



CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL
NATIONAL SHRINE OF
THE APOSTLE PAUL

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**Nov. 1, 2011 marks 170th Anniversary of the naming of our
Capital City: Saint Paul**

(Saint Paul, MN) Stories have often circulated about the capital city's original settlement name of "Pig's Eye" and how it came to be called, Saint Paul. **Next week, Nov. 1, 2011, will mark the 170th Anniversary of the name, Saint Paul.**

A columnist for the *Pioneer Press*, Ronald D. Clark, once mused: "Had it not been for the events on the banks of the Mississippi River here on Nov. 1, 1841, the newspaper you are reading might be called the 'Pig's Eye Pioneer Press' The distinguished group of instrumentalists that carries the city's name far and wide might be known as Pig's Eye Chamber Orchestra."

"And to that, we all say--*Deo Gratias!*" said Cathedral archivist, Celeste Raspanti, Ph.D. "Fr. Lucien Galtier set the wheels in motion when he had the first log chapel built on the riverbank site we know now as Kellogg Mall Park across from the Crown Plaza in downtown Saint Paul. Fr. Galtier named it for Saint Paul and how he arrived at the name was written in a letter to his superior a few years later."

The Rev. Lucien Galtier wrote:

"In the month of October, 1841, I had on the above stated place, logs cut and prepared and soon a poor log church, that would remind one of the stable of Bethlehem, was built. The nucleus of St. Paul was formed. On November 1st, 1841, I blessed the new basilica, smaller, indeed than the Basilica of St. Paul in Rome, but as well adapted as the latter for prayers and love to arise therein from pious hearts. The church was thus dedicated to St. Paul, and I expressed a wish that the settlement should be known by no other name. I succeeded. I had, previously to this time, fixed my residence at St. Peter (Mendota), and as the name Paul is generally connected to that of Peter, and the gentiles being well represented in the new place in the persons of the Indians, I called it St. Paul. "

(more)

This is taken from "*Memoir of Lucien Galtier: The First Catholic Priest of St. Paul*," by Rev. John Ireland, later to become the first Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. "In this letter, Galtier tells Bishop Grace how he built the log cabin, and how he took pains to change the name of the settlement from Pig's Eye to Saint Paul. He probably used 'basilica' because that was a term for an honored and respected church--and though the log cabin was poor--for him it was a great church," said Dr. Raspanti.

The 170th anniversary of the naming of the City of Saint Paul is also the anniversary of the founding of the first Catholic Church in Saint Paul. Both events will be celebrated next month when the Cathedral reopens the renovated Cathedral Museum to the public.

Cathedral Hours: The Cathedral doors are open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Guided tours are given year round Monday through Friday at 1 p.m. except on Holy Days and civil holidays. No appointment necessary.

For more information, visit www.cathedralsaintpaul.org or call the Welcome Center at 651-228-1766. To view photos of the Cathedral of Saint Paul's interior and exterior go to <http://www.cathedralsaintpaul.org/album>