



St. Columban's Parish
1829 - 1864



St. Columban's Parish
1864 - 1896



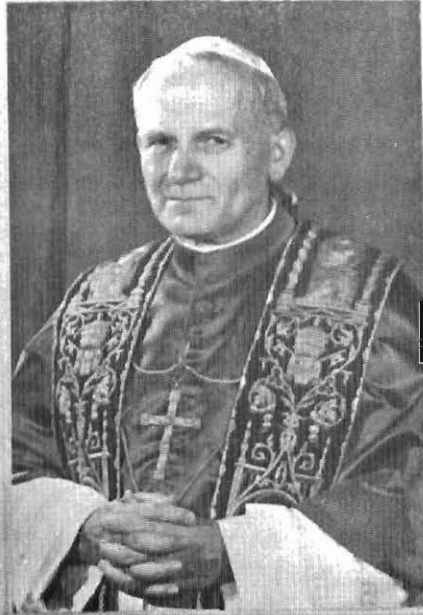
150th Anniversary

St. Columban's
Parish

Cornwall, Ontario

VIL
Corn/2

St. Columban's Parish
1896 - 1979



Most Holy Father

The clergy and parishioners

of

St. Columban's

on the occasion of the
150th Anniversary

of the

Founding of the Parish

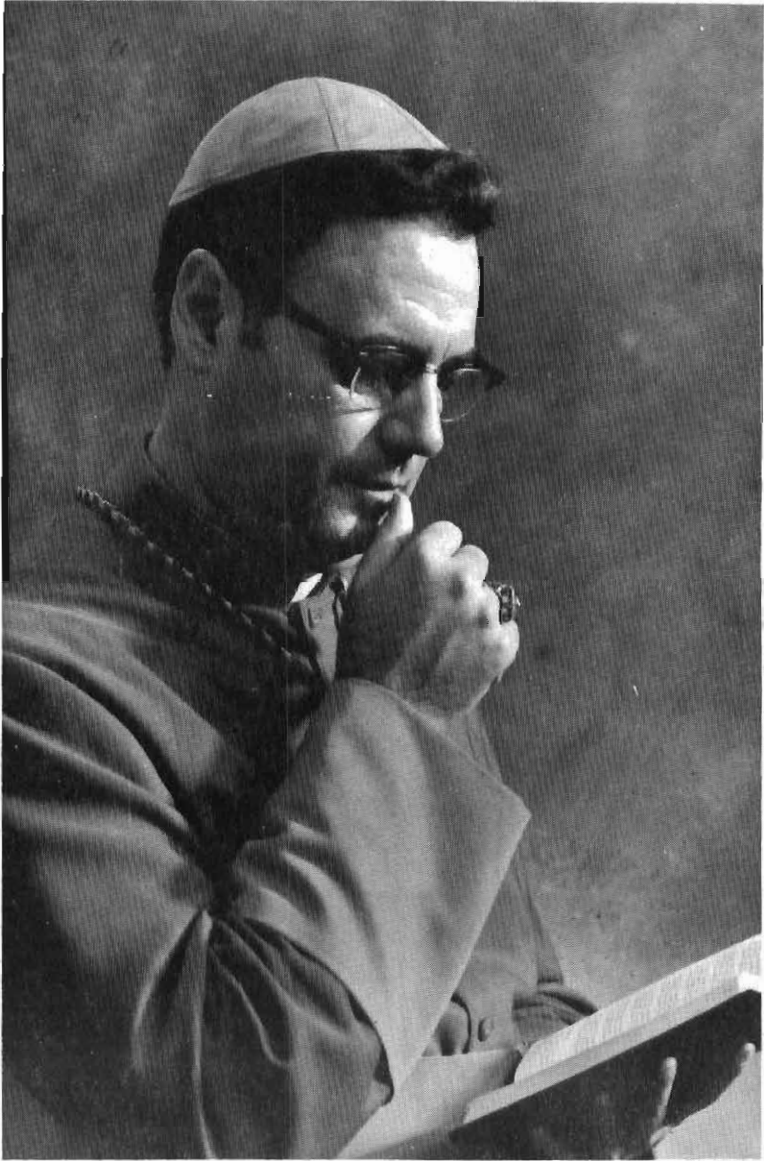
humbly ask for our
Apostolic Blessing

*Hum. Domin. Petrus D'Amico Apostolicum servat.
Ex Archiv. Vaticanae Lib. 15 E 1979*

+ Anthony M. Brown, Bishop
Eleusisquarius, S.P.

S. F. O. H. G.

OTTAWA



**MOST REV. EUGENE P. LAROCQUE, D.D.
BISHOP OF ALEXANDRIA-CORNWALL**



TEL.: (613) 933-1138

Diocèse Alexandria - Cornwall

220 CH. MONTRÉAL (RD.) - C. P. / BOX 1388
CORNWALL, ONTARIO K6H 5V4

January 10, 1979

Dear Parishioners of St. Columban:

The 150th anniversary of your parish, the roots of the Catholic church in Cornwall, should remind us of certain important facts.

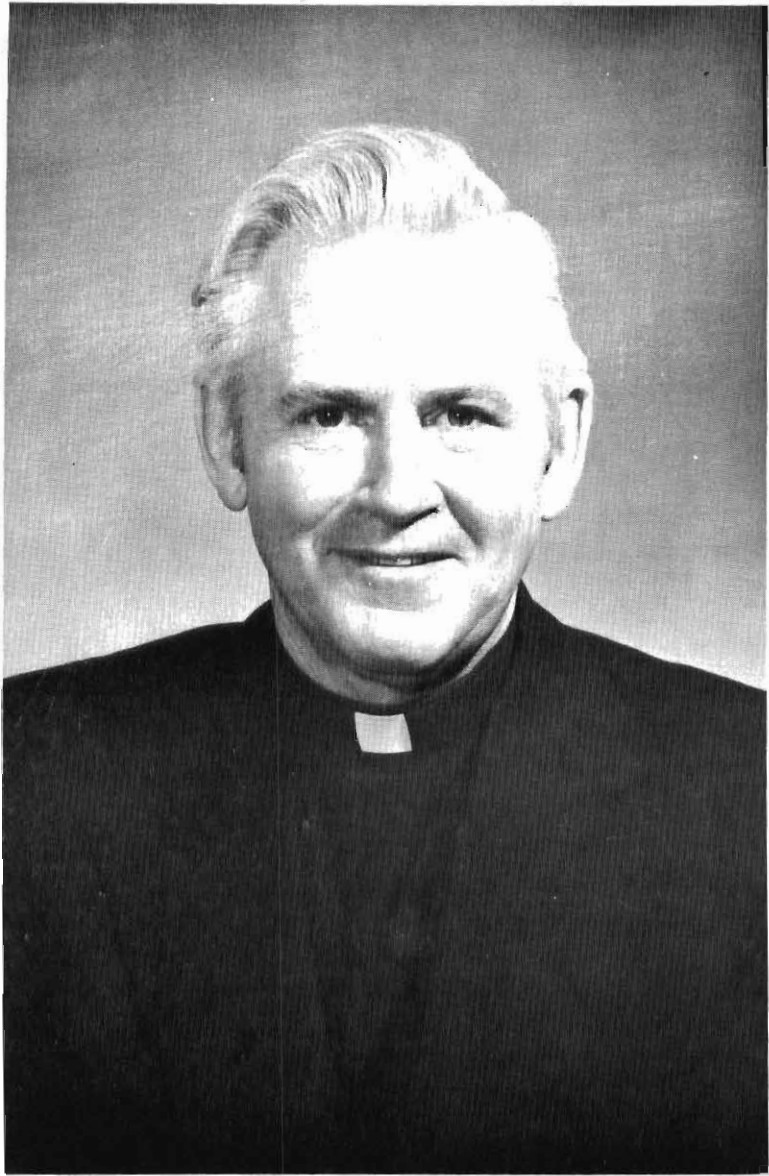
The parish Church is the community of believers made up of a given number of families (the church of the home). The priest or priests link this believing community (of which they are a part) to the local Church of the diocese. With their Bishop, priests are the efficacious sign of Jesus' priesthood continually ministering to his people. Through the person of the Bishop parishes are linked with one another and with the Church universal under the successor of Peter, Pope John Paul II; and this Church on earth is one with the Church Suffering and the Church Triumphant under the Headship of Jesus.

To those who believe in the Catholic Church this intricate network is no mere structure or institution; it is a mysterious living organism, the Body which Jesus himself has chosen to continue his redemptive work until He returns.

Therefore, as we celebrate this memorable occasion, we remember that it is the whole Body which rejoices with you, the Church of heaven and earth, believers of many generations whose faith and hope and charity are shared and enjoyed by all of us today. As they are responsible for this celebration of today, may our faith be the assurance for those who will celebrate future anniversaries, so that in all we do the Gospel may be proclaimed in word and deed, the Father may be revealed in His Son, Jesus, our Saviour, in the power of their Holy Spirit!

