

Pioneer Award

**FR. BENEDICT INGENITO, OSB
1995**



**BORN OCTOBER 7, 1886 IN GREENSBURG,
PENNSYLVANIA
DIED FEBRUARY 13, 1947 IN CANON CITY, COLORADO**

Father Benedict came to Louisville in 1933 to serve as pastor of the St. Louis Catholic Church. At that time, the church building was in an old frame building on the southwest corner of La Farge Avenue and Walnut Street. It had been established there in 1884, so when he arrived, the old frame church had already been in use for nearly 50 years. It was soon decided that a new church building was necessary, and Father Benedict, with the help of his parishioners, started holding an annual bazaar to help raise the funds for a new church. Father Benedict worked side by side with members of his congregation, and in 1940 construction of the new church at 902 Grant began. It was completed by December 22, when the first services were held.

Father Benedict not only served the St. Louis Parish, but also became an active, productive member of the community, especially during the latter years of the Depression and during World War II. One of his pet projects was to collect waste paper and scrap metal from the town to be used in the war effort. Many times, because help was scarce, he could be found in the church basement bundling the papers by himself. He also served as the President of the Lions Club and worked with the Boy Scouts and other youth programs in Louisville.

Father Benedict left the parish in March of 1946 because of illness and returned to the Holy Cross Abbey in Canon City. He was revered and loved as a holy, thoughtful, and caring man. He spoke fluent Italian and brought smiles to the faces of the Louisville Italian women when he greeted them in their own language and called them “mother.”