

ANTONIO NAME LIVES ON

Herbert Antonio and his younger sister Ethel lived all their lives on the family farm just north of Old Noarlunga. They attended Mass at Morphett Vale Church which was in the parish of Willunga until 1970 when it became a parish in its own right.

In 1970 Herbert told the parish priest of the day, Monsignor Rob Egar, that the pre-fab house in the church grounds at Morphett Vale was unsuitable as a presbytery. He said if the priest found a house he would buy it for him, hence the purchase of Number 3, Venning St, adjacent to the Church. Subsequently, the house next door was also bought through Herbert and Ethel's generosity.

Morphett Vale was a burgeoning suburb in 1970 and a new church was needed. It was opened on May 21, 1972 at a cost of \$120,000, of which the Antonio family contributed \$80,000. Herbert was clear that he gave the money with no strings attached.

On another occasion Herbert explained to Monsignor Egar that he felt ashamed when he saw the young couples placing their envelopes on the Sunday collection plate when he reflected that he had so much money in the bank.

Antonio contributions also included the purchase of properties and blocks of land near the church and adjacent to what was to become the Antonio Catholic School.

In 1975 the first new Catholic school in the Adelaide Archdiocese for ten years was opened. This was made possible through government funding. Archbishop Gleeson gave permission to the parish to name it Antonio School, a fitting tribute to the generosity of Herbert and Ethel.

The residue of the Antonio estate was bequeathed to the parish.

Ethel died at 69 on May 26 1977. Herbert survived his beloved sister's death by about six months. He moved into the house in Bains Road that had been bought through his generosity and he was looked after by the parishioners, in particular, Mrs Hazel Allen. He was 82 when he died in his sleep on November 27, 1977. His faithful dog would not allow people to come near the body of his deceased master.

Monsignor Egar described Ethel and Herbert as "faith-filled and unassuming parishioners". "Their generosity gave the Morphett Vale Parish a 'leap ahead' status," he said.

- If you have information on someone who has bequeathed to the Catholic Church or if you are interested in making a bequest, contact Jane Juniper on 8210 8223 or email her at jjuniper@adelaide.catholic.org.au