first assigned to be chaplain to the Midshipmen at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, a post he held from 1924 to 1932. He served as procurator for Holy Redeemer College in Washington and then spent twenty-two years as a Redemptorist missionary in the South.

During this time Driscoll built three churches for Black Catholics and in 1950 became the Vice-Province of Richmond's vice-provincial. While working in the pastoral field, he was rector of the Dalton missions and established religion classes for children living in "Happy Hollow." In 1950, the year he became vice-provincial (serving until 1956), he established Camp Good Counsel in Gloucester County, Virginia. This was a religious camp and unique among projects of this type insofar as it had first integrated group of counsellors who lived and worked together—employing white girls from various high schools in Richmond and black girls from St. Francis Academy in Rock Castle, Virginia and Xavier University in New Orleans.

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There is no simple way to assess a missionary presence in a community that struggled to keep its faith life active over a



century, but the personalities and good will of Redemptorists in Dalton, as well as their superiors in provincial government offer an interesting case study on the role of the order in the local churches in Georgia.

The last entry for the Dalton house chronicles was written by the rector, Father Simon Glasl, C.Ss.R. It speaks of a rationale for the Redemptorists' leaving, but also sums up the sorrow over the decision: "May 1967—the archbishop has taken Dalton, Calhoun, and Cartersville from us." Though Redemptorists remained in Georgia for another thirty years, the seed planted at Dalton has continued to flourish without them.

