

S.F.O.H.G.
Régionale Ottawa-Carleton

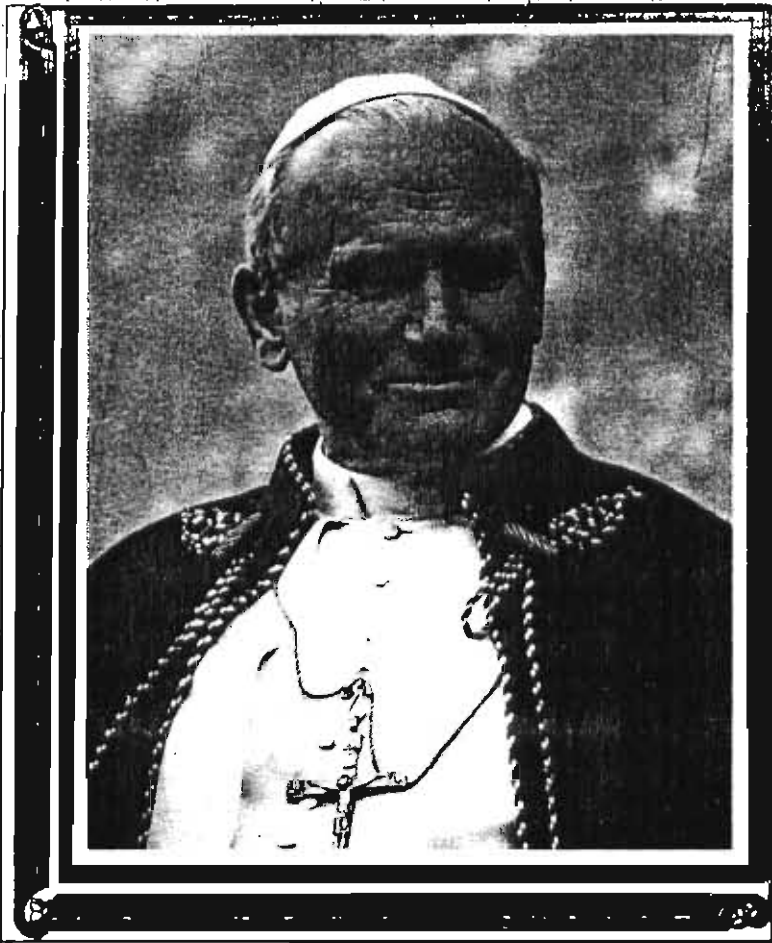
Our Lady of the Rosary Parish



Windsor, Ontario

1884 Centennial 1984

*Don de la Régionale de Windsor-Lesage
1998*



Most **H**oly **F**ather

The Pastor and Parishioners
of Our Lady of Most Holy Rosary,
humbly beg Your

Apostolic **B**lessing

as a pledge of divine graces and favours.
~ 1984 ~

*Hinc Dominus Apostolicam Benedictionem concedit.
22 Aedibus Vakianis, die 7 octobris 1983.*

+ Antonij us. Vadiq, Archiep.
Eleazarovij S. P.

Office of the Bishop

November 4, 1984



The Priests and People
Holy Rosary Church
229 Cadillac Street
Windsor, Ont. N8Y 2S8

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

With regret, I express my inability to be present for the 100th anniversary of your parish. Nevertheless, I cannot let the occasion pass without expressing both congratulations and prayerful best wishes to all of you.

Your parish has an extraordinary history, a history founded upon the faith of the pioneers who established it, a history not without its difficulties and disappointments, but a history which is now at the threshold of resurrection and new life.

The towers of your church are famous as a landmark for the generations of sailors who have travelled the international waterway which lies before you. Today, those towers which your faith and sacrifice have renewed are a symbol of the immense capacity for rebirth which resides in every Catholic community of faith. Holy Rosary is coming alive again through the renewal of prayer, of sacramental life and of apostolic participation by all members of the community.

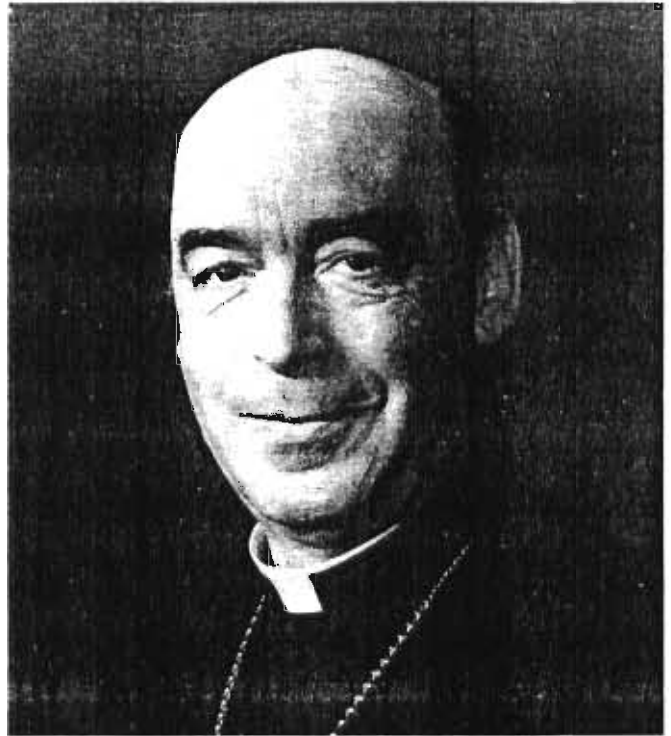
On this anniversary, with you I thank God for the pioneers who established the parish and whose descendants in large numbers are among you still. Most of all I thank God for all of you, the priests and people of today whose devotion will ensure that 100 years from now other priests and other people will celebrate with pride the legacy of love and faith which you have left to them.

Fraternally in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. M. Sherlock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Bishop of London.

Bishop's House



To the Parish Family of Our Lady of the Rosary:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

Congratulations on the occasion of your 100th anniversary.

It is an especially happy duty for me to write to a parish which not only has a glorious past, but a present which shows great promise for an even more glorious future. I rejoice to see you grow in faith, in love and in hope. And to see this happen in a parish whose sense of community is becoming ever more real is cause for more rejoicing. I can honestly use Saint Paul's words and say that I thank the Lord with joy every time I think of you.

I join you in giving thanks for the blessings he has given you in these hundred years. In a special way we give thanks for all the priests who have served you; in particular we praise the Good Shepherd for the Missionaries of Our Lady of Lasalette who have cared for you with such energy and love.

It is my prayer that just as the towers of your church were once a guiding landmark for sailors, so may your community of faith grow ever stronger as a guide leading many safely home with the Lord.

Yours in the Lord Jesus,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, preceded by a small cross symbol. The signature reads "Marcel Gervais".

Marcel Gervais
Auxiliary Bishop of London
13/09/84

Dear Parishioners:

One word keeps coming to mind as I read and re-read the history of our parish community — grace. Grace is the love of God in action. The love of God in action gathered the French pioneer families into a community of faith. It inspired Father Wagner to establish a parish dedicated to Our Lady. It has been the gift of divine love, graciously given by God, that has sustained, nurtured, challenged and missioned his people of Holy Rosary for a century.

“The Lord takes delight in his people.” Through the grace of God bestowed on our parish innumerable disciples have been incorporated into the body of Christ by Holy Baptism; by the gift of God they have been strengthened in Confirmation; by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ they have been enabled through Holy Communion, to be indwelt by his Spirit; by God's love in action they have lived in Holy Matrimony by the reception of the anointing of the Sick they have been healed in body and soul; by the cross sins have been forgiven in Reconciliation; and some enabled by a gracious God to function in Holy Orders as priests. In this outpouring of grace, many have witnessed to Christ through religious life. Through all of this, the Lord has liberated us, healed us and forgiven us. He has freely given us of his creation. Our only response can be thanksgiving and gratitude.

Through Jesus Christ we have all entered into a wondrous relationship with the creator of all things. It is the relationship of a father who has entrusted all of his goods to us, and calls upon us to continue his work. The alleviation of pain, hunger, misery, ignorance and want of any kind in this world beckons to us all as we respond to God's love with thanksgiving and gratitude. Truly, “God's work in this world is our very own!”

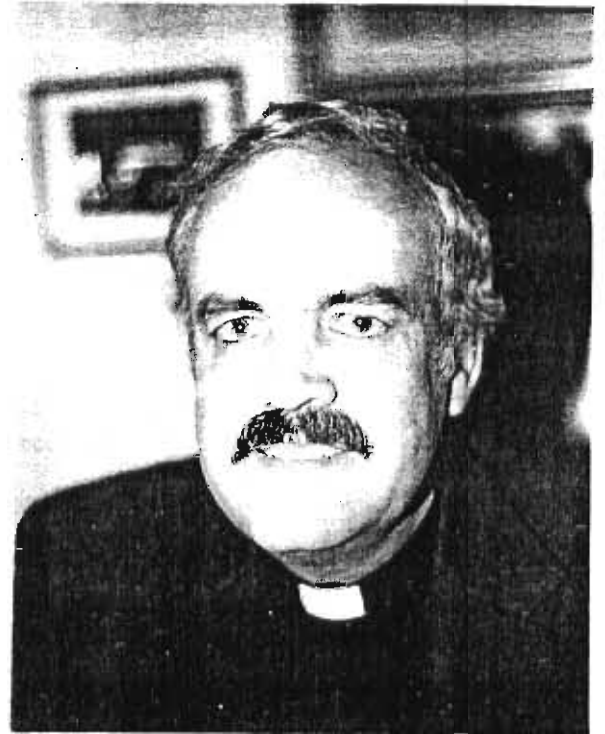
It is in a spirit of thanksgiving for these one hundred years of god's love manifested among us that we celebrate. It is in the knowledge that God's unfailing love will continue to bless us that we are filled with gratitude. May the past be but a prelude to a new century of grace-filled living, and may our gratitude continue to urge us to give thankfully of our time, our abilities and ourselves to do God's work in this community, in the church and in his world.

Sincerely in Christ,

F. Hebert, Ronald Hebert, M.S.

Co-Pastor

Father Ronald Hebert, M.S.
Co-Pastor





Dear Friends:

The church is called to celebrate, signify and release the transforming presence of God in history. Over the past 100 years. Our Lady of the Rosary has made its mark in bringing the presence of God among the people of God, not only in Windsor and Ontario, but one can safely say, in our world. For these past 100 years, this parish has been about the task of announcing the Good News to all who cared to listen. The history of this parish is full of many men and women of faith whose concern was not only what we call "religious", but also of humanizing the world in all aspects of life. This has been a community where the Word was preached and lived in such a way that those who took part in this parish's life could face the world and make choices that led to authentic human existence.

Today, our parish is called many things: a family; a community which celebrates faith; a homey place to come; and truly, it's all of these. As Christ, we will continue to give witness to truth, to rescue and not sit in judgement, to serve and not to be served. In doing this we will also discover what the many men and women before us discovered: In Christ Jesus all things find their fulfillment.

Peace,

Fr. Dennis Loomis, M.S.

Fr. Dennis Loomis, M.S.
Co Pastor



Interior of Our Lady of the Rosary, today



Interior of Church, 1908



Interior of Church, 1925

The Story of a Parish

Introduction

In 1881, the nearest church for the 60 or 70 Roman Catholic families of Walkerville and Sandwich East was St. Alphonsus in Windsor. Mass production of automobiles had not begun, and the time had not arrived when Henry Ford would establish his factory in that section of Sandwich East which would later bear his name, labelling this area a thriving centre of industry and the foremost motor car manufacturing centre in Canada.

Ford City was to be one of four municipalities known as the "Border Cities". The others were Sandwich, Windsor and Walkerville. Sandwich East township was primarily an agricultural area with its long, narrow farms stretching from the Detroit River to Third Concession Road. Today, the streets of Windsor follow this original farm pattern and bear the names of many of the French settlers to whom these farms had been allotted in the 1700's. In 1701, many of these people had come from France with Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, to help him establish Fort Pontchartrain (Detroit) on the north side of the river, two blocks west of what is now Woodward Avenue. Others came from France in 1749, 1751 and 1754 at the expense of the government. By 1760, when the French were overthrown by the British, there were at least 50 families farming the land on the south shore.

It was on one of these long and lonely fields in Sandwich East that the Roman Catholic people of this area built their first church. The site overlooks that lake discovered by Sieur de la Salle in 1679 when he sailed down the river in his barque, the "Griffon" on the feast of Saint Clair, the name which he christened the lake. It was in honour of Lake St. Clair and the Mother of God that this church was named "Notre Dame du Lac" (Our Lady of the Lake). When this building was destroyed by fire in 1907, the present structure was built. This church was dedicated to Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary and became known informally as Holy Rosary.

Since the founding of the parish on November 3, 1884, twelve other parishes have been carved from it. The eight daughter parishes are St. Anne, St. Rose de Lima, St. Therese, Most Precious Blood, St. Cyril and Methodius, St. Joseph, St. Francis, and Our Lady of Guadalupe. The four granddaughter parishes are Our Lady of Fatima, St. Christopher, St. John Vianney and St. Vincent de Paul.

At the time the present church was built, it was hailed as "one of the finest religious edifices in Western Ontario." To the people of Our Lady of the Lake parish, it represented years of hard work and sacrifice. It was compensation beyond all dreams for the loss of the modest church they had built twenty-three years earlier. But, more than that, it was a testimony to the faith of a people in whose lives religious worship assumed an important priority.