Ad multos et faustissimos annos! Many more years of fruitful ministry!

(Most Rev.) Eugene P. LaRocque, D.D.,
Bishop of Alexandria-Cornwall.



(REV.) D.B. McDOUGALD

Dear Fellow Parishioners of St. Columban:

Imagine looking at a film presentation of the life of St. Columban's Parish, from its humble origin in 1829 to the present. We would see a near-primitive beginning settlement in a country without adequate roads; the greater part of the land-mass covered with virgin forest, the sparse population grouped in small settlements, the distant homelands of the settlers only to be revisited in memory and song.

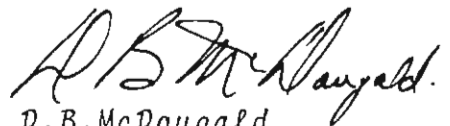
When we compare this almost primitive setting to the year 1979 it becomes evident that the last 150 years have seen more change than any other period in the history of man. We have come from a frontier civilization to the atomic age in this span of time.

Change we have seen and yet the timeless message of Christ is adaptable to all ages. As it was relevant to the Apostles, so it was to the first settlers of this area and so it is to us today.

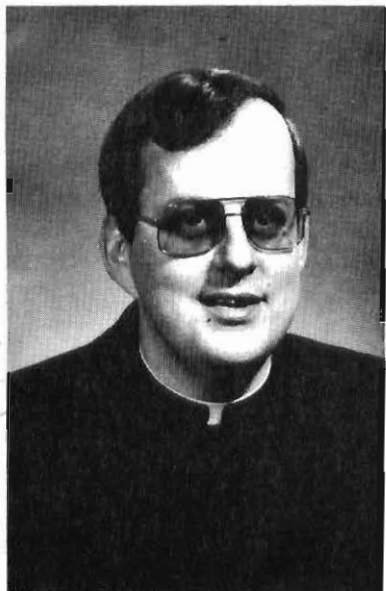
St. Columban's, Cornwall, has spanned this age and has played an active role in the communication of Christ's message. We may rejoice that we have kept the faith, and that this Church has been, and continues to be, a beacon of faith, hope and charity.

As the Mother Church of Cornwall, we have every right to express our justifiable pride in its accomplishments. We also have a duty to thank God for the many favours He has bestowed upon the priests and people of this Church.

As we rejoice and count our blessings may we also pray to God that St. Columban's may continue to play its appointed role in accordance with His Plan. May God continue to inspire us to use creatively our freedom, our greater leisure time, and our prosperity, for the greater glory of God and for the service of our brothers and sisters who are in our midst as well as throughout the world.



(Rev.) D.B. McDougald



Rev. Kevin J. Maloney

Born: June 22, 1946,
in Cornwall.

Ordained: Feb. 11, 1972
St. Columban's Church

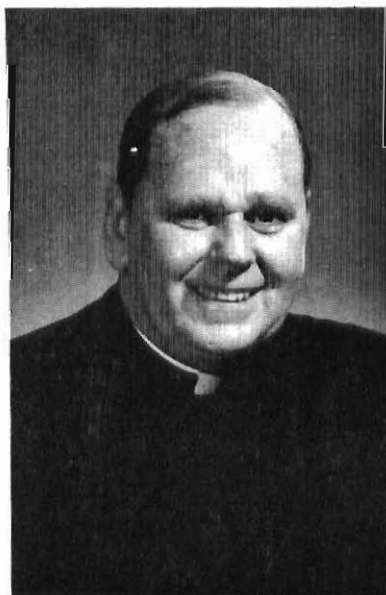
Appointed: Assistant,
St. Columban's Church,
September 1, 1972.

Rev. Norman G. Loney

Born: April 23, 1924
in Cornwall.

Ordained: May 22, 1948
St. Francis de Sales

Appointed: Assistant,
St. Columban's Church,
September 1, 1977.



ST. COLUMBAN'S PASTORS

James Bennett	1834 - 1841
Alexander Macdonell	1841 - 1842
Aeneas Macdonald	1842 - 1843
John Cannon	1843 - 1847
Father Gallagher	
Father Walsh	1847 - 1856
John S. O'Connor	1856 - 1866
Father Lynch	1866 - 1871
Charles B. Murray	1871 - 1889
Donald C. McRae	1889 - 1890
George Corbet	1890 - 1932
John Michael Foley	1933 - 1944
William J. Smith	1944 - 1945
Alexander L. Cameron	1945 - 1951
Ronald J. MacDonald	1951 - 1968
Donald B. McDougald	1968 -

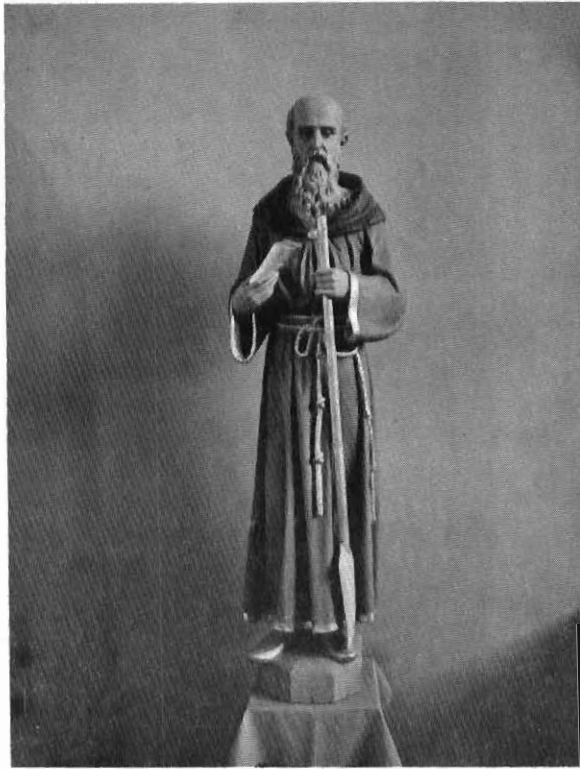
ASSISTANT PASTORS

Ranald A. MacDonald	Aime Huot
Duncan A. Campbell	Charles E. Baker
John E. McRae	Ronald J. MacDonald
Albert A. McRae	Duncan A. McPhee
John J. Macdonell	James A. Wylie
Corbet McRae	Donald A. Kerr
Charles F. Gauthier	Francis E. Lefebvre
Damien Secours	John R. Donihee
Alexander L. Cameron	Michael J. O'Brien

Neil A. McCormick
John D. McPhail
Francis Foley
Bernard Pilon
Raoul Poirier
Leo MacDonell
Hollis LaPierre
Donald B. McDougald
Gerald Poirier
John Grauds
Rudolphe Villeneuve
Gerald Murphy
Gordon Villeneuve
Michael J. McNeil

Herbert Seguin
Bernard A. Cameron
Kenneth Martin
Stuart MacMillan
George Maloney
Leon Seymour
Kelvin E. Maloney
Donald E. Scott
Charles F. MacDonald
Leo Blanchfield
Kevin J. Maloney
Paul J. Marchese
Norman G. Loney





ST. COLUMBA OF IONA

Every parish, when it is established, is placed under the patronage and given the name of: Our Blessed Lord, the Blessed Virgin, the Angels or a Saint. Our parish carries the name and the protection of St. Columban.

Some confusion, however, exists over which St. Columban is our patron since there are, in fact, two saints bearing this name. Due to the fact that St. Columban of Iona was considered to be the evangelist of the Highlands and since the first bishop was from Inverness it can be presumed that it is St. Columban of Iona who is our patron. The name of Iona given to the bishop's residence at St. Raphael's and the name of St. Finnan given to the cathedral in Alexandria lends credence to the fact that it is St. Columba of Iona that we honour.

St. Columba was born in County Donegal, Ire-

land, December 7, 521. He belonged to the Clan O'Donnell and was of royal descent. He might have been King of Ireland had his vocation not led him to pursue another kingdom. When he was old enough Columba was sent to the monastic school of Moville where he embraced the monastic life and became a deacon. He completed his studies at the monastery of Clonaid under the guidance of St. Finnian and was ordained priest by Bishop Etchen.

For the next fifteen years he travelled over the length and breadth of Ireland, teaching, preaching and founding churches and monasteries. It is claimed that he founded thirty-seven monasteries in Ireland. Then, according to historians, two events occurred that were to change Columba's life and cause his departure for Scotland:

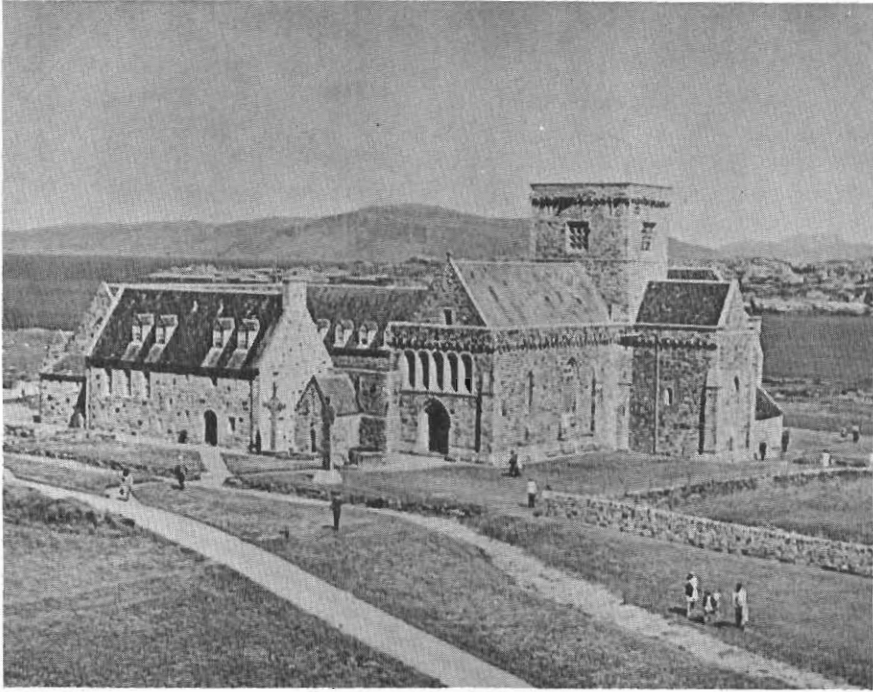
1) a dispute arose over the ownership of a manuscript and King Diarmid decided against Columba;

2) a young man who desired sanctuary at Columba's monastery was forcibly removed by King Diarmid's soldiers.

Columba's clan rose in revolt to defend the honour of the clan and thousands of people were killed. Columba felt tremendous guilt and decided to leave Ireland forever, and to try to gain as many souls as were lost in the battle

Columba was in his forty-fourth year when he departed from Ireland with twelve of his companions. They landed at Iona on the eve of Pentecost, May 12, 563. They built the Iona foundation consisting of church, refectory and cells and after spending about two years at the monastery began their mission to convert the 'Picts'. Columba preached to the King at Inverness and through his wisdom was able to convert, not only the King, but his entire court.

The thirty-two remaining years of Columba's life were mainly spent preaching the Christian Faith to the inhabitants of the glens and wooded areas of Northern Scotland. The monastery of Iona became well-known throughout Scotland and Ireland and attracted scholars from all over Europe. The preaching of Columba, coupled with numerous mira-



IONA FOUNDATION

cles soon gained him the reputation, not only of a scholar, but also of a saint. By the time of his death, June 9, 597, his influence could be felt by numerous monastic foundations in Scotland, Ireland and continental Europe. He truly was a saint for all celts!



GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The history of a parish depends not on brick and mortar but upon the faith of the people who make up the parish. Faith, a spiritual value, cannot be measured, therefore this present history, brief as it may be, is not an attempt to judge the growth of the faith.

The very fact that a parish has existed for 150 years is, in itself, an indication that faith was, and is, indeed present.

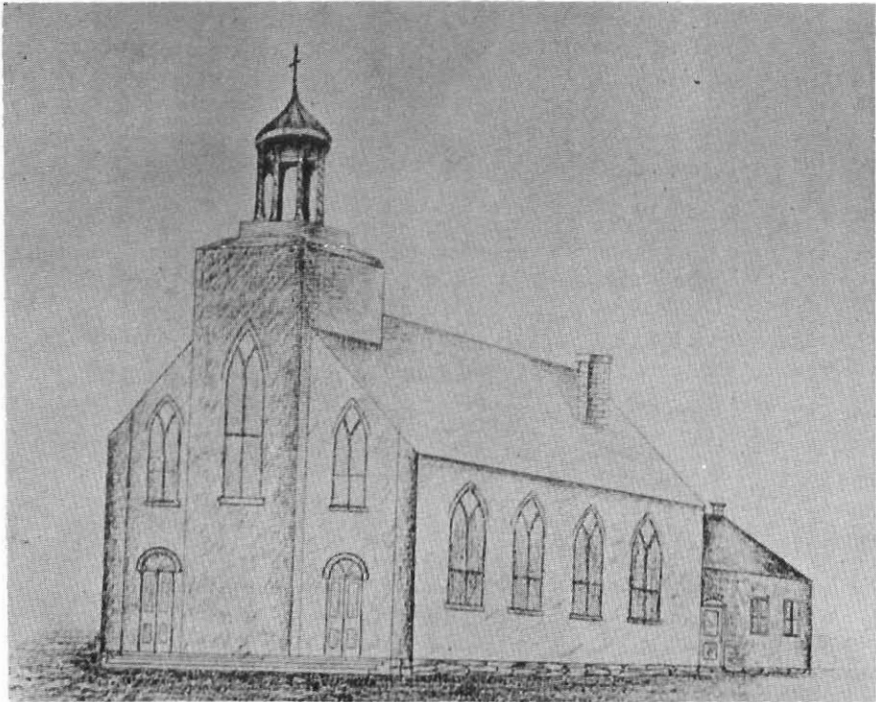
We will not attempt to give an account of the spiritual ministeries of each priest because it goes without saying that that aspect was always their main pre-occupation. We will, then, try to trace the various stages of growth that make St. Columban's what it is today.

HISTORY

The first priest of whose presence in Cornwall any trace is left, was one whose name was closely allied with the early advancement of the Church in Upper Canada - the Reverend Alexander Macdonell (Scotus Macdonell). This Father Macdonell was the same priest who, in 1786, had led over 500 Highlanders from Scotland to settle in the Glengarry-Stormont area. He was one of the first Catholic priests or missionaries, other than the French, in Upper Canada, and founded the parish of St. Raphael's where he built the first church, known as the 'Blue Chapel'. Records show that Father Macdonell celebrated Mass in the Cornwall area in the homes of certain prominent Catholics.

There was, at that time, no regular service for the Catholics of Cornwall. Occasional Masses in private homes or a call to the bedside of a dying Catholic were the only reasons that

brought the priest to Cornwall. Father Roderick Macdonell of St. Regis attended to the needs of the growing Catholic population. For many years the only Roman Catholic Church in Stormont county was St. Andrews and the people of Cornwall belonged to that parish.



THE FIRST CHURCH

The year 1829 marks the beginning of a new era. The need for a church had long been felt, and at this time steps were taken towards the building of the parent church of Cornwall. It stood just outside of the present St. Columban's, running east and west, parallel to Fourth Street. It was a modest structure, only forty feet long, but still adequate for the wants of the time.

In 1834 the first resident priest, Father

Bennett, took charge of the young struggling parish. Finances were limited and at one time the continuation of the parish was in doubt. Construction of the church itself was halted and Father Bennett lived in the home of a Mr. Phillips on Second St. Despite all his zeal, the good priest found it impossible to get anything like an adequate revenue from his parish, none of his sparse flock being wealthy and some being on the borderline of poverty. The generosity of several families, however, allowed the parish to continue.

The digging of the Cornwall Canal and the breaking out of the 1837 Rebellion were noteworthy public events during Father Bennett's missionary career in Cornwall. For several years his labours were largely augmented by the presence of several companies of soldiers who were in part billeted on the townfolk and in part lodged in a building on Pitt Street.



FATHER BENNETT

In 1839 St. Columban's Parish was the scene of an historic occasion. Bishop Macdonell, the first bishop of Upper Canada, was on his way from Kingston to Britain and stopped in Cornwall over

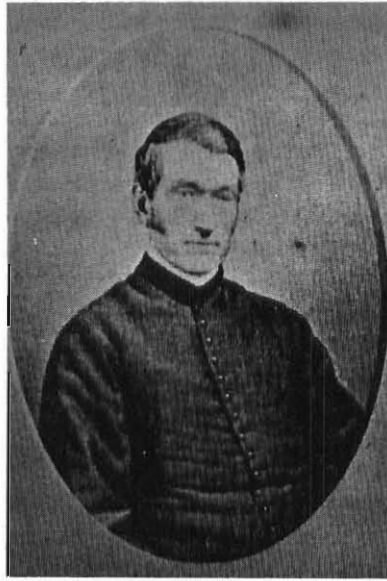
the weekend. His last sermon preached in Canada was preached at St. Columban's on the theme, 'Render unto Caesar'.

In 1841 Father Bennett left Cornwall for Peterborough and was soon replaced by Father Alexander Macdonell, a native of the colony of Prince Edward Island. Father Macdonell had been educated in Rome and although he was academically prepared for the priesthood, he certainly was not prepared for the rigors of a parish in Upper Canada. The hard winters coupled with the continual struggle to make ends meet soon took their toll on the young priest's health. Certain members of the parish came to his aid including Donald Alexander Macdonald, (later Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario), but despite this by 1842 this poor priest was no longer able to cope with the situation and suffered a nervous breakdown. He resigned his post and was replaced by Father Aeneas Macdonald.

The pastorship of Father Aeneas was brief, covering about the space of a year, between 1842 and 1843, but it was not uneventful. To him goes the honour of introducing music into the religious services at St. Columban's. The first musical instrument, an accordion, was personally bought by the pastor and donated to the church for the use of the newly formed choir. It was also under his pastorship that the first formal Catholic education of students was started by a Julia Cozen, who opened a school for Catholic children in the living room of her house.

Father John Cannon took charge of St. Columban's in 1843 and except for a brief absence remained pastor until 1855.

The purchase and christening of a bell for which Roderick Macdonald and Mrs. John Sandfield Macdonald (wife of the first Premier of Ontario), were sponsors; the heating of the church by two stoves, and the consequent ability to have Lenten instructions and the teaching of catechism therein; the painting of the church and the placing of a confessional in it; the first pastoral visit to Cornwall by Bishop Phelan; the coming of numbers of fever stricken Irish Catholic immigrants in 1847 and the terrible cholera scourge of 1854



FATHER CANNON

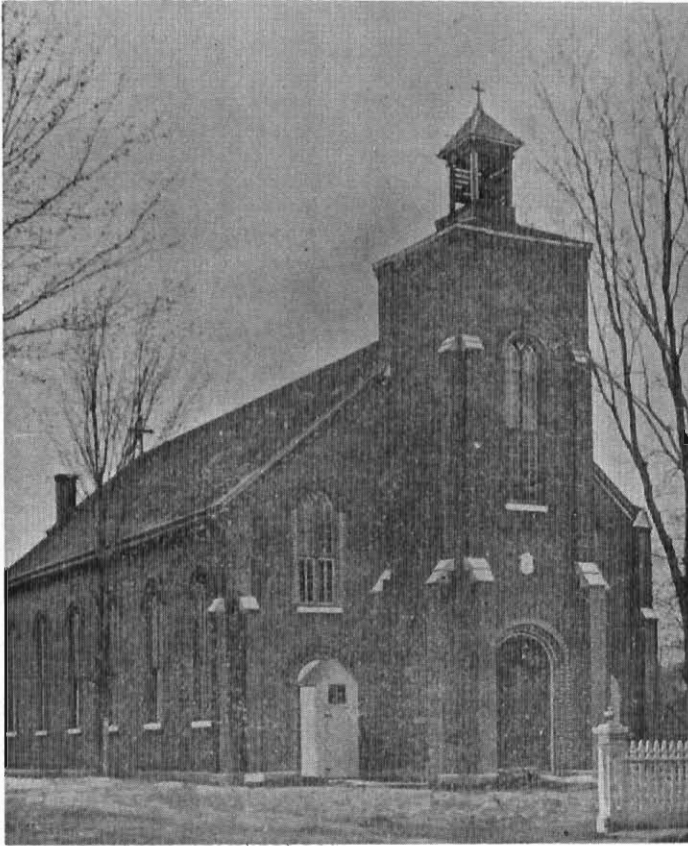
were the most noteworthy events intimately connected with Father Cannon's life and labours in St. Columban's Parish. Father Cannon died in 1855 and was buried underneath the church; his body was transferred to the new church in 1897.

One after the other, in rapid succession, came Father Gallagher, Father Walsh and Father J.S.O'Connor. Seeing that the last mentioned priest came to Cornwall in 1856, the brief tenure of his two immediate predecessors can be easily ascertained.

THE SECOND CHURCH

To Father O'Connor belongs the honour of having erected the new church, the corner stone of which was laid by Bishop Horan on June 7, 1864. It may be said that there were two new churches known to Cornwall parish annals, the necessity for the second being occasioned by the fact that the first, owing to the poor brick work and incompetent

workmanship, was blown down during a furious gale in the Spring following its erection. This second church was erected immediately to the East of the present St. Columban's.



ST. COLUMBAN'S (2ND CHURCH)

During the Fenian Scare of 1866, Father O'Connor's spiritual labours were largely increased by the presence in Cornwall of numbers of Catholic soldiers who came to uphold the honour of the Crown and defend the soil of Canada from invasion. Despite the construction problems and the danger of war Father O'Connor's spiritual work prospered and the tiny parish began to grow by leaps and bounds.



FATHER O'CONNOR

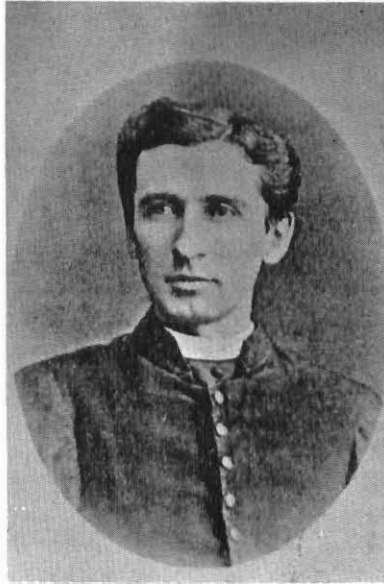


FATHER LYNCH

Father Lynch replaced Father O'Connor in the Autumn of 1866 and to him goes the honour of completing the second church. Through money raised by bazaars he was able to have the inside of the church plastered and painted and had the vestry furnished. The Altar Society was formed and the sacred vessels used in the sacrifice of the Mass were all renewed. Parish annals show that during this period the church, for the first time, began to prosper and this was due largely to a series of bazaars. (These bazaars or socials continued as a source of revenue until the mid 1950's).

Upon Father Lynch's departure for another sphere of labour the Reverend Charles B. Murray became pastor of Cornwall. Father Murray arrived in January 1871. Finding a debt of two thousand dollars on the church he cleared it off in a comparatively short time.

Soon after assuming charge Father Murray founded a Separate School. Lessons were first taught in a house behind the residence of Alex E.



FATHER MURRAY

Macdonald. Miss Helen Macdonald was the first teacher. She was paid a salary of two hundred dollars per year and was assisted by Miss McIntosh who received only eighty dollars per annum for her services.

In the summer of 1873 Father Murray set to work about building the first school house, having purchased the lot from Mrs. Duncan Macdonald for the sum of three hundred and fifty dollars. The original school house was one storey high, an oblong building, sixty by eight. (This school was built on the present site of St. Columban's West School.) Father Murray also engaged the first male teacher of the new school.

In the year 1874 the foundation of the new rectory was laid. The house in which Father Murray had lived up to this time was an old frame house. The delapidated structure contained, besides the entry or reception room, one dining room and two bedrooms. The house was infested with rats.

In winter snow often accumulated in the house because of wide gaps in the frame and lack of proper heating. The new rectory was completed in 1875 and Father Murray proudly took possession in February 1875.

In 1879 a new cemetery was purchased. The old cemetery was located east of the present St. Columban's Church and is marked today by the Calvary Scene. The new cemetery was on Eleventh St. near Cumberland and left plenty of room for expansion. This cemetery is still used today.

In 1880 the first male organist was engaged for the church, the services in this respect having been here-to-fore extremely irregular and unsatisfactory. A fine new organ was purchased at the cost of twenty-three hundred dollars. In 1881 a new altar was placed in the church.

The town having grown with great rapidity and the building of new factories having caused a great influx of Catholic workmen with their families, it became necessary to secure more school accomodation. Funds to build not being available at the time, a school was opened in the east end of town, in a rented building, and one teacher was put in charge.

In 1885 Father Murray succeeded in acquiring the services of the Sisters of Nôtre Dame to staff the growing schools of Cornwall. The Sisters had agreed to come to the diocese (then Kingston) and to staff the school in Cornwall but had fixed no dates. In order to force the Sisters' hand Father Murray dismissed the teaching staff of the Cornwall schools and proceeded to Montreal to plead for Sisters. This ploy worked and on January 7, 1885, the Sisters arrived in Cornwall.

Because of the rapid growth of the population of Cornwall and because of the large numbers of French Canadians who took up residence in east Cornwall, it was found that there was a great need for the formation of another parish. Consequently the present Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary was opened on September 8, 1887. This parish was to be an all French-speaking parish to care for the people of that origin. From then on St. Columban's and Nativity parishes were terri-

torial in boundaries. A new school was also opened so that French-speaking children in the East End could receive instructions in their own language. The school was staffed by the Sisters of Nôtre Dame who travelled from the convent at St. Columban's.

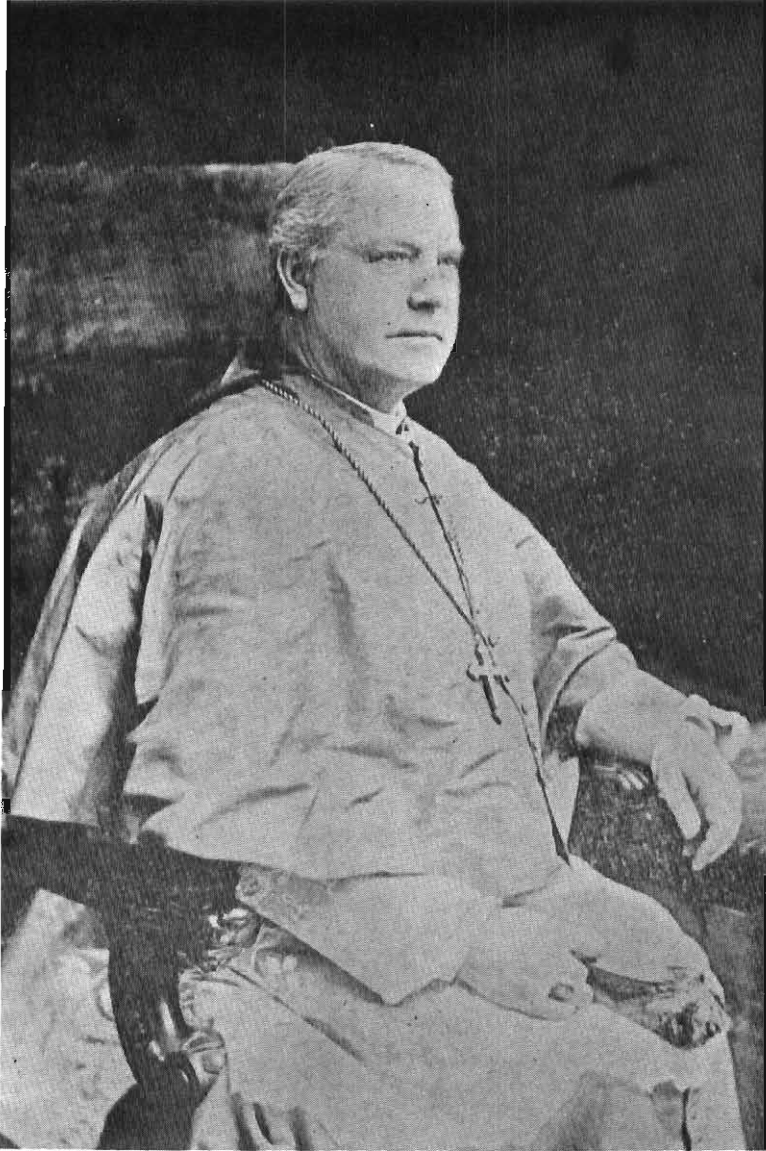
A NEW DIOCESE

When St. Columban's Parish was established in 1829 it was part of the diocese of Kingston and it continued as such until 1890. In that year Pope Leo XIII created a new diocese in the eastern portion of Ontario with Alexandria being the Episcopal See. Henceforth Cornwall and St. Columban's Parish would come under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Alexandria - (now Alexandria-Cornwall). The clergy who served St. Columban's from this point on would be from the counties of Stormont and Glengarry.

THE THIRD CHURCH



Upon the nomination of Bishop Macdonell as first bishop of the newly created diocese of Alexandria in the year 1890, Father George Corbet was named pastor of St. Columban's Parish, Cornwall, on September 9, 1890, and remained pastor until November 15, 1932. (Forty-two years.)



BISHOP MACDONELL (1ST BISHOP)

In a meeting called by Father Corbet on February 26, 1893, the members of the parish committee voted to purchase the land adjacent to the Church for the possible extension of the then existing St. Columban's Church. On April 25 of the same year it was decided not to expand the old church but to investigate the possibility of having a new church built. Mr. Tanguay was appointed the architect for the project and it was decided to advertise for tenders.

The tenders were duly received, the contract was awarded and the ground was broken for the projected church on the twenty-fifth of April, 1894. The walls were raised up rapidly and on the nineteenth of August the corner-stone was laid.

The inscription engraved on the corner-stone reads:

"On the 19th day of August, 1894, the Rt. Rev. Alexander Macdonell, Bishop of Alexandria, blessed and laid this corner-stone of St. Columban's Church, Cornwall."

In a cavity hollowed under the stone was placed a tin box containing a sealed bottle in which were a number of current Canadian coins. Also contained in the bottle were several documents and records. One of these documents contained the following record:

- His Holiness Leo XIII, gloriously reigning as Pontiff of the Church
- Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, happily ruling over the British Empire
- His Excellency the Rt. Honourable Sir John Campbell Hamilton Gordon, Earl of Aberdeen, Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada
- Honourable George A. Kirkpatrick, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario
- Sir John S.D. Thompson, K.C.M.G., Prime-Minister of the Dominion of Canada
- Honourable Wilfred Laurier, Leader of the Opposition
- Sir Oliver Mowat, Premier of the Province of Ontario
- Rt. Rev. Alexander Macdonell, D.D., Bishop of Alexandria
- Rev. George Corbet, Pastor of St. Columban's Church, Cornwall.

folle

The architect chose the Romanesque style of architecture for the new church. This style is characterized by wide use of domes and arches and by the presence of the Latin cross. The style, however, was modified in order to suit the circumstances and the ideas of the time. One detail, novel as well as noteworthy, is the descent from the front to the rear in the floor of the nave; a descent of eighteen inches from the front door to the sanctuary.

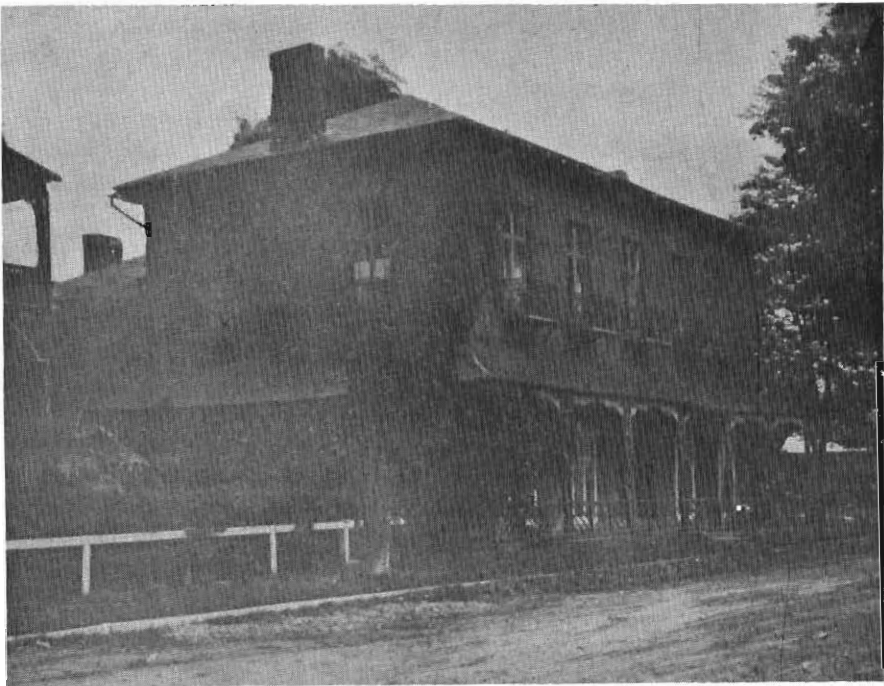


ST. COLUMBAN'S INTERIOR PRIOR TO THE EARTHQUAKE

The length of the church is 174 feet and the width 66 feet; the dimension of the transept being 80 by 30 feet. The height of the central vault is 46 feet. Because of the clay soil upon which the church stands it was necessary to drive 1500 wooden piles down to bedrock, a distance varying from 30 to 63 feet. The wooden piles are 12 inches in diameter. Around the top of the piles was laid a bed of concrete, seven feet wide and two feet thick. On top of this the stone foundation was laid and then the walls were erected. (The

building of such a heavy building on piles is credited with saving the church during the Earthquake of 1944.) The contract price of the church with furnishings was \$47,500. The church was blessed in June, 1896, by Bishop Macdonell.

Negotiations for opening a new hospital in Cornwall began in the Autumn of 1896. Rt. Rev. Alexander Macdonell and Father George Corbet of St. Columban's were the leaders in the movement. The property was purchased from the widow of Henry Sandfield MacDonald for the sum of five thousand dollars. Not having any funds with which to purchase the property, the amount was borrowed from the Ontario Bank on a note given by Father Corbet. The new hospital was, in fact, the remodelled former residence of the Honourable John Sandfield MacDonald. (This first Hotel Dieu Hospital was on Water Street near the present Macdonell Memorial Hospital.)



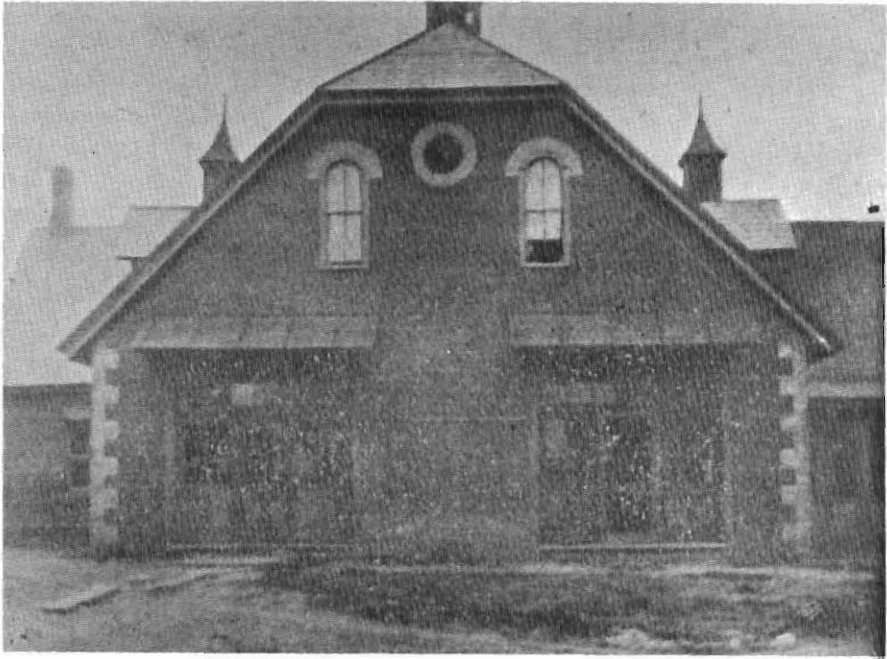
FIRST HOTEL DIEU HOSPITAL



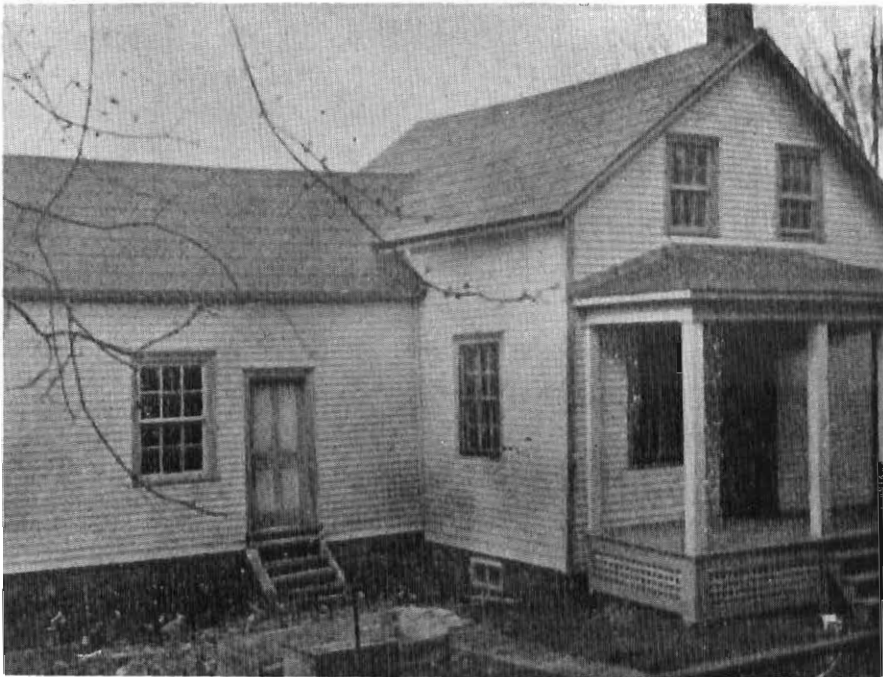
FATHER CORBET

Father Corbet is also credited with being a moving force behind the establishment of St. Paul's Home for the Aged. Shortly after the opening of the Hospital it was discovered that there was a need for a home to care for the elderly who, because they were not sick, could not go to the hospital. Father Corbet, in collaboration with Father Paul Desaunhac, encouraged the remodelling of the stable behind the hospital and this building was used as a home for the aged until the new St. Paul's Home was occupied on January 15, 1906.

Some few years after the opening of St. Paul's Home another charitable enterprise was forced on the attention of St. Columban's pastor. For some time a society called "Children's Aid" had been formed whose duty it was to attend to the housing of destitute children until they could be placed in new homes. It was difficult to find shelter for these children. It was then that the Orphanage came into existence. Two small frame houses were purchased and placed together; this



FIRST ST. PAUL'S HOME



FIRST ORPHANAGE

formed the first Orphanage, which was adjacent to St. Paul's Home and the Hospital, and was opened January 16, 1909.

This Orphanage, known as 'Nazareth Orphanage', continued in use until November, 1919, when the new orphanage was opened on the corner of Sydney and Second Streets. (This site is presently the location of the Post Office and Federal Building.)



The population of Cornwall was growing by leaps and bounds and with increased population came problems of staffing the parish schools. Father Corbet negotiated for and succeeded in obtaining help from the Presentation Brothers of Ireland who came, by his request, to staff the Central Ward School. (St. Columban's Boys School and latterly known as St. Columban's East.)

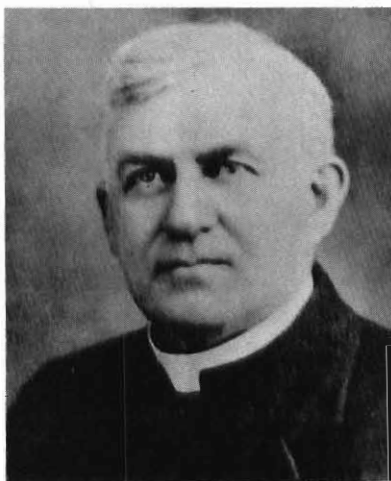
Father Corbet desired a Catholic high school in order to foster vocations among the young men of the parish. In 1925 he succeeded in securing his dream and Gonzaga High School was

opened and staffed by the Brothers. The dream, however, was short lived. With the population of the parish growing so rapidly it was considered a luxury to have a high school when there was such a need for elementary classes. Gonzaga then became the third elementary school of the parish.

Father Corbet was himself a teetotaler, and succeeded in forming a 'Total Abstinence League'. Every year, on the first Sunday in Lent, it was his habit, at Mass, to have the whole congregation stand up and take the pledge to abstain from alcohol during the holy season. It is said that one certain individual used to sit behind a pillar in the church on that Sunday and not stand up thereby feeling that he was not taking the pledge.

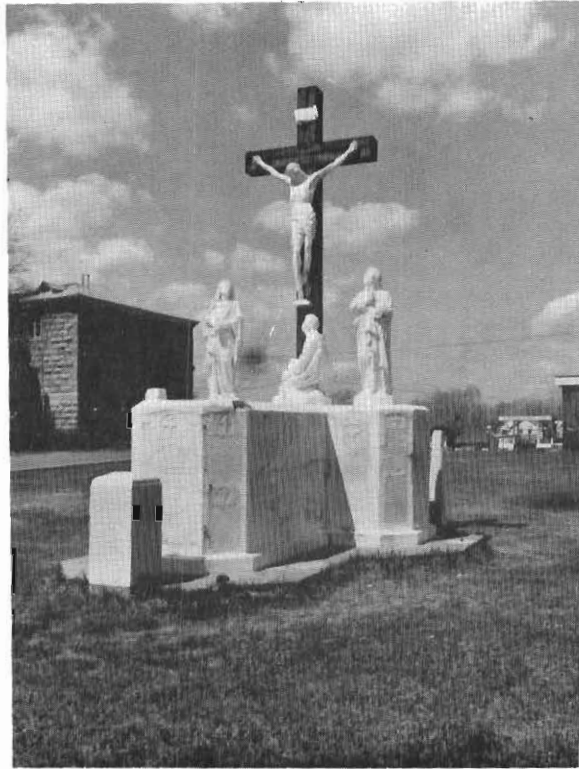
Very shortly before Monsignor Corbet died, when he was scarcely able to speak, he was asked by Father Campbell if he had anything to say - any message to leave his friends and parishioners. After some thought and with great effort, he replied: "It is my only wish and prayer that religion may flourish among our people".

After the death of Monsignor Corbet on November 15, 1932, Father John Michael Foley was named pastor of St. Columban's Parish on January 1, 1933. He remained in his pastorate until his death on October 2, 1944.



FATHER J.M. FOLEY

While pastor, Father Foley commenced and saw through to completion the landscaping of the beautiful grounds surrounding the Church and Rectory, as well as levelling and greatly improving the grounds of St. Columban's Cemetery. In 1936 the Calvary Group of statues was erected on the Church grounds.



(CALVARY SCENE)

The grounds east of the church were the first burial grounds of the parish and the first Catholic cemetery in Cornwall. Many settlers lie buried there. The base of the Calvary Group is made up of headstones collected from the early cemetery and placed there to perpetuate the memory of pioneer parishioners.

Another of Father Foley's achievements was the purchase, in 1939, of the Parish Hall at

444 Pitt Street. This was an old hall belonging to the Canadian Legion and after renovations was indeed a presentable hall that served the parish until 1962.

Father Foley was pastor through the depression years of the thirties when many people were in a state of abject poverty. The mills in Cornwall kept running and, because of hard times in other towns and localities, there was a big influx of people into Cornwall. People came to the Rectory by the dozens seeking grocery orders and somehow Father Foley found help for them. No one was turned away empty handed.

It was a time when little or no improvement could be made yet Father Foley succeeded in installing a new baptistry at the church door, and had the pulpit made over complete with the first microphone and sound system in the church.

Father Foley died in hospital on October 2, 1944, nearly a month after the great earthquake. The man who had worked so hard to beautify the church was buried from a church largely in ruins.

At 12:38 a.m. on September 5, 1944, the people of the city of Cornwall were suddenly awakened by an earth tremor. The citizens fled from their homes not realizing what was actually happening. At 12:40 the peak of the earthquake hit; these first tremors were so violent that they left only a blurred record on the Dominion seismograph in Ottawa. The tremor lasted for over a minute and the Dominion seismographic station reported that if the tremor had lasted 13 more seconds there would not have been a building left standing in Cornwall. Other shocks occurred at 4:32 a.m., 4:53 a.m., and the last at 7:10 a.m. There were, however, no injuries or fatalities.

St. Columban's Church was badly damaged and no one was allowed to enter it until a survey was made. Also severely damaged was St. Columban's Rectory. Two big stone chimneys on either side of the roof came tumbling through the roof and the ceiling onto the floors of the bedrooms.

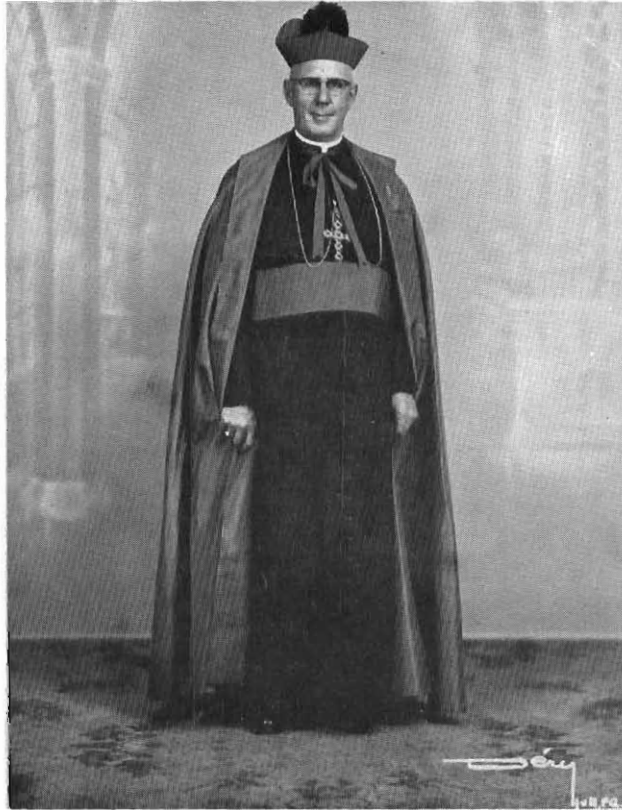
Miss Noema Boisvenue, a maid working at St. Columban's, attributes the saving of her life to the fact that she was saying novena prayers at the time. She was kneeling beside her bed in the north-east bedroom upstairs. All of a sudden the bed was shot across to the other side of the room. She cleared out, and the next minute big stones from the chimney came tumbling through the roof and ceiling and landed on the floor of the bedroom.

The Church itself was in a bad way, especially the sanctuary and the choir loft. Three beautiful stained glass windows in the sanctuary were totally destroyed. The pipe organ in the choir was also totally destroyed. Much of the plaster was cracked and large patches of it fell down. Many tombstones in the parish cemetery were badly damaged or twisted off their foundations. Damage to St. Columban's West School was approximately \$20,000. The damage to the rectory was so extensive that, at one time, it was seriously contemplated that the building should be destroyed and a new beginning made.

Bishop Brodeur, seeing the needs of St. Columban's Parish, asked Father Foley, who was in his last illness in hospital, to resign. The next Sunday the Bishop himself came to St. Columban's to announce that Monsignor William Smith would become the new pastor. Monsignor Smith arrived on October 1, 1944 and Father Foley died the next day.

The task awaiting Monsignor Smith at St. Columban's was one of monumental proportions. A complete repair and renovation job was necessary for both church and house. There was no insurance covering earthquake damage and very little revenue available from the parish funds. Nevertheless, the work had to be done and the new pastor courageously set to work to do it. He started with the repair of the house which was in bad shape. It was not suitable to live in. Not only had the two chimneys fallen in but the plaster was cracked and many of the ceilings broken in. Fortunately there was no structural damage to the foundation and reconstruction was able to proceed. The work proceeded well throughout the winter and by Spring St. Columban's rectory was completely done over; all repairs made,

the whole house repainted and some changes made to provide better office accomodation. This first step in repair work having been completed, the next job, even greater than the first, was about to be undertaken when Monsignor Smith was named Bishop of Pembroke.



It was to Father A.L. Cameron that the burden of repairing the church would be passed. He was named pastor of St. Columban's parish in August 1945, following Monsignor Smith's installation as Bishop of Pembroke. He immediately set about not only the reconstruction of the church but also renovations.

The heating system of the church was certainly inadequate and during the early Fall of 1945 many parishioners suffered because of the cold and dampness in the church. Father Cameron had installed a new heating system known as the 'Dunham Differential Vacuum Heating System'.

This type of furnace was unique in that it was modelled after the heating system of the luxury liner 'The Queen Mary'. Heat is forced through the pipes for a given period of time in one area of the church and then automatically the heat is forced to the opposite end of the church. This system of rotating heat supply is still in use today.

Father Cameron desired that the church itself should not only be repaired but renewed. Two new side altars were installed, one altar to Our Lady of Perpetual Help donated by the Catholic Women's League, and the other to the honour of St. Joseph, Patron of Canada, donated by the Holy Name Society.

The walls of the church were repaired and the whole church was freshly painted. Two new paintings were placed in the sanctuary area. These paintings were, in fact, frescoes, painted elsewhere and later installed. (The Supper at Emmaus on the west wall and the Commissioning of the Apostles on the east wall.)



A new pulpit was installed that was also unique. The head board was on a pulley system that could be adjusted according to the height of the preacher. The head board formed a reflector shield that helped project the preacher's voice. This projection was assisted by a microphone system with large overhead speaker boxes that were directly over the pulpit.

The sanctuary area was lowered to the same level as the sacristy in order to allow a freer access. The whole sanctuary floor was removed and a new floor of concrete was poured in order to form a fire proof protection from the furnace that was directly below. The inner altar rail, (there were in fact two up to this point), was removed and the lower rail was replaced by a marble rail. The stained glass windows were replaced by new ones donated by John O'Callaghan, his sister Margaret O'Callaghan, and another sister, Mrs. Nora Lalonde. (They were not installed until 1957.)

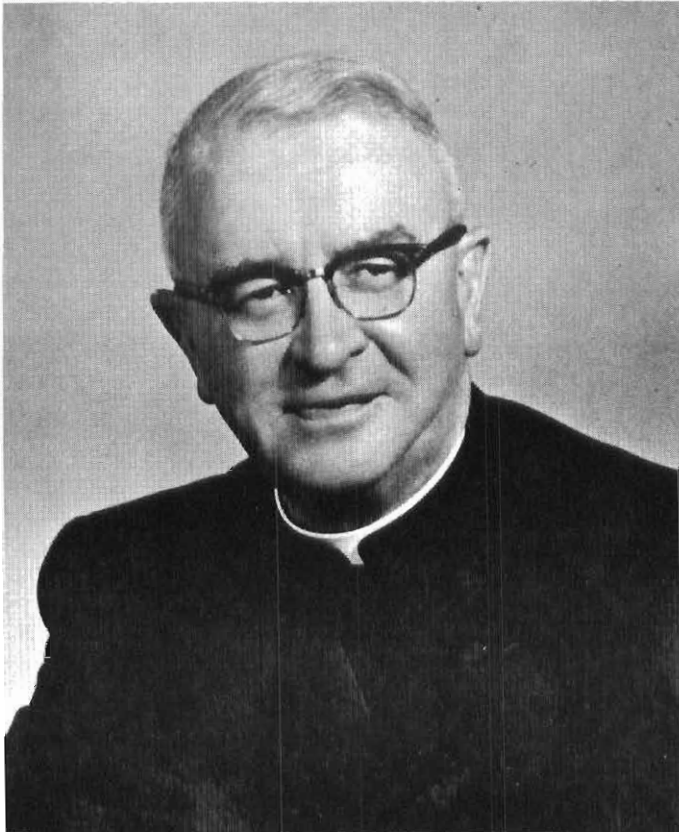
The long and arduous task of restoring St. Columban's was finished by the Winter of '48-'49. The church that had been constructed for \$49,500, cost over \$200,000 to repair and renew.

Always frail in stature, Father Cameron was a wiry individual, tough and forgetful of self. He was a man of great principles, loved an argument in which he could hold his own, but was always yielding to truth, charity and justice. He was noted for his fine pulpit presence as an effective preacher. He left St. Columban's on Feb. 1, 1951, to become Director of Our Lady of Fatima retreat house in Alexandria.

Father R.J. MacDonald was named pastor of St. Columban's effective February 1, 1951. He immediately set about completing the work of his two predecessors. In the rectory the renovations started by Bishop Smith were completed including the installation of a new wiring and lighting system. In the church a new organ was installed to replace the one destroyed by the earthquake. The new organ had 22 'stops', and was considered a masterpiece at the time. The organ, which cost

\$20,500, was formally blessed by Bishop Brodeur.

During this time permission was granted for afternoon Masses and St. Columban's chose to have one at 4:30 on Sunday afternoon. Previously all Masses finished by noon. The 4:30 Sunday Mass was added in order to make it easier for shift workers to fulfil their Sunday obligation.



MSGR. R.J. MACDONALD

(PICTURE CREDIT TO ROY'S STUDIO)

In 1954 Father R.J. MacDonald celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. In appreciation for his service to church and diocese Father R.J. was raised to the rank of Monsignor and henceforth was known simply as Monsignor.

The building of St. Columban's Parish Centre was for Monsignor the highlight of his stay at St. Columban's. In 1960 he announced his plans for the construction of a Parish Centre to replace the antiquated Parish Hall. The architects of Remi & Murray from Ottawa were chosen to draw up the plans.

The contract for the building of the new Centre was given to the Bremner Construction Co. of Ottawa who tendered the lowest bid. Their tender for the building alone was \$287,447. Later there was an additional \$850 for extras. A gigantic Fund Raising Campaign was launched in the parish. A man by the name of George McKinnon, who represented the Cathos Company of Toronto, conducted the campaign. The 'kick-off' dinner was held in the Armouries and was attended by 1,250 people.

By March 1962 the work was completed and on the eleventh of March the hall was officially blessed and opened.



The Centre was designed to meet the needs of the parish, socially, culturally and spiritually. The main hall, now named the Monsignor R.J. MacDonald Auditorium, was designed to accommodate large gatherings and boasted an excellent sound system for plays and dances. Smaller rooms were available for group meetings and a library and reading room were also incorporated. The basement was occupied by a bowling alley and several sports rooms complete with shower facilities. The Centre was universally hailed as one of the finest facilities in Eastern Ontario.

Returning his attention to the church Monsignor engaged the Panzeroni Company of New York to paint and touch up the church. Two side doors were installed on the east and west sides in order to allow free access to the church. The exterior walk ways were removed and a series of new walk ways with gradual steps were installed.

The liturgical reforms of Vatican II had a tremendous influence on the Roman Catholic Church and these effects were soon felt at St. Columban's. The Mass, that for centuries was celebrated only in Latin, was now to be celebrated in the vernacular in order to allow greater participation by the laity. The priest was no longer to have his back to the people, instead he was instructed to celebrate Mass facing the people. The High Altar did not allow this change so a portable altar, made of wood, was installed in the centre of the sanctuary. The 'high altar' was no longer used for Mass after the Summer of 1965.

Monsignor had suffered from a heart condition for years. His first attack took place in the Confessional on Christmas Eve, 1960. By 1968, his pride and joy, the Parish Centre was functioning well and by mutual agreement Monsignor R.J. resigned the pastorate in favour of Father D.B. McDougald, the present pastor. Monsignor retained the title, Pastor Emeritus, until his death on August 5, 1978.

May 6, 1968, begins the pastorship of our present Pastor, Father Donald B. McDougald. His years and labours at St. Columban's lie in the realm of the present rather than the past but for the sake of clarity, some of his accomplishments are included to bring us up to the present time.

The heart of any parish is the church, the house of worship. Father McDougald's first attention was thus directed to the church. The original roof, made of tin, was beginning to show its age. Not only was it rusting badly but it was also beginning to leak, causing damage to the interior of the church. A new asphalt roof was installed in order to protect the church and its interior.

Mention has already been made of the liturgical reforms of Vatican II. These reforms had a significant influence, not only on the prayer life of the parish, but also on the structure of our sanctuary. The reforms insisted that the altar of sacrifice should be facing the people and that it be the focal point of attention. It was to be in a fixed position and should be constructed in such a way as to add dignity to the celebration. The other existing altars were not to have more prominence than the altar of sacrifice. The Baptistry was to be placed in close proximity to the altar of sacrifice in order to show the link between Baptism and the Eucharist. Emphasis was to be placed on simplicity. Wherever possible there should be only one altar in a church and the Blessed Sacrament was to be placed in a tabernacle that was not part of another altar - and in plain view of the faithful.

These reforms necessitated certain major changes in our sanctuary area. First the sanctuary area was enlarged in order to bring the altar closer to the people and to allow more room for the liturgical celebration. The altar rail, that was no longer used, was removed so that the separation of sanctuary and church would not be so pronounced. The side altars were removed so that the Baptistry could be placed near the altar of sacrifice. The 'high altar' was removed since it could not be turned around and the existing

altar, tabernacle structure took attention away from the main altar. A new altar, donated by Monsignor R.J. MacDonald, was placed in the front of the sanctuary and a repository tabernacle was placed at the rear of the sanctuary. Since priests were now encouraged to have concelebrated Mass there was no longer a need for additional altars in the church.



PRESENT INTERIOR OF CHURCH

The last major change in the church took place in 1976. The floor of the main body of the church was in bad shape. The tiles, especially under the pews, were badly broken and the centre aisle itself showed the scars of the earthquake and the traffic of several thousand feet per week. It was decided to carpet the entire church; the carpet would not only be aesthetically pleasing but would also be of acoustic value.

The perpetual care fund for the cemetery, that was adequate for the time when it was set, was increased to provide what would be necessary

for the future. The gravel roadways were paved and a fence was put around the cemetery to enhance the beauty. A head stone honouring Msgr. Corbet and Father John Michael Foley was also erected.

Church property on the corner of York and Third Streets (the site of the Brothers' house) was sold to the city for the building of a Day-Care Centre. Property immediately east of the Rectory was also sold to the city to permit the construction of the new Fire Hall. The revenues of these sales helped defray the costs for the Church renovations. Part revenues, \$25,000, was a gift from St. Columban's Parish to Blessed Sacrament Parish on Toll Gate Road.

The kitchen of the rectory was certainly not adequate for modern needs. In 1978 a complete renovation was undertaken. The kitchen was completely gutted and an entirely new kitchen was constructed.

During Father McDougald's pastorship, St. Columban's had the privilege of national attention. The 11:00 a.m. Mass, long the pride of St. Columban's, was telecast by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation on the program, "Meeting Place". Many letters of appreciation and approbation were received, some from as far away as British Columbia.

During the celebration of this 150th Anniversary plans have also been made for the consecration of St. Columban's Church. Although the parish churches have all been blessed this Anniversary marks the first time that St. Columban's will have a consecrated church.



THE RECTORY





FIRST CONVENT

SISTERS OF THE CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME

Bishop James Vincent Cleary of Kingston had been promised Sisters by the Congregation of Nōtre Dame for several parishes of the then diocese of Kingston, among these parishes was St. Columban's in Cornwall. In December 1884, Bishop Cleary delegated Father Murray to go to Montreal to negotiate for