Now one hundred years later, we shall journey back and become acquainted with those pioneers who have bequeathed to us this cherished heritage.

Dreams in the Old School House

Rev. James Theodore Wagner of St. Alphonsus parish, Windsor, was becoming concerned for the spiritual welfare of the Catholics of Walkerville and Sandwich East. Long and weary was the journey by horse and buggy to St. Alphonsus Church. But if one had to trudge by foot along the bumpy unpaved roads, the way was even more tiresome. Therefore, in 1881, Father Wagner arranged to have Mass celebrated in the old school house on the farm of Frederick Jenkin. This farm was located between Albert Road and Maisonville Avenue and ran from the river to Tecumseh Road.



Rev. James Theodore Wagner, Founder

Besides Father Wagner, himself, some of the priests who celebrated Mass were Reverend Fathers Dumphy, Scanlan, Ryan, Lotz, McManus and Emard. It is not difficult to understand how such an arrangement could only be of a temporary nature, for not only was it becoming inconvenient for the priests to travel back and forth, but as the population increased the school house diminished by proportion.

Hiram Walker

In 1858, Hiram Walker, a young man from Massachusetts had bought the Labadie farm which extended three miles back from the river front. Later, he added to this purchase another farm of land and proceeded to build his distillery in what would first be known as Walkertown and later Walkerville. In addition to this enterprise, he became involved in flour milling, furniture manufacturing, farming, railway building and the raising of livestock. He had six children — two daughters, Elizabeth and Jenny Melissa and four sons, Willis, Edward, Franklin and James. In a sense, Hiram Walker was lord of Walkerville. As such, he assumed a certain responsibility for the people who worked for him and who lived in his village. Consequently, he felt that something would have to be done to insure that the Catholic families had access to a church in a convenient location. It wasn't long before he came up with an idea and this was to offer the use of St. Mary's Episcopalian Church to the diocese for use by both

denominations. The Catholic clergy, however, not considering the offer a feasible one, decided to seek some other alternative. It was then that Father Wagner called for leaders, and plans for a new church were drawn up.

Father Wagner, a man reputed to attack a cause with unbounded energy and enthusiasm, set out to obtain subscriptions towards a building fund. Quite naturally, the first person he approached was Hiram Walker who did, indeed, make a very generous contribution. Fifty others responded to Father Wagner's appeal with amounts varying from One Hundred to Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars. Another source of revenue was the organization of a great bazaar in Windsor. A person who took an avid interest in this project and contributed very generously to parochial works in general was Mrs. Edward Chandler Walker.

The Ottawa Indians

In the 1700's, the road in front of the church was an Indian trail down which the Ottawa Indians galloped on horseback. This dusty trail was later to be known as Borage Road, Front Road and Sandwich Street, respectively, before it was given its present name of Riverside Drive. The area was the village of this Indian tribe who with Pontiac the chief, camped at the foot of Pillette Road to plot their famous "Pontiac Conspiracy" to capture Detroit from the British. It was from this tribe that the Drouillard family purchased part of the land on which Holy Rosary Church is built. Church records state that it was Hiram Walker who donated the land for the building of the first church and that the adjacent lot was later purchased from Francois Xavier Drouillard.

The Enthusiasm of the People

From the start, the people were fired with enthusiasm for this project. Their eagerness for the completion of the church led many of them to work long hours, gratuitously. Luke Montreuil acted as superintendent and Claude Reaume, J. S. Viger and William Waldman donated their services as architects. The contractors were Francois Xavier Drouillard and his cousin, Adolphe Labadie. The new parish was carved out of the old parishes of Assumption in Sandwich, St. Alphonsus, Windsor and St. Anne's, Tecumseh. The boundaries ran back four concessions and encompassed the area east of Howard Avenue in Sandwich. In Windsor, it ran to the west side of the Hall farm and extended east to Little River.

The Laying of the Cornerstone

Finally, on May 18, 1884, the long-awaited day arrived. Three years after the first plans were initiated for the building of the new church, the cornerstone was laid in the presence of a large congregation of people from the new parish as well as from the mother churches. Rev. Joseph Bauer, Vicar General of the Diocese of St. Cloud, North Dakota, and Rev. Ferguson, C.S.V., Assumption College, Sandwich, preached the special sermon. On November 3, 1884, Rev. John Walsh, Bishop of London dedicated the new church. It cost \$12,745.49.

In the year 1900, Rev. Lucien Alexandre Beaudoin, the second pastor of the parish in a historical account,

describes the area as follows: "The church, indeed, was built on the enchanting shores of the Detroit River. The road in front of the church stretches in a right line as far as Lake St. Clair. The river is unceasingly furrowed by numerous boats of which a great number resemble veritable floating palaces. On the opposite shore the public park of the city of Detroit, called Belle Isle, the most beautiful and charming in North America, justified Father Wagner in calling this church by the venerated name of the Virgin of Virgins."

One parishioner described it as "a lovely little white wooden church with a beautiful little steeple." After three years of attending Mass in the school house, to the people of Our Lady of the Lake parish, it was a dream church, indeed.

In the church archives, the following people are listed as the founders of the parish:

Luke Montreuil	William Waldman
J. B. Gravier	Pierre Belleperche
Climaque Janisse	Jerome Langlois
Patrice Parent	Louis LeBoeuf
Dame Charles Janisse	Charles Janisse
Joseph Janisse	Arthur Deziel
Joseph Graveline Sr.	Paul Leduc
Benjamin Meloche	Francois Drouillard
Stanislaus Janisse	Alex Langlois
Gédeon Moiseau	Charles H. Delisle
Jacob Bondes	Maxine Landry
John Foster	Patrick Walsh
Joseph Drouillard	Damase Grenier
Alexandre St. Louis	Evariste Lajeunesse
Charles O. Maisonville	Adolphe Labadie
Hiram Walker	Ambroise Binsette
Alexandre Chapotou	Henri Janisse
Zoe Parent	Dame Bernard
I. B. St Pierre	Calixte Arpin
David Lemaire	Jean Muller
Frédéric Maisonville	Joseph D. Parent
Charles Pratt	P. Manie
Adolphe Janisse	Thomas Reaume
Patrice Reaume	Paul St. Amour
Claude Reaume	Moise Labadie
J. S. Viger	

The First Pastor

Church records indicate that Bishop Walsh had appointed Rev. B. Boubat to Our Lady of the Lake Church on June 12, 1884. Although Rev. Boubat was named administrator, he was transferred on July 2, 1884 to Ashfield.

The first official pastor to take charge was Rev. A. Lapiere, who came from St. Hyacinthe, Quebec, having served as Professor at the Seminary there. He arrived at Our Lady of the Lake on April 25, 1885. Father Lapiere's pastorate was beset with many inconveniences and frustrations. When he arrived, the church was scantily furnished, and the parishioners were in the process of raising money for pews and church appointments. The fact that the church did not have a rectory posed a tremendous inconvenience to a man whose health had been poor for many years. At first, he had to lodge in an apartment in the sacristy and was forced to travel a considerable distance from

the church for his meals. Since time and money were being wasted, the parishioners then decided to form a committee to build a rectory. This committee consisted of Luke Montreuil, the former superintendent for the building of the church, who was elected president. He was assisted by Alexander St. Louis, Joseph D. Janisse, Paul St. Amour, Climaque Janisse and Emmanuel Parent. John and Jesse Foster contracted to do the work for the sum of \$2,800.



Rev. Alexandre Lapierre, First Pastor

Unfortunately, Father Lapierre's health had been steadily declining, and so he was never able to fully realize his plans for this parish. He died in Hotel Dieu Hospital, Windsor, on June 24, 1890 and was buried in Assumption Cemetery beside the remains of his parents who only a few months earlier had preceded him in death.

Fr. Boubat Returns

At this time, Fr. Boubat left Ashfield to return to Our Lady of the Lake parish, but once more, was to stay only a short time. Since he, too, was in poor health, he decided that the dampness and coldness of the wind from the lake in Windsor was aggravating his physical condition, so he left the following Easter.

The Second Pastor

The second pastor, Rev. Lucien Alexandre Beaudoin, was born in St. Roch l'Achigan, Quebec, receiving his early education in Montreal and Quebec. Prior to this appointment, he served as Chaplain of the Sisters of Mercy in New York City.

Father Beaudoin was a young man of 29 when he came to this parish on June 18, 1891, and he was to remain here for 26 eventful years.



*Rev. Lucien Alexandre Beaudoin
Pastor, 1891-1917*

A few of today's parishioners who remember him say that after religion, his all-consuming passion was the preservation of the French language, even to the point of admonishing the children of the parish for speaking English. "He was a nice man," said one, "But, oh, so strict." They say when it came to religion he "went by the book," and when it came to child psychology, his method was to tweak the ears of an errant altar boy or to apply a dose of good old-fashioned discipline to the seat of the pants.

But despite his reputation for rigidity, Father Beaudoin was much loved by the parishioners of Our Lady of the Lake. This parish, one of his first assignments, was to form the very core of his life as a priest, for he was to stay here until his death in August 1917 at the young age of 55. Even when he became partially paralyzed, he remained with his parish until he could no longer walk, and when Most Rev. M. F. Fallon, D.D., Bishop of London assigned Rev. Fr. Joseph Emery to act as his assistant, Father Beaudoin reluctantly left for Hotel Dieu Hospital in Montreal. This was to be his last farewell to Our Lady of the Lake. Of poignant interest is the fact that although Father Beaudoin was interred in l'Assumption, Quebec, his heart was returned to the parish in which he had expended so much of his energy and love. From 1917 until 1942, this heart was entombed in a vault in the basement of the church. Today, it is buried in Our Lady of the Rosary Cemetery. This last request of Father Beaudoin speaks eloquently of the totality of his devotion to this parish.

Major Concerns

When Father Beaudoin arrived at Our Lady of the Lake, the parish did not have a cemetery. He bought five acres of land half a mile from the church, from Joseph Pierre Drouillard for \$500. On July 17, 1892, amidst a large gathering of priests and Catholic and Protestant laity, a sermon was given at the Church by Father Beaudoin, and at the cemetery by the Bishop of London who, at that time was Most Rev. Denis O'Connor, D.D. This cemetery is located on Drouillard Road and Seminole Street.



Kitty Walsh (left), Fr. Beaudoin's housekeeper and Helene Langlois. At left is parish hall

In this same year, the Jesuits established the League of the Sacred Heart for men and children.

During Father Beaudoin's pastorate, the heterogeneous influx of people generated concern for the survival of the French language, and already some of the French people were abandoning this language in favour of English. It has been noted that when the parish was founded, there was but one Irish family, the members of which spoke English. However, although the English-speaking people were still in the minority three years after Fr. Beaudoin's arrival, his concern for their spiritual welfare led him, at great expense, to organize an English mission. This mission, at which a Jesuit priest preached in English was for an eight-day duration and was given every two years. Although Father Beaudoin's sympathies were undoubtedly with the French-speaking people, it is evident that he placed his duties as pastor above any such concerns. As he, himself, put it, "With the priest, there is no nationality. As he is responsible for the salvation of the souls confined to his care, so the priest ought to serve them for the glory of God."

Decoration of the First Church

In 1892, two side altars, as well as two beautiful statues, one of St. Joseph and the other of the Sacred Heart, were given to the church. At this time, a hot air furnace was installed in the church itself. Later, another statue of

St. Joseph was purchased with donations of one dollar from a number of people and a ten-dollar donation from Mrs. Edward Chandler Walker. The money was collected by Denis Brassard, Custom House Officer. Mrs. Charles Janisse had donated \$250 towards the purchase of a main altar and by May 1893 a further \$100 necessary to complete this altar was received through another donation. On June 1, 1893, the altar was consecrated by His Lordship Denis O'Connor, Bishop of London. Twenty-two priests were present for the occasion, and the sermon at the ceremony was preached by Rev. Remi Champion, parish priest of Ecorse, Michigan.

In 1896, a hot air furnace was installed in the presbytery of the church at a cost of \$300, and two years later a committee of women and young ladies was formed under the direction of the Altar Society to decorate the interior of the church. This committee was comprised of Mrs. Edward Chandler Walker, Mrs. Alexander Montreuil, Miss Elizabeth Montreuil and Fr. Beaudoin. The sum of \$529 was collected by the Altar Society to spend on this project.

Separate School System Founded with Help of Sisters of St. Joseph

Another vital concern was the fact that since the children attended public school, they were not being taught religion. On Father Beaudoin's twice yearly visits to the homes, he became more and more impressed with the need for religious education for the children. Also, he lacked confidence in the public school trustees. Finally, he contacted Bishop O'Connor who urged him to immediately form an advisory committee to help deal with the problem.



Sr. Rose Bondy



Sr. Ambrosia Durkin



Mother Ignatia Campbell, Superior General, 1870-1902

If any one group is deserving of special accolades in the establishment of the Separate School System, it is the St. Joseph's Sisters of London. As the first Catholic teachers of the children of the parish, they were to work unselfishly for years under inadequate and crowded conditions.

But if Father Beaudoin was eager to organize a separate school system, the majority of the people in the parish were content to let things go on just as they were. Therefore, no welcoming reception awaited the Sisters upon their arrival in the parish. On April 29, 1894, Father Beaudoin went alone to the station to welcome Rev. Mother Ignatia Campbell, Mother Berchmans Colovin, Sister Rose Bondy and Sister Ambrosia Durkin, while his housekeeper, Kitty Walsh waited for them in their new home where she had prepared a hot supper. This new convent was a small six-room house near the rectory which was later to become the laundry of Jean Sam on Drouillard Road. Upstairs were three bedrooms and downstairs a small parlour and one large room which served alternately as dining room, chapel and community room. In the middle of this room was a coal stove which served to heat the whole house. A lean-to kitchen had been added before the arrival of the Sisters. Since a few kind women had held pound parties for their benefit, the Sisters found the pantry shelves stocked with pound parcels of sugar, tea, coffee, rice and flour.

Two days later, the Sisters organized one classroom of eleven pupils in the church vestry and a primary class of fourteen pupils in the presbytery. Among the first pupils were Mary Derdale, Delia Pratt, Leocretia La Pierre, and Roy and Dora Graveline. The Sisters' salary of two hundred dollars a year was paid when Fr. Beaudoin could spare a few dollars. Many times Mother Berchmans had to tell the sisters that there was no money in the house but the parish women continued to organize the pound parties, which greatly relieved Mother Berchman's anxiety.

It wasn't long before this new education system began to win the approbation of the parents, for Father Beaudoin began to organize functions at which the parishioners were entertained by the school children with performances of singing, reading and spelling. The first public examination was held in the church from which Father Beaudoin had removed the Blessed Sacrament.

By this time, Bishop O'Connor had donated \$3,000 toward the building of a new school and Fr. Beaudoin's plans were already under way. He had purchased two lots on the present Cadillac Street, one 50 x 70ft. with a house, the other 316 x 70ft. Here Notre Dame School, the first Separate School in the Border Cities, was built by Messrs. Dahl, Vicker, Roberge and Vigneux. When the cornerstone was laid on June 1, 1894 in the presence of four or five thousand people from the neighbouring areas, many of them Protestants, the Catholic Order of Foresters and the Knights of St. John were there with their bands and Rev. William O'Brien, S.J. of Loyola College, Montreal, preached the sermon in which he attempted to quell the prejudice some had against Catholic schools.

In September, 1894, Notre Dame School was blessed by His Lordship, Bishop O'Connor, assisted by Father Cushing, Superior of Assumption College and several

priests from Detroit. The first Sisters to teach in this school were Sister Rose Bondy and Sister Ambrosia Durkin.



*Notre Dame School
First Separate School in the Border Cities
Built 1894 on Cadillac Street*

With the opening of the school in September, the enrolment had risen but it was not until September 1895 that the two rooms were taxed beyond seating capacity. By this time, there were 140 pupils registered with accommodation for only 108. By Easter 1896, a third room had been added on.

Since some children lived too far away from Notre Dame School, Father Beaudoin held Sunday classes for them in the rectory. It was apparent that another school had to be built and soon plans were under way for the building of St. Louis School which was so named after St. Louis who was the owner of the land on which the school was built. This school, which was built by Messrs. Dahl, Vicker, Joyal and F. X. Drouillard in 1895 was large enough to accommodate 60 pupils and cost \$1,764.74. At that time, these two schools had an attendance of 180 pupils, with Sr. Rose Bondy in charge. Later St. Edward school was built.



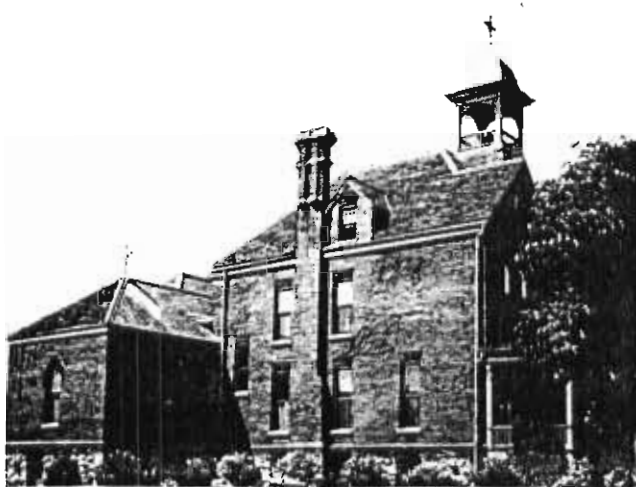
Bishop O'Connor Transferred

Most Rev. Denis O'Connor was a popular Bishop who had a special regard for Our Lady of the Lake parish. It was with sadness that the parishioners learned he would be leaving because of his promotion to the Metropolitan See of Toronto. Many tears were shed on April 19, 1899, when Bishop O'Connor made his last visit to Our Lady of the Lake. He had come to officiate at the Confirmation ceremonies and to bid farewell to his friends here and in the other parishes of the diocese. However, they welcomed Most Rev. F. P. McEvay who made his first visits to the Catholic Schools of the diocese.

St. Joseph Convent Built

In 1900, the Convent of the St. Joseph Sisters was built on Cadillac Street, not far from the church. At that time, this street was named Church Street. Its present name was inspired by Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac.

When the cornerstone of the convent was laid on June 3, it was blessed by Bishop McEvay who was accompanied by a number of priests from other parishes as well as from Detroit. They all rejoiced with the Sisters at this ceremony which marked another milestone in their endeavours on behalf of the children of the parish.



Convent of Sisters of St. Joseph built in 1900

The Sisters who lived here at this time were Mother Augustine Boyle, Sister Bernard Howell, Sister Euphemia Hussey, Sister Hildegard Brosnahan, Sister Baptist Stafford, Sister Angelica Kains and Sister Josephine Fallon. Present to receive the many friends who called was Reverend Mother Ignatia Campbell.

In September, 1901, the Sisters moved to their new convent. Before leaving the old house they converted it to a boarding house for pupils who would be attending the school. With the help of Miss Libby Montreuil, Miss Eliza Pratt and Miss Bondus, Father Beaudoin and the Sisters, furnished the third floor quarters with beds, wash stands, dishes, rocking chairs and other necessities.



Present Holy Rosary Convent on Riverside Drive

In 1905, St. Anne's School was opened in Walkerville, with two teachers, Sister Alphonse Givlin and Sister Hilary Brossoit.

This same year, Bishop McEvay withdrew Sr. Rose Bondy from St. Louis School because of the inconvenience she encountered in travelling back and forth by horse and buggy. At this time, he decided that the Sisters discontinue taking in boarders at the convent because their duties were arduous enough without the imposition of the extra labour incurred by the care of young girls after class hours—another proof of his solicitude and thoughtfulness for the health and well-being of the Sisters.

Father Beaudoin's last major project was the building of the church with which we are now familiar — our own beautiful Holy Rosary.



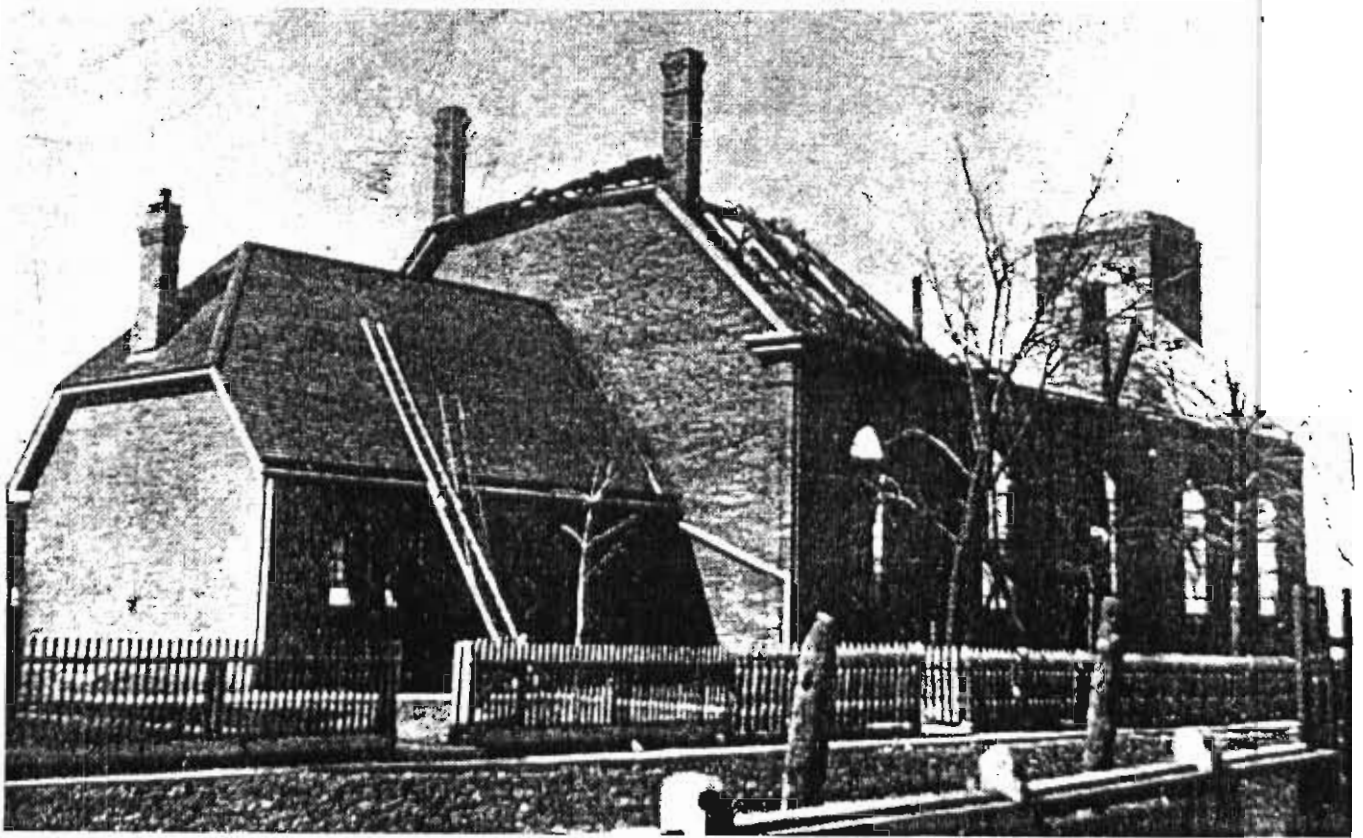
End of a Dream

Although the wind ripped through Sandwich East on Holy Saturday afternoon, March 16, 1907, the bright sun extended hope for a fine Easter Sunday in which the ladies of the parish could wear their new bonnets to Mass.

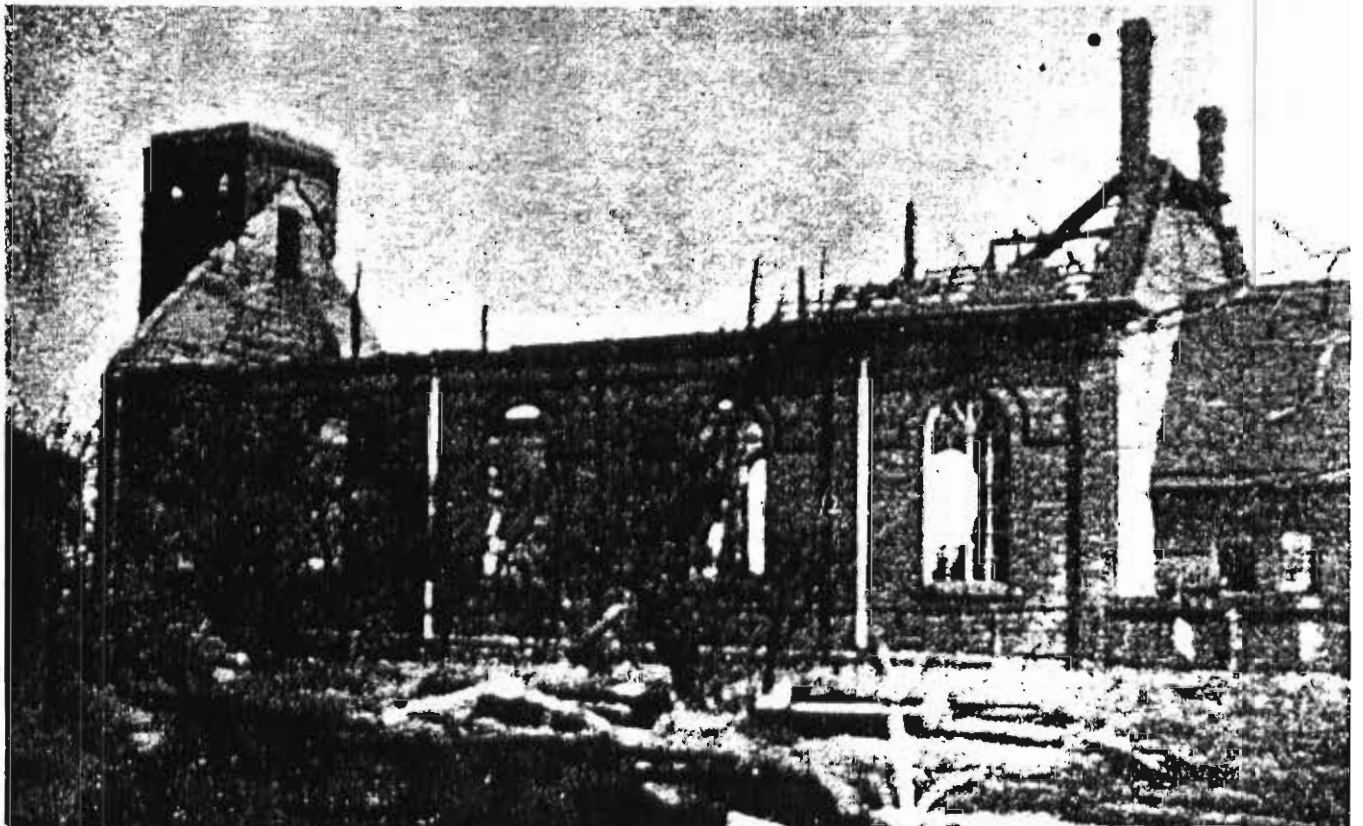
One can imagine Father Beaudoin sitting at his desk in the rectory. Perhaps he was memorizing his sermon for the following morning. Or could he have been reflecting on the fact that because the ice by the river had melted, it would be next winter before he could indulge in his favourite recreation of figure skating and hockey playing? Whatever his thoughts, it is certain that he listened to the clatter and clang of the train as it shunted on the tracks to the south of the church. Nothing was strange about the noise of the train, for he heard it every day. But the difference was that today a wild and blustery wind would carry a spark from the coal furnace of the train engine room to the building of the Ideal Fence Company at the corner of the block on Cadillac Street. Into an angry blaze, it would whip that spark, then convey another spark to the roof of Our Lady of the Lake Church.

Someone came pounding on the rectory door. One of the neighbours had noticed the smoke rising from the roof and sped across the street to alert Father Beaudoin. In another minute, someone was ringing the church bells in a call for help. Alarmed by the peal of the bells and the smell of the smoke, the people came running from all directions. One man says he understands that, when he was an infant, his mother took him to the fire in a baby buggy. While someone ran to fetch the fire department, Father Beaudoin tried to quench the flames. But by the time everyone heard the horses galloping along the road with the fire wagon, the whole church was ablaze.

And so it was that the people of Our Lady of the Lake parish helplessly witnessed the crumbling of their beautiful little white church. As one witness remarked, when it was obvious that nothing could be done to save his church, "Father Beaudoin just stood there and cried."



*Rear view of Our Lady of the Lake after fire
Saturday, March 16, 1907*



*Side view of Our Lady of the Lake after fire
Saturday, March 16, 1907*

Picking up the Pieces

These pioneers were used to hard work and, as such, it would take more than a fire to defeat them. After all, Sandwich East was well on its way now to becoming a thriving centre of industry, for Ford of Canada had been established three years earlier by Walter McGregor in the old wagon works (formerly the Walkerville Wagon Company, Limited) across the street from the church. In its first year, Ford's employed 17 men who turned out 117 "horseless carriages." Some roads were being paved and in that year street car service between Windsor and Tecumseh began.

Because of the new people which Fords had attracted, the membership of the parish had risen, which meant the old church had been much too small to hold all of the people anyway. With money coming into the parish from the new industry, they could now organize a fund drive and build a bigger and better church. It would be recognized not only as the most beautiful church in all the Border Cities, but in all of Western Ontario.

The New Church

After the first church burned, Mass was celebrated in the Parish Hall, which was located behind the church.

The plans for the new church were drawn up by the firm of Williams Bros., Architects. This new building was to be 165 feet long and would have a total seating capacity of 1,000. In the basement, would be a Sunday School room capable of accommodating 500 persons. The church would be metal-roofed and heated by steam.

The cornerstone of the burned church was literally chipped away by souvenir seekers, but the box containing certain articles deposited when the church was built, was intact. The contents of this box, which is now in the cornerstone of the present church, were copies of the Essex Review of May 16, 1884, copies of the Catholic Record, the Freeman's Journal, the Michigan Catholic, and a German Detroit paper, all of approximately the same date. Also inside, was a scroll containing a history of the building of the church as well as names of the founder and donors, and several coins. Added to these were copies of local papers dated around July 1907 as well as another scroll similar to the one placed there in 1884, with the new history. This scroll contains the names of each person who contributed in the slightest degree to the Ladies' Aid or the Altar Society.



New Church Built 1909



Our Lady of the Rosary in 1916



Original Altar



*Celebration of the Inauguration of the New Council of the
Canadian Union of St. Joseph, December 5, 1909*

Laying of the Cornerstone for the New Church

In spite of a torrent of rain on Sunday, July 27, 1907 a huge congregation of people both from Our Lady of the Lake and neighbouring parishes came to watch the laying of the cornerstone for the new church. This cornerstone is inscribed in Latin:

† ECCLESIA
SANCTI ROSARII
† OCT. 27 A.D. 1907
(trans. Church of the Holy Rosary)
North Corner

PIUS X PAPA (trans. Pope Pius X)
F. P. McEVAY
D. D. EPISCOPUS
L. A. BEAUDOIN, Rector
Parochiae (trans. Pastor of the Parish)

WILLIAMS BROS. ARCTS.
East Corner

On this occasion, the proud master of ceremonies was Father Beaudoin. Twenty seven other priests were present for the ceremony which was performed by Most Rev. Bishop McEvay who was assisted by Rev. Fr. Aboulin of St. Anne's Church, Detroit, and Very Rev. Fr. Oster of Ironside, Quebec. After the church was blessed, the people adjourned to the parish hall where sermons were preached by Rev. Fr. McGivney of Detroit College.

Nineteen months, the people of Our Lady of the Lake parish had waited for their new church. But it was well worth the waiting, for when it was completed, it was hailed by the newspapers as "One of the finest Religious edifices in Ontario." It had cost \$45,000 to build.

Dedication

The church was dedicated on October 11, 1908 by Most Rev. F. P. McEvay. The choir from St. Alphonsus Church, Windsor, which consisted of 150 altar boys, came, and standing behind the curtained alcoves above the sanctuary, sang for the first Mass. One of the young boys who was a member of this choir was one day to become a pastor of Our Lady of the Lake parish. His name was Wilfred J. Langlois.



After Mass, 1917



Ford City, 1917

The 25th Anniversary of the Parish

The new church was built in the Romanesque architectural style with loftily rising twin bell dome-shaped bell towers. The first steps were in a high straight row and it was not until 1923 that the present impressive circular steps were installed at a cost of \$14,000. At the time, the *Border Cities Star*, in an article, referred to these steps as being "the most magnificent in Canada." Between 1925 and the early 1930's, the interior of the church was decorated. On the dome-shaped ceiling over the sanctuary was painted a magnificent fresco in vivid colour and gold leaf, depicting Mary, the mother of God, giving the rosary to St. Dominic. Although the new church was dedicated to Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, the parishioners continued to use the former name, Our Lady of the Lake until the arrival of the fourth pastor.



Detail of Fresco

On September 20, 1908, the three bells were blessed by the Most Rev. F. P. McEvay, Archbishop of Toronto. Mrs. Edward Chandler Walker had donated one of the bells; another was given by Father Beaudoin, and a third by the Lake Captain, Captain Pratt. The bells cost \$1,307. By 1923, the parish properties had reached a total of about \$125,000. By this time St. Edward's School had been built in Walkerville.

The Beacon

Since the church towers were the highest landmark in the area, and could be spotted from a great distance, they served as a beacon for the mariners who sailed down the river. For this reason, the Mariners Association, in recent years, contributed money for some minor repair work to the church.

Stained Glass Windows

One of the most outstanding features of any old church is its stained glass windows and in this, Holy Rosary is second to none.

These windows, which bear the names of those in whose memory they were donated, radiantly depict biblical scenes in colours of ultramarine blue, scarlet, emerald, green, gold and purple.



Stained Glass Window

Although in 1909, around the 25th anniversary of the founding of the parish, Ford of Canada was turning out Model C's and Model B's in the old Wagon Works, several horses were still tied to the old hitching rail beside the church on Cadillac Street on a Sunday morning. But by this time cars were being shipped overseas, and Sandwich East was known as "the foremost motor car manufacturing centre in Canada."

With the influx of people into Sandwich East to work in the Ford Plant, the population was steadily rising. By 1912, there were 850 persons living there. In this same year, this portion of Sandwich East became the village of Ford City. Charles J. Montreuil, who was considered the driving force behind the incorporation of Ford City, became its first reeve. When it became a town in 1915, he was its first mayor.

Fr. Beaudoin Dies

By now, due to the newly-formed parish of Immaculate Conception in Windsor, the limits of the parish had changed. By this time, most of the blacksmith shops and livery stables had been replaced by gasoline stations. In 1912, St. Anne's Church was built in Walkerville, and two years later came the heartbreak of World War I, when the people of the parish bade farewell to sons, brothers, husbands and sweethearts. After the war started, production increased in the Ford plant as large numbers of Model "T's" were built, to be adapted for ambulance service for the war effort.

By 1917, over 3,000 people worked in Ford City. New sidewalks were constructed, water service established and a new \$35,000 city hall was built next to Our Lady of the Rosary Church.



Ford City Hall, Built 1917

In this year the women wore their dresses seven inches above the ankle, and the boys wore knickers. Electric street cars clattered towards Tecumseh Road—the city limits—beyond which was a large expanse of fields. Other cars which were being driven were Packards, Pierce-Arrows, Reos and Whippets.

In this same year, Father Beaudoin, whose health had been steadily declining, left for Hotel Dieu Hospital in Montreal. He died in August 19, 1917. At the same time the funeral services were in progress in Quebec, a requiem High Mass was sung in Our Lady of the Lake Church by Rev. Fr. Emery. Among those from the district who left to attend the funeral were Fr. Langlois, Tecumseh, Fr. Brisbon, Staples, Fr. Parent, Tilbury, and Fr. R. L'Heureux, Belle River, as well as a number of laymen.

By this time, the membership of the parish had reached 400 families, the majority of whom spoke the language of their ancestors who had come here from France about 160 year before.

The Third Pastor

Major Concern of the French-Canadian People

Tensions ran high in the parish that year. The people were restless, longing for the war to end, and grieving for those young men of the parish who had died fighting. And now, their beloved pastor, Father Beaudoin, who had been with them for 26 long years, had died at the relatively young age of 55. He had been one of their own kind — a French Canadian who had communicated with them in their preferred language. If he had spoken English, it had only been with reluctance and only for the benefit of those who could not understand French. The next pastor would have to deliver the sermons in French, for that was the way it had always been and they saw no reason for it to change. And so they waited for Most Rev. Michael Fallon, D.D., Bishop of London, to appoint a new French-speaking pastor.

Prior to Fr. Beaudoin's death, Bishop Fallon was determined to effect education reform in schools which purported to be bilingual but whose teachers, he felt were not sufficiently versed in the English language to adequately prepare the children for the Ontario Department Examinations. His success in effecting such reform led to the widespread opinion that he was anti-French and that he had forbidden the teaching of French in Schools as well as the preaching of French sermons in church. Bishop Fallon was later to discover that a testimonial document to Father Beaudoin which had been sent to Rome and which had been signed by all the French priests of the diocese attested to this purported anti-French stance.

In an effort to clear himself of what he felt was calumny, Bishop Fallon travelled to Rome. After obtaining this document, he then returned to his diocese and organized a Diocesan Tribunal. This tribunal included clerical judges to investigate the priests who had signed the document. Bishop Fallon appointed a secretary of the Tribunal the man whom he would one day choose as the next pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish.

It was this secretarial appointment which would unfairly brand this man as unsympathetic to the cause of the French-Canadian people thereby causing him undeserved heartache upon his acceptance of the pastorship of Our Lady of the Rosary.

During the Tribunal inquiry, each priest in turn was quizzed as to his knowledge of the allegations contained in the document at the time he had signed it. Each, in turn, attested to the fact that before signing the document, he had not read the information contained therein.

"If you had read the statement contained in the document, would you have signed it?" each was asked.

When the answer of each priest was "No", Bishop Fallon had won his case.

But prejudice being the tenacious entity that it is, the French Canadians of Our Lady of the Rosary parish were

unwilling to accept a pastor who not only had served as secretary of this Tribunal but who had organized the English-speaking parish of St. Martin's in London—surely further proof of his anti-French proclivity.

So they congregated together and wondered what steps they could take to prevent this appointment. For a while they decided to appeal to the Bishop. This they did, but the appeal was to no avail. Bishop Fallon informed them that, like themselves the new pastor was French-Canadian. But they refused to believe it, insisting that he was French in name only.

On August 23, 1917, when the announcement was made in Church that the new pastor would arrive the following Sunday, the French people gathered together again and planned their strategy. The Bishop had ignored their pleas and now they would have to handle the situation in the only way they knew how. On the following Sunday, they would be ready. They would congregate outside the rectory and simply stop him from entering, even if they had to use force. Then when the Bishop saw that they meant business, he would have no alternative but to accede to their demands.

The “War” of the Parish

In 1918, the year before the end of World War I, another war broke out in Our Lady of the Rosary parish, and the third pastor, Rev. Francis Xavier Laurendeau of London, who became Dean of Essex in 1926 and a Monsignor in 1930, was made to swallow the bitter gall of rejection.

On the Sunday of his expected arrival, the men of the parish were gathered outside the church, the French people and the English-speaking people eyeing one another with nothing short of disdain as they awaited the arrival of Father Laurendeau. Early in the morning, they came. And the minutes dragged by as they peered anxiously down the street. The minutes turned into seemingly endless hours but by supper time there was still no sign of anyone coming. By midnight, when the lights in the rectory went out, they realized that things might not be quite as simple as they had imagined. So, once more, they plotted their respective strategies. Had the Bishop, anticipating trouble, tried to trick them? The new pastor would undoubtedly arrive unexpectedly and get into the rectory before anyone could stop him. Therefore, they would have to continue to keep watch.

Some say that on September 8, 1917, the church bells clanged with a fierce urgency. “It seemed as though they rang for a whole hour,” one parishioner recalls. “This was a warning that the new pastor had arrived and that the people should come to the church.” They grabbed the weapons they had ready—sticks, stones, shovels and rakes, for just as the French were determined that the new pastor would not stay, the English were just as adamant that he would. “The children were all excited,” says a parishioner. “But the mothers made them stay home.” The people ran from all directions. The English shouted obscenities at the French and the French reciprocated in like. Back and forth along the street they raced, outside the rectory and in front of the church. They scurried up and down the steps, pelting stones and pounding one



*Most Rev. F. X. Laurendeau, D.P.
Dean of Essex, Pastor, 1917-1942*

another with the sticks and shovels. At least one man sustained head injuries from being hit with a shovel.

Amidst this pandemonium, Father Laurendeau finally arrived. But he was accompanied by the police. And the angry mob just stood and watched him as, calmly and resolutely, he walked up the front step and entered the church by the front door. The chief of Police of Ford City, Albert “Topsy” Maisonville, stood on the steps of the church and roared out the Riot Act, while the police hauled the offenders off to the jail which was conveniently located in the City Hall next to the church.

Empty Pews

Bishop Fallon might be able to force an unwanted pastor on the French-Canadians of Ford City but the Bishop could not make them sit and listen to this pastor in church. Deciding that this would be the end of Holy Rosary for them, they began to attend Mass at other churches, even travelling as far as Detroit.

It was a stormy beginning, indeed, for a man who was to be remembered as one of the gentlest and kindest pastors ever to minister to a parish. And just as they could not keep him out of the church, it seems that neither could they keep him out of their hearts. For afterwards when the storm was over, they turned around and extended to

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régionale Windsor-Essex
C.P. 1941-267 Meunier,
Belle Rivière, Ontario
M9A 1A0

him their wholehearted love and devotion. Within a year, he had won them, as one by one they came back to Our Lady of the Rosary to find that Father Laurendeau was delivering the sermons in both French and English. "He was a kind man," one parishioner says with feeling. "Kind and gentle — a humble man. When the people got to know him, they really liked him. They were sorry for what they had done. Yes, they knew they had made a mistake." People say that Father Laurendeau's patience with the children was remarkable and that it was usual to see him sitting on the steps of the rectory with a group of children around him. He even went so far as to have special T-shirts made for the children of Cadillac Street with the inscription "Alley Cats." "He was so kind to the children — not strict like the others," recalls a parishioner. It has been said that few men ever won greater love and respect than did Father Laurendeau. Because of his great understanding of and empathy with people, politicians and industrialists came to him for advice. So much confidence did he inspire in his parishioners that many attributed to him the gift of healing. It was not uncommon for a mother to come knocking on the door of the rectory, bringing a sick child to be prayed over. Nor was it unusual for an adult to seek similar attention. But if one were to extend thanks to him for a cure, Laurendeau would simply say, "It is not I but God who has healed you."



Msgr. Laurendeau Relaxing in Rectory Garden

One of Father Laurendeau's most outstanding characteristics was his humility, and this was particularly exemplified in a picture of him taken by the Windsor Daily Star in 1939 upon the occasion of the visit of the King and Queen of England. By this time, he was Dean of Essex and a monsignor. Msgr. Laurendeau, who, as head of the Catholic Clergy of the district, was entitled to a far more important seat at the welcome of Their Majesties, nevertheless, sat on the last bench of the bleacher stand erected in the Canadian National Railway yard, while far less prominent people had better seats.

Under Msgr. Laurendeau's pastoral guidance, the membership of Our Lady of the Rosary parish rose to 3,000 people. It was hailed by the Windsor Daily Star at that time as being the "Largest Roman Catholic parish in Ontario," and a picture of this church which appeared in that paper was captioned "Prominent Ford Church." Even after other parishes were carved from it, this church could still boast of having one of the province's largest congregations.

Fiftieth Anniversary — Major Projects

One cannot emphasize enough the contribution of the Catholic Women's League of Our Lady of the Rosary to social welfare. One of Msgr. Laurendeau's first projects was the installation at Our Lady of the Rosary of this League. The first executive is as follows: President, Mrs. E. J. Joinville; Assistants, Mrs. W. G. Reaume, Mrs. E. C. Poisson, Miss Claire Janisse, Mrs. G. Pratt, Miss K. Drouillard, Mrs. W. J. Coughlin.



Catholic Women's League 25th Anniversary, 1946

This is only a partial list of the women who gave their time and energy to uphold the motto of the League: "For God and Country."

First Child Clinic

This organization raised hundreds of dollars for coal, clothing, shoes and groceries for needy families. In 1922, the C.W.L. of Our Lady of the Rosary organized the first Child Clinic in the Border Cities and Windsor. Holy Rosary school auditorium was furnished to take care of those in need, as specialists and nurses, checked babies

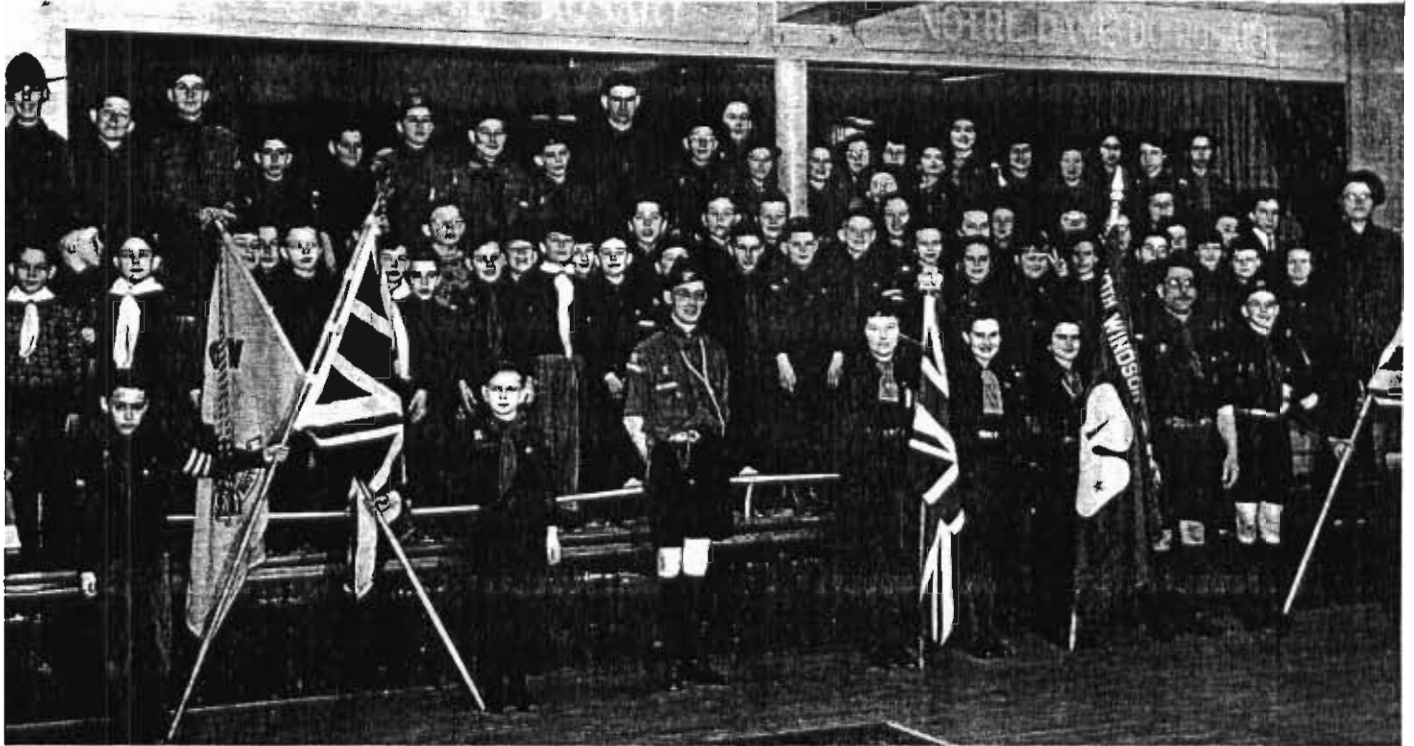
and administered vaccines and other needed medical attention. These services were given free to the public.

In addition to medical attention, children were provided with milk and cod liver oil in school, expectant mothers were provided with layettes and other necessities and eye glasses were provided with the assistance of eye

specialist, Dr. Brown. School books were also provided to many children in St. Joseph and Holy Rosary Schools.

Girl Guides

The first Girl Guides pack was organized in 1924 by Miss Kathleen Drouillard. This endeavour was sponsored by the League, which purchased a flag for the Guides.



Girl Guides, Brownies, Scouts and Cubs in 1940's



*Cub Pack, 1943, Stanislaus Alexander, Leader
assisted by Leo Lucier*



Sodality of the Children of Mary, 1924

Charitable Donations of the League

Through the years, such institutions as the Victorian Order of Nurses, the Children's Aid Shelter, Sister of the Good Shepherd, Sisters of St. Joseph, the Institute for the Blind, the Sanitorium, St. John the Evangelist Home for the Aged, and Glengarda were the recipients of many donations of the League of Our Lady of the Rosary. St. Joseph School auditorium, the St. Joseph Major dining room and Rosary Ward of Hotel Dieu were furnished by the ladies of this League.

Church Hall Furnished

In 1923, the church hall was cleaned and furnished, and curtains, tables and chairs were purchased. In 1924, the Statue of St. Gerard was donated to the church and in 1925-26, a donation of \$500 was given to help with the remodelling of the church and sanctuary.

Building of Schools, Churches & Convent

Because of the ever-increasing population, by 1922 it became apparent that more schools would have to be built. Since 1915 the parish hall had been utilized for school purposes. At first, one class was accommodated there, but in 1917, it was divided into three classrooms. For two years, two hundred and fifty children were crowded into these rooms under the guidance of Mother Benedict Spring, Sister Bernard Howell and Sister Rosalie Joly. Two other classes were formed in the basement of the church under the direction of Sister Hilary Brossoit and Sister Bathildis LeBoeuf. Needless to say, the conditions of this building were less than adequate. When the cold weather came, one large stove had to serve two rooms. Part of the wall was removed to allow the warmth to filter through and at the same time affording the children an opportunity to peek through and greet their friends in the next room. The



Our Lady of the Lake Bowling Team, 1935-1936.

summer heat was unbearable and the melted tar from the roof often dropped on the children's heads.

The day started with the opening prayers, singing and recitation. The strains of French hymns, Hail Marys. English songs or hymns and Notre Pere all mingled together, interrupted occasionally by the tooting of a horn from the garage below where Fr. Laurendeau and his curate Fr. Langlois, parked their cars. The loud blast of the horn brought down a willing lad to open and close the garage door for them.

The summer of 1919 brought an improvement when the School Board spent three thousand dollars on the hall which assumed such a changed appearance that the Sisters nicknamed it "Sunshine Park." When Mr. Engle, the Inspector, met Sr. Beatrice Gagnon at one of the Teachers' Conventions, he inquired where she was teaching to which she answered, "In Sunshine Park." "Oh" he replied, "I can't recall that school in my inspectorate." After being apprised of the school's location, Mr. Engle did indeed appreciate the Sister's philosophy: "Sunshine in school room life comes mostly from the spirit that reigns within the walls, be they bright or grey."

After teaching in various schools in the Diocese, Mother Benedict Spring spent her last five years as a teacher in "Sunshine Park." The school was as primitive as the orphans' school in Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*, but the Sisters were as uncomplaining as they were hard working.

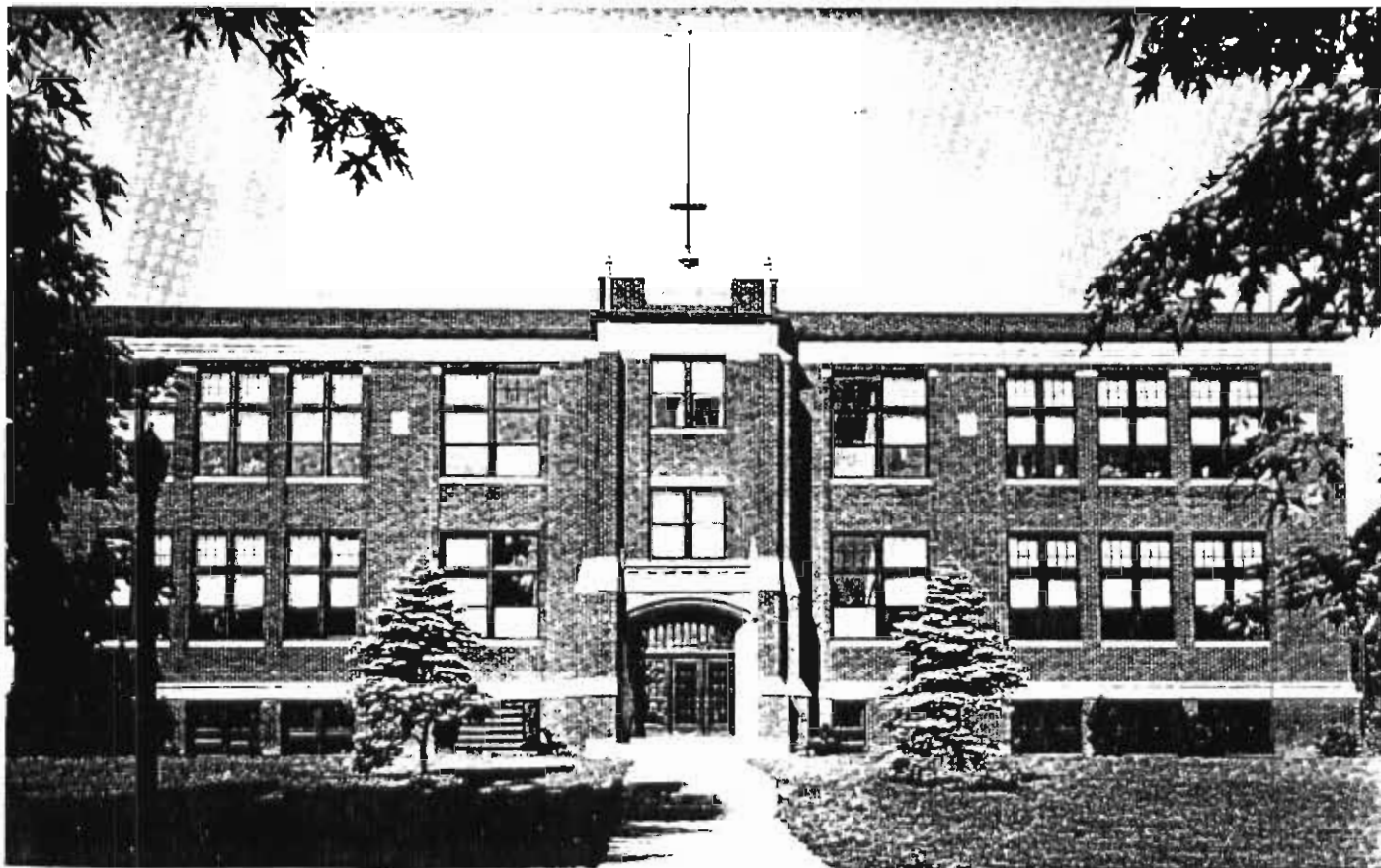
In Easter, 1921, the basement of the church became the next improvised school. To relieve the congestion of

Sr. Rose Bondy's class at Notre Dame School, classes were opened here under the care of Sr. Bathildis LeBoeuf and Sr. Theresa Shannon.

In 1921, a bungalow annex had been erected next to Notre Dame School, and the next year another bungalow was erected on Jos Janisse Avenue. Although the Sisters were patient and uncomplaining, they nevertheless kept hoping for better conditions. In May, 1922, their dreams were realized in the building of Holy Rosary School on Drouillard Road. In 1923, six more rooms were added to this school and in 1927, yet another six had to be added on.

The fact that Drouillard Road had become such a busy traffic area caused concern for the safety of the children, but the Boy Scouts of the school acted as guards to guide the children across the street. In 1922, St. Peter School was built and on June 19, of this same year, the cornerstone of St. Rose Church was laid. On November 16th, the church was dedicated by Most Rev. Michael Francis Fallon. On the day of dedication Rev. Wilfrid J. Langlois was named the first pastor. St. Joseph School was built in 1924 and two years later St. Jules School was completed. In May, 1925, St. Therese Church was dedicated by Most Rev. M. F. Fallon. St. Bernard School was built in 1930.

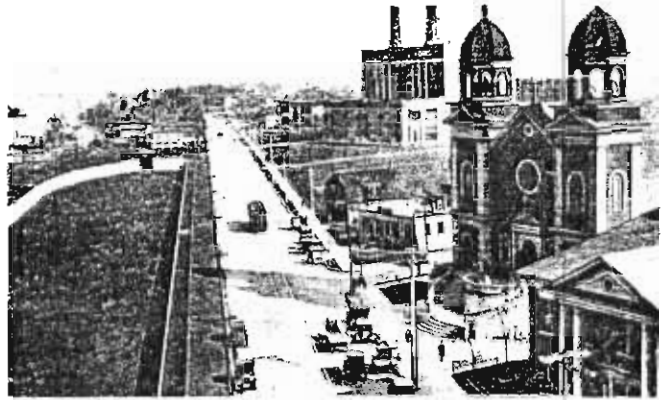
In 1917, there were seven Sisters of St. Joseph teaching, and in 1924, the third floor of the convent was completed. In 1926, an addition was added to this convent. In 1927, there were 44 Sisters and seven lay teachers in the parish. In 1917, one child passed the entrance examination but in 1927, 76 passed.



St. Joseph School



Holy Rosary School



Ford City, 1923



Holy Name Rally, 1923

Spending much time with the immigrants from Europe, Fr. Laurendeau helped the Ukrainians build St. Olga Church and he helped the Slovaks build St. Cyril & Methodius Church. Our Lady of the Rosary was called the most cosmopolitan parish in Ontario.

Five years before the 50th Anniversary of the parish, the name of Ford City had been changed to East Windsor. This change took place on June 1, 1929 with the population at 16,000. It was a festive occasion with bands playing and flags raised. George Avenue was closed from Wyandotte Street to the railway tracks to make room for dancing and contests. On this day, George Julius "Ford" Riberdy, the first child born in Ford City, unveiled a pla-

que at the City Hall. George Julius was the son of Frank D. Riberdy, the first mayor of East Windsor.

Chrysler of Canada had already built its car assembly plant on Tecumseh Road, General Motors and Studebaker were established, and Ford of Canada had built its power plant to the East of the church, with its towering smokestacks dwarfing the twin bell towers. Across the street, the old wagon works had been replaced by an office building, and a new plant had been built on the west side of the church. Other East Windsor industries were the Dominion Forge and Stamping Company Limited, the Canadian Motor Lamp Company Limited and the Union Foundry.

And so stood Our Lady of the Rosary, no longer alone in the middle of a field, but part of the nucleus of East Windsor, completely hemmed in by the industrial buildings of the "automobile heart of the British Empire."

The Ambassador Bridge and the Detroit Tunnel had been built. Drouillard Road had expanded as a business district and was part of the pride of East Windsor. The horse and buggy days were gone, and Ford City was the fastest growing city in Canada. Then came the Depression in 1929, causing a drastic reduction in automobile production, which left most of the parish members out of work. The Catholic Women's League of Our Lady of the Rosary was attempting to raise more funds to help these parishioners. Committees were formed to help the Victorian Order of Nurses and the Goodfellows. Some members even helped in private homes where, because of a mother's illness, help was needed with the children.

Monsignor Laurendeau's Fateful Journey to Phillipine Islands

On December 27, 1936, Msgr. Laurendeau left Windsor to attend the Eucharistic Congress in the Phillipine Islands. He sailed on the "Empress of Japan," leaving Vancouver on January 9th and travelling by way of Honolulu, Japan and China. He made the journey as a personal representative of the Most Rev. John T. Kidd, Bishop of London. Little did he know as he sailed across the sea, that this mission would seriously alter the course of his life and that when he returned, the stage would be set for the circumstances which would ultimately cause his death. While in the Phillipines, he would be infected with sleeping sickness, a disease which is transmitted by the bite of certain flies in tropical climates and which is characterized by tremors and lethargy.

World War II

In 1939, five years after the 50th anniversary of the parish, the second World War began. Msgr. Laurendeau, although often plagued by the symptoms of the sleeping sickness, nevertheless continued to minister to his parish. He watched the young men of Our Lady of the Rosary leave for this war. On the morning of departure, the Catholic Women's League of Our Lady of the Rosary, sponsored a farewell breakfast for the troupes and their families. Protestants and catholics alike, gathered in the church basement where Mass was celebrated by Father Michael Dalton, the Army Spiritual Director. After breakfast, in an attempt to cheer the young men and their sorrowful relatives, Father Dalton jumped on the stage and wearing his coat turned inside out, donned a mustache in a parody of Hitler. When the boys of Our Lady of the Rosary were leaving, they each were presented with a Catholic missal and a rosary to take with them. Fr. Dalton who travelled with them overseas, regularly visited them after they became prisoners of war, and often wrote letters home to the relatives who anxiously awaited word of their loved ones.

By now, the Border Cities had become Windsor, having joined together on July 1, 1935. Business was booming once again in Windsor, as more people came to work in the automobile plant to reap the rewards of this false

prosperity. These plants turned out thousands of fighting vehicles for the war effort. The large influx of people had caused a severe housing shortage and by 1942 war time houses were erected.

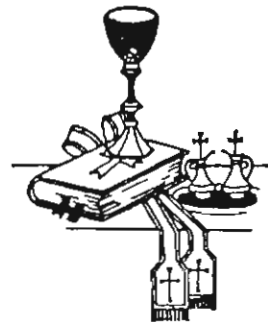
The war meant added hours of work for the Catholic Women's League of Our Lady of the Rosary. They knitted and sewed and quilted for the men overseas. Many of the women spent hours in the church kitchen making jams and jellies to send to these men, and more spent hours at the Red Cross. Thousands of cigarettes were sent to the boys in the Service, and many more hours were spent preparing meals at the Service Club. The junior members helped entertain at the Service Club and at the Blood Bank.

Death of Msgr. Laurendeau

On a Sunday afternoon in 1942, Father John Noel, a young curate who was serving at Our Lady of the Rosary, watched Msgr. Laurendeau prepare to leave for his usual Sunday celebration of Mass at the Ursuline Convent (Glengarda). Noticing that Msgr. Laurendeau seemed tired, Father Noel suggested that it might be better if, this morning, someone else could celebrate Mass at the convent. But Msgr. Laurendeau insisted he was well enough to go himself. And so Father Noel watched him climb into his car and drive down Cadillac Street. No sooner had Father Noel looked away than he heard a resounding crash. To his horror, he witnessed Father Laurendeau's car smash against the post of the Chinese restaurant on the corner of Cadillac Street.

Before seeking help, Father Noel anointed his unconscious pastor. Msgr. Laurendeau was taken to Hotel Dieu Hospital where it was determined that he had suffered an epileptic seizure which had blotted out his memory while driving. Two weeks later, while still in hospital, Msgr. Laurendeau died.

Most Rev. John T. Kidd, D.D., Bishop of London, officiated at a Pontifical Requiem Mass sung for Msgr. Laurendeau at Our Lady of the Rosary Church.



Fourth Pastor

It was shortly after the arrival of the fourth pastor in 1942 that the church began to be known as "Our Lady of the Rosary." Rt. Rev. Wilfrid J. Langlois was no stranger to this parish, for he had spent five years here as assistant to Msgr. Laurendeau, having first come in 1918. In 1924, he was given his own parish, Ste. Rose de Lima. After Msgr. Laurendeau's death, Fr. Langlois was appointed Dean of Essex, and in 1947, Pope Pius XII elevated him to the rank of Domestic Prelate. Apart from three years (1915-1918) as assistant at Holy Angels Church, St. Thomas, he served his church in the Windsor area.

Msgr. Langlois, who was born in Windsor, was the descendant of one of Windsor's oldest families which migrated to Windsor in 1773. His maternal great-grandfather was Vital Ouellette, after whom Ouellette Avenue was named. His grandfather, Pierre Langlois, was an alderman in Windsor from 1857 to 1870. Pierre Langlois is known to have fought singlehandedly against the building of the Great Western Railway (now the CNR) in its present location along the river edge, saying that it would mar the beauty of the waterfront for all time, and prevent its development for park purposes. Although, against his objections, the majority of the landowners sold their property to the railway company, had it not been for his efforts in this cause, the railroad would have extended along the entire riverfront and we would be deprived of our beautiful riverfront parks today.

Msgr. Langlois was the son of Dr. Onésime X. Langlois, who practiced medicine in Windsor from 1878 until his death on February 2, 1894, at the age of 45. Msgr. Langlois had one sister, Mother Marie Rosalie de la Palerme, a Holy Name Sister, who taught at St. Mary's Academy in Windsor and who died in 1950. Some of the families to which the Langlois name is associated are Pajot, Parent, Labadie, St. Louis, Beausoleil, Montreuil, Bensette, Nantais, Leduc, Pratt, Janisse, Fortier, Baby, O'Neill, Ryan, Ouellette, Reaume, Gignac, Meloche, Twomey, Mathews, Lappan, Dufresne, and Labutte.

Although saddened by the death of their beloved Msgr. Laurendeau, the parishioners opened their hearts in welcome to this new pastor who was already a friend to many of them. He was a man whose personality was not unlike that of Fr. Beaudoin. "He was more strict than Msgr. Laurendeau," say some. "More like Fr. Beaudoin." He was a man whose concern for people made him an assiduous worker on behalf of the oppressed people of the world.

He was cited as being a forerunner of the ecumenical movement in Windsor, and in 1962, he was presented with a Holy Bible and a Friendship Award by the Windsor Jewish Community and the State of Israel.



*Most Rev. Wilfrid J. Langlois
Pastor 1942-1965*



Eucharistic Congress, 1946

60th Anniversary and End of World War II

In 1944, more than 60 priests came to Our Lady of the Rosary to celebrate the Solemn High Mass which marked the 60th anniversary of the founding of the parish and the 50th anniversary of the parochial school by the Sisters of St. Joseph. In his French and English sermon, Rev. R. S. Piché, O.P., of Prince Albert, Sask., said that "proof of the strength of religion in the parish is seen in the fact that some 3,000 people attend Mass there every Sunday. Proof of the moral strength and right principles and patriotism taught in St. Joseph School is seen in the fact that 583 former students of the school are in the active

services of Canada, that 18 have been killed, 15 are prisoners, and seven are missing."

And then came 1945 and the end of World War II. Not all parishioners of Our Lady of the Rosary who had said goodbye to loved ones were to welcome them home again. One couple, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Rivait of Albert Road, the parents of 13 children, lost three sons—Leon, Lawrence and Alphonsus—in this war. Mrs. Rivait was chosen to walk alone to the Cenotaph in Ottawa in a solemn symbolic gesture to place a wreath for Canadian mothers and wives bereaved by war. It was the first time a Windsor woman had been so honoured. Inscribed on a plaque which hangs in the back of Holy Rosary Church are the names of the following parishioners who died in this war:

Bernard Adam
Edmond Amond
William Andriewski
Russell Bechamp
Laurent Berneche
Hector Bonneville
Leo Boudreau
Normand Blain
Henri Damphouse
Leo Deschamps
Laurent Dion
Edward English
Zenon Giroux
Glenn Hurter
Arthur Lanoue
Hugh Leonard
Felix Matte
William Morgan
Ernest Noirel
Alphonse Ouellette
Rufus Parent
Alphie Pelletier
Alphonse Rivait
Edgar Rivait
Laurent Rivait
Leon Rivait
Roy Rivait
Wilfred Rivait
Laurent Thibert
James Sherry



Mrs. Homer Rivait . . . three sons, Leon, Lawrence and Alphonsus, lost in World War II





Msgr. Langlois with Catholic Women's League, 1950

By this time, the people of Holy Rosary had much to reflect upon as they climbed the steps to celebrate the anniversary Mass. This Mass was attended by 80 priests, many of whom had once served at this church. Many of the members of the congregation present on this day had been baptized by the first pastor, Father Lapierre. These people had seen dreams realized throughout the years in the building of schools and churches, in the building of the convent, but most of all in the erection of their own beautiful Holy Rosary. They had witnessed the birth of the automotive industry in Ford City. They had lived through the devastation of two wars and a depression. They lived in an age of strong religious conviction where the rules were obeyed without question.

But things were beginning to change. In a more mobile society, relationships were not as enduring as in the days when people lived their entire lives in the neighbourhood in which they were born. By the 75th anniversary, Ford of Canada had already moved its car and truck assembly operation to Oakville. This move, which was effected in 1954, led some of the parishioners to seek employment in other areas. Many who stayed were unemployed and as a result, a few years later, Drouillard Road had started to deteriorate. The membership of Holy Rosary was declining.

Because Msgr. Langlois' health had been poor, Bishop John C. Cody had transferred him to St. Joseph's parish in River Canard in 1956 in the hope that the lighter duties of a rural parish might restore his health. Among Msgr. Langlois' projects were the purchase of the old Ford City

Hall at a cost of \$7,500 which was used for recreational and cultural purposes. In 1965, this building was demolished and the space is now used for parking purposes.



The Fifth Pastor

When Msgr. Langlois was transferred to River Canard, Rev. Victor C. Côté was assigned to Holy Rosary as pastor. Prior to this appointment, Father Côté had served at Immaculate Conception. While at Holy Rosary, he organized some repairs to the rectory and redesigned the living quarters. However, he was to stay only two years. In 1958, when Msgr. Langlois returned as pastor, Fr. Côté left for Port Dover, Ontario. He died on November 12, 1974 at University Hospital, London, Ontario.

This second time, Msgr. Langlois stayed at Holy Rosary until 1965 when, after having served as pastor for 21 years, he retired and went to live in residence at St. Mary's Academy. He died there at the age of 80 and is buried at Assumption Cemetery.

During the year 1964, Rev. C. H. Sylvester arrived from London, Ontario and was named administrator of Holy Rosary, serving in this capacity until 1965.

The Arrival of the LaSalettes

1965 was a year that spelled dramatic change—not only for Holy Rosary but for the Roman Catholic Church in general. New liturgical changes which emerged from Vatican II meant that no longer would Roman Catholics be mere observers in the celebration of the Mass but would be encouraged to participate more fully in this ceremony. To facilitate such participation, the Mass and prayers would be said in the vernacular rather than in the traditional Latin.

At the time of Msgr. Langlois' retirement, the membership of Holy Rosary had dropped to about 300 families. Part of the reason was the fact that many parishioners were forced to seek employment in other cities. Another reason was the general trend towards declining church attendance.

It was in this same year, after the retirement of Msgr. Langlois, that Most Rev. G. Emmett Carter, then Bishop of London, now Archbishop of Toronto, announced that the parish would now be administered by the LaSalette Fathers, a congregation of missionary priests.

The Franco-American province of the LaSalette Fathers has its headquarters in Attleboro, Massachusetts.



Our Lady of LaSalette . . . On September 19, 1846, she appeared to two children on a mountain in LaSalette, France. Her plea was that the people of the world become reconciled with God.

Other provinces are located in France, Switzerland, Brazil, Italy, Spain and Canada.

The ebbing life of a parish which had once flourished with such strength and vitality was the kind of challenge and concern to which these missionaries have dedicated their lives. The bilingualism of these priests offered compatibility with a parish which still contained a number of French-Canadian families.

Rev. Arnold Sillery, M.S.

When Rev. Arnold Sillery, M.S. took charge as pastor of Holy Rosary in October of 1965, he was assisted by Rev. George Morin, M.S. and Rev. Maurice Viens, M.S. At this time, Brother Aloysius Machabee came to serve as sacristan and to help with various rectory duties.

Fr. Sillery's first goal was to promote the new liturgy and to make the necessary physical changes to the church to accommodate this liturgy. They immediately organized a parish council and encouraged women and men to become more actively involved in parochial work. Noting the general decline in the neighbourhood, especially the Drouillard Road area, they organized the general Missions. Aided by a group of women in the parish, they conducted these missions in that area and attempted to gain rapport with the youth of the district. Father Sillery and his assistants spent many long hours on this street counselling and attempting to guide the young people who were suffering from the effects of unemployment. During this time, the East Windsor Citizens' Committee was formed under the leadership of a group of citizens who worked and are still working in an effort to provide leadership and recreational facilities for the young people and to assist in setting worthwhile goals. The E.W.C.C. has been successful in building Holy Rosary Recreational Centre and in providing activities for children by sending them to camp.

Father Sillery worked untiringly for Holy Rosary until 1971 when he left to study in Switzerland. By this time, the seeds of community which he and his assistants had planted were blossoming. The fruits of these seeds would be nurtured by each LaSalette Father who would succeed him, making Holy Rosary unique in its spirit of love. It was with much sorrow that the parishioners learned of Father Sillery's death on May 26, 1972, at the age of 51, just nine months after leaving Holy Rosary. He is buried at Enfield, New Hampshire.

Administration Becomes One of Co-Pastorship

After Father Sillery left, the parish administration became one of co-pastorship with Rev. Adrien Francoeur, M.S., who had arrived in 1969, assuming co-pastorship with Rev. Joseph Ross, M.S., in 1971. These two pastors worked together until 1973, when Fr. Francoeur left for Attleboro, Massachusetts. In August, 1973, Rev. Richard Lavoie, M.S., joined Father Ross as co-pastor. In 1976, Fr. Lavoie left for Enfield, New Hampshire to assume duties as Superior of the Enfield community.

The last priest to assume co-pastorship with Father Ross was Rev. Joseph (Jay) Gosselin, M.S., who came to Holy Rosary in September of 1976. After one year of pastoral ministry with Father Gosselin, Father Ross left to assume a new post as co-director of the LaSalette Seminary in Worchester, Massachusetts, after which time Rev. Roland Nadeau, M.S., joined Father Gosselin. In 1978, Fr. Gosselin was transferred to Cambridge, Massachusetts as Director of Graduate Studies at LaSalette Seminary. At this time, Rev. Ronald Hebert, M.S., was assigned to Holy Rosary as co-pastor with Fr. Nadeau. These two pastors worked together until 1982 when Fr. Nadeau was transferred to Attleboro, Massachusetts as Shrine Superior and Vicar Provincial. At this time, the parish welcomed Rev. Dennis Loomis, M.S., who joined Fr. Hebert as the present co-pastors of Holy Rosary.

Other Projects of the LaSalette Administration — Centennial Development Program

In 1978, the pastors and the Finance Committee launched an intensive program of church restoration. A Centennial Development Program was organized to set goals for various fund-raising activities to acquire the needed funds.

In this same year, the Finance Committee, after receiving a professional evaluation on the state of disrepair of the rectory, was advised of the infeasibility of having this building repaired. In 1978, this aged rectory was demolished and a beautiful two-storey building erected in its place. The new rectory was completed in May, 1979.

At this time, some major repairs were made to the 508-pipe church organ which had not functioned properly for years. Because it obscured the view of the beautiful rose window, it was moved from the choir loft to the area behind the alcoves above the sacristy. What a glorious sound of music echoed throughout the church on that Easter Sunday, delighting the parishioners as it had in years gone by.

In 1978, a set of oil paintings depicting the Way of the Cross were purchased and hung in the church. Shortly afterwards, the church kitchen and bathrooms were renovated, the basement redecorated and new electrical service installed in the church.

In 1981, two very old houses on the west side of the church were purchased. These houses were demolished in order to expand the existing parking area. Shortly afterwards, the front steps were repaired and sandblasted to restore them to their original beauty.

In the basement of the old "Galley" room was renamed the "Alleluia Room." This room, which is used for Children's Church and meetings of various committees, was carpeted and furnished with comfortable furniture donated by some parishioners.

Children's Church

A program was instituted whereby the children would be taught the liturgy of the Word. This instruction, which takes place in the Alleluia room is geared to the level of

understanding of the children and takes place during the Mass, simultaneously with the Liturgy of the Word for adults. During the Offertory, the children are brought upstairs into the main part of the church where they join the rest of the parish family for this sacred hour of worship.

The Beacon Once Again

Perhaps the most dramatic undertaking in the renovation of the church has been the restoration of the towers this year. After being lowered to the ground by crane, the bottom brick portions were demolished and completely rebuilt. Then, the dome-shaped tops, when secured in place, were covered with gleaming copper. The final step was to haul the towers up to their original seats of prominence where, once again, they will assume their role as landmark.



View of Church Tower during renovation, 1984

Ministry of Faith and Justice

Out of the faith stance of our parish community flows a genuine concern for those who suffer physical deprivation. Holy Rosary is addressing itself to seeking both short and long term solutions to the problems of poverty.

1) St. Vincent de Paul Society. It is the purpose of this ministry to try to provide for the short term needs of those who are in immediate need of food and/or clothing. Needy people contact the parish office and are put in touch with a contact person at the Society.

2) Third World Seminars and Workshops: Holy Rosary, as a parish, attempts to learn more about the plight of people in developing countries, and to find appropriate ways to respond. The parish commits itself to actively engage in learning programs and to take part in strategies that will contribute to a permanent solution to the problem of unequal distribution of the world's goods.

Ministry of Prayer

For persons who wish additional opportunity for communal prayer over and above that which is provided by the daily celebration of the Eucharist, Holy Rosary actively sponsors a Wednesday evening prayer meeting in the church. This particular expression of prayer, which is charismatic in nature, is done with the approbation and encouragement of the past and present local bishop, and of the present pontiff.

Ministry to Schools

Holy Rosary is aware of its responsibility to the school children and to the younger generation of its parishioners. For that reason, the parish priests work in close cooperation with the principal and staff of Holy Rosary School, visiting the school weekly, and organizing monthly and/or thematic Eucharistic celebrations throughout the year.

The Catechumenate

The Catechumenate describes that period of initiation into the Catholic Church, intended for adults, in which candidates for baptism freely and knowingly seek the living God and enter the path of faith and conversion. After a suitable period of orientation through which an adult is instructed in the sacramental and prayer life of the Church and actually inserted in its living community, the catechumen receives the sacraments of initiation, namely, Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. The Catechumenate also helps prepare those who seek full communion with the Church.

Christian Education

For the past three years, courses in Scripture have been conducted at Holy Rosary, beginning with the Old Testament, moving into the New Testament and focusing on its formative impact on Christian Life. Throughout the year, other adult education programs are offered.

Enfield Summer Workshops

Since the summer of 1977, parishioners of Holy Rosary have journeyed to the LaSalette Conference Centre in Enfield, N.H. to spend some time in reflection, study, prayer, relaxation and enjoyment. These Enfield summer workshops have seen growing numbers of parishioners gather to creatively plan for the growth of Holy Rosary Parish Life.



Outdoor Mass at Enfield, New Hampshire

Drouillard Place



In recognition of the general depression of the Drouillard Road area, Holy Rosary Church and the East Windsor Citizens' Committee, in 1979, jointly established a community service agency under the name of "Drouillard Place." This agency, under the guidance of a co-ordinator, Mrs. Marina Clemens, assisted by two staff persons, several volunteers and pastoral assistants provides meeting space for self-help groups, counselling and consultation and co-ordinates the services of various helping professionals of the city. An important priority of Drouillard Place is to facilitate the revitalization of Drouillard Road as a potential business area and thus re-establish it as the thriving centre it once was.

Youth Group

The Youth Group was initiated in 1979. This group gathers young people of Holy Rosary who wish to participate more actively in parish life through various service projects, who feel the need to share about life questions with people of like concerns and challenge, and who desire companionship and social gatherings.



Drouillard Road Thrift Shop

Social Functions

That the unity of a parish can be greatly enhanced by social interaction among its members has been proven by the wonderful spirit of friendship which exists at these functions. Every year since 1973, Holy Rosary parishioners and friends have gathered together for a dinner dance, organized by the dinner-dance committee. Of equal value is the annual New Year's Eve pot-luck dinner party held in the church basement. This is truly a family get-together where the parish family can renew its bonds of friendship and welcome in the New Year with hope and optimism.



A Time for Fun



Sunday Mass at Holy Rosary — The Lord's Prayer



*A few of the young ladies of the parish,
Confirmation, 1983*



A few of the young men of the parish



*Odile Alexander, Angela Reneau and Julia (Meme) Chevalier
admiring picture of the nativity*



Old rectory demolished in 1978



First Holy Communion — 1983

Priests Who Have Ministered to Our Lady of The Rosary

1884-1984



Pastors

- Rev. James Theodore Wagner, founder, June 12, 1884
(He was pastor of St. Alphonsus, Windsor)
Rev. Alfred J. Lapierre, 1884-1889
Rev. Lucien A. Beaudoin, 1891-1917
Rt. Rev. Francis X. Laurendeau, 1917-1942
Rt. Rev. Wilfred J. Langlois, 1942-1956
Rev. Victor Charles Côté, 1956-1958
Rt. Rev. Wilfred J. Langlois, 1958-1965

Assistants — 1890-1965

- Rev. Bartholomew Boubat, 1890-1891
Rev. Henri Brunet, 1906-1907
Rev. Denis L. Brisson, 1909-1910
Rev. Joseph Emery, 1917-1918
Rev. Albert J. McNabb, 1921-1933
Rev. Gregory L. Blonde, 1924-1930
Rev. T. P. C. Donnellan, 1926-1927
Rev. Oscar A. Martin, 1928
Rev. T. J. Hunt, 1930
Rev. Romeo J. Lefaive, 1930-1931
Rev. Philip F. Pocock, 1931
Rev. J. Z. Mailloux, 1931-1932
Rev. Euclide J. Chevalier, 1932-1940
Rev. Philip A. Mugan, 1932-1937
Rev. F. J. Kurta, 1935-1940
Rev. Charles V. McNabb, 1933-1936
Rev. Lawrence J. Coughlin, 1936-1944
Rev. Raymond G. Forton, 1941-1945
Rev. Leo E. Charron, 1945-1951
Rev. J. C. Levaque, 1945
Rev. John Z. Noël, 1940-1949
Rev. Edgar H. Robert, 1946-1952
Rev. Edward P. Forton, 1950-1956
Rev. Leo A. Larivière, 1956-1957
Rev. Linus F. Bastien, 1952-1959
Rev. Rene J. Giroux, 1959-1962
Rev. Paul J. Schiller, 1957-1960
Rev. Laurent T. Poisson, 1959-1964
Rev. H. Masse, 1962-1965
Rev. C. H. Sylvestre, 1964-1965

La Salette Fathers

- Rev. Arnold Sillery, M.S., 1965-1971

Assistants

- Rev. George Morin, M.S., 1965-1967
Rev. Maurice Viens, M.S., 1965-1968
Rev. Joseph N. Ross, M.S., 1968-1971
Rev. Leodor Rousseau, M.S., 1968-1969
Rev. John Berube, M.S., 1968-1969
Rev. Eugene Mills, M.S. (in res.), 1980-1984

Co-Pastors

- Rev. Joseph N. Ross, M.S., 1971-1977
Rev. Adrien Francoeur, M.S., 1969-1973
Rev. Richard Lavoie, M.S., 1973-1976
Rev. Joseph Gosselin, M.S., 1976-1979
Rev. Roland Nadeau, M.S., 1978-1982
Rev. Ronald Hebert, M.S., 1979-1984
Rev. Dennis Loomis, M.S., 1982-1984

Pastoral Assistants

The following pastoral assistants have served at Holy Rosary:

- Sr. Claire Marie Pageau, S.J.
Sr. Jean Dochstader, S.J.
Sr. Simone Batte, S.J.
Bro. Peter Beauregard, who was studying with the LaSalette Missionaries.

At present, the two pastoral assistants are:

- Sr. Mary Hogan, O.S.U.
Mrs. Beverley Diet

Sisters of The Parish

The First Sisters were:

Sister Berchmans Colovin, Superior, April, 1894
Sister Rose Bondy, teacher
Sister Ambrosia Durkin, teacher



Additional Sisters

Mother Augustine Boyle, Superior 1895-1901
(also a teacher until 1906)
Sister Bernard Howell, 1895
Sister Euphemia Hussey, 1906
Sister Hildegarde Brosnahan, 1906
Sister Baptist Stafford, 1906
Sister Angelica Kains, 1906
Sister Josephine Fallon, 1906
Sister Alphonse Givlin, 1906
Sister Hilary Brossoit, 1906
Sister Hilda McParland, 1906
Mother Vincent Halford, Superior, 1901-1907
Mother Xavier Coughlin, Superior, 1907-1910
Mother Clement McCormac, Superior, 1910-1916
Mother Benedict Spring, Superior, 1916-1922
Sister Rosalie Joly
Sister Bathildis LeBoeuf
Sister Beatrice Gagnon
Sister Francis Xavier Séguin
Sister Anna Marie Renaud
Sister Eusebia Barron
Sister Alma Jordan
Sister Columba Overend
Sister Frederick Deshaw
Sister Mary Calvary Parent
Sister Dionysia Sullivan
Sister Rose Bondy, Superior, 1922-1928
Sister Baptist Lysaght, Superior, 1928-1931
Sister Constance Dunn, Superior, 1931-1935
Sister St. James McIntyre, Superior, 1935-1941
Sister Wenefreda Moran, Superior, 1941-1947
Sister Grace Gleeson, Superior, 1947-1950
Sister Madeleine McDonald, Superior, 1950-1956

(Sisters moved from 267 Cadillac Street to 3975 Riverside Drive East, March 15, 1953)

Sister Frances Teresa O'Connor, Superior, 1956-1961
Sister St. Mark Dionne, Superior, 1961-1965
Sister Wenefreda Moran, Superior, 1965-1966
Sister Mary Leo Kirwin, Superior, 1966-1969
Sister Bernadette Boyde, Superior, 1969-1975
Sister Theresa Carmel Slavik, Superior, 1975-1976
Sister Kathleen Lichti, Superior, 1976-1978
Sister Marie Brébeuf Beninger, Superior, 1978-1981
Sister Bernadette Boyde, Superior, 1981-

Parish Ministries

Liturgy and Prayer

Liturgy Committee
Eucharistic Ministers
Lectors (Proclaimers of the Word)
Ushers (Ministers of Hospitality)
Music Ministry
Children's Church
Altar Servers
Altar Care
Prayer Group
Healing Masses

Outreach and Stewardship

Pastoral Visitors
Liturgy in High Rises
Ministry to Nursing Homes
Youth Group
School
Finance and Property Maintenance
Social Committee
Peace and Justice
Drouillard Place
Thrift and Craft Shoppe
St. Vincent De Paul
Girl Guiding/Scouting
Monthly Luncheons (Drouillard Place)
Christmas Assistance
Mission Club
Bingo
Communications
Secretaries

Education

Catechumenate
Sacramental Preparation
Lay Spiritual Direction
Journey I & II
Enfield Workshops
Parish Mission

The Catholic Women's League

(From its inception until its disbandment)

First Executive

President.....Mrs. E. V. Joinville
1st Vice-Pres.....Mrs. Claire Campeau
2nd Vice-Pres.....Mrs. E. C. Poisson
3rd Vice-Pres.....Mrs. Florence Meunier
Corresponding Sec.....Mrs. Norman Reaume
Recording Sec.....Miss Kathleen Drouillard
Treasurer.....Mrs. Thomas Martin

Presidents

1921.....Mrs. E. V. Joinville
1922.....Mrs. U. G. Reaume
1923.....Mrs. E. C. Poisson
1924.....Mrs. Nick Laliberté
1925.....Mrs. N. Reaume
1926.....Miss C. Janisse
1927.....Mrs. J. Vermitte
1928.....Mrs. E. C. Poisson
1929.....Mrs. W. Coughlin
1930.....Mrs. U. G. Reaume
1931.....Mrs. F. Mannie
1932.....Mrs. T. Stephenson
1933.....Miss C. Janisse
1934-35.....Mrs. E. C. Poisson
1936-38.....Mrs. T. Enright
1939.....Mrs. Boucher
1940.....Mrs. J. Robsons
1940.....Mrs. F. Mannie
1941.....Miss C. Janisse
1942-44.....Mrs. M. J. Fitzpatrick
1944-45.....Mrs. Louis Saddy
1945-47.....Mrs. M. J. Fitzpatrick
1947-48.....Mrs. G. Rocheleau
1949-51.....Mrs. S. Alexander
1951-52.....Mrs. G. Rocheleau
1952-53.....Mrs. P. Paradis
1953-55.....Mrs. Alexandre
1955-57.....Mrs. L. Lauzon
1957-59.....Mrs. A. Surprenant
1959-60.....Mrs. L. Lauzon
1960-62.....Mrs. R. Chevalier
1962-64.....Mrs. E. Renaud
1964-66.....Mrs. R. Chevalier
1966-69.....Mrs. E. Renaud
1969-72.....Mrs. Marcel Morais

Members, 1921

Miss Claire Janisse
Mrs. Victor Ouellette
Mrs. Eugene Parent
Mrs. Fred Parent
Mrs. Agnes Parent
Mrs. George Lappan
Mrs. Fred Adams
Mrs. George Morin
Mrs. W. Boucher
Mrs. Fred Labadie
Mrs. M. Shea
Mrs. H. Gagnon
Mrs. Rose Meloche
Mrs. Alfred St. Louis
Mrs. U. G. Reaume
Mrs. Theodore Drouillard
Miss Mabel Drouillard
Mrs. Lei Renaud
Mrs. Victor Montreuil
Mrs. Edward Beaudette
Mrs. Frances Drouillard
Mrs. Albert Maisonville
Mrs. J. Brady
Mrs. Joseph Christian
Mrs. Alfred Mitchel
Mrs. Joseph Reaume
Mrs. Arthur Moisson
Mrs. H. Rouiller
Mrs. George Duesviyrg
Mrs. Bernard Furlong
Mrs. R. Morand
Miss Ellen Martin
Mrs. George Hebert
Mrs. P. Caza
Mrs. M. Iler
Mrs. W. Morin Sr.
Mrs. Charles Morin
Mrs. Victor Durocher
Mrs. W. Monforton
Mrs. P. Benoit
Mrs. W. Coughliere
Mrs. Charles Montreuil
Mrs. M. P. Dugal
Mrs. Grant Martindale
Mrs. M. Moore
Mrs. M. LeClerc
Mrs. M. Brady
Mrs. P. Gelinat
Mrs. Perrault
Mrs. Paquette
Mrs. Claude Reaume

Centennial Celebrations

MARCH 7
Family Lenten Program

MARCH 27
Confirmation

APRIL 1
Rosary Rally

APRIL 8-12
Parish Mission by Rev. R. Plante, M.S.

MAY 2-JUNE 20
Life in the Spirit Seminars

MAY 6
Father Michael Michon — Celebration of First Mass

MAY 13
Concert of Sacred Music

MAY 27
First Communion

JUNE 10-15
Holy Rosary School 6, 7 and 8th Graders
to Enfield, N.H.

AUGUST 5-10
Parish Enfield Workshop III

AUGUST 26
Parish Picnic

SEPTEMBER 30
Mass for Shut-Ins

NOVEMBER 4
Eucharistic Celebration presided by our Bishop.
followed by our Centennial Dinner.

First Baptism

Alfred Oswald, son of F. X. Reaume and Victoire Janisse was baptized May 8, 1885.

First Marriage

Leon Ouellette, son of Norbert Ouellette and Léocadie Bouffard, and Emma Groulx, daughter of Edouard Groulx and Melina Tasse, were married May 1, 1885.

First Funeral

Joseph Langlois, aged 34, son of Joseph Langlois and Adeline Rouleau, was buried April 20, 1885.

Conclusion

Many changes have occurred over the past one hundred years. Yet, as a parish, we achieve constancy in our love for God. It is from this love that any parish springs and it is this which unites us in spirit with those parishioners who have preceded us. It is this love which will guide us steadfastly into the next one hundred years in Our Lady of The Rosary Parish.



Acknowledgements

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The Sisters of St. Joseph
The Windsor Public Library scrapbooks on local history
The Hiram Walker Museum
Neil F. Morrison, **Garden Gateway** (Windsor, Ontario, Herald Press, Limited, 1954)
Border Cities Star
Windsor Star (some photographs courtesy of this newspaper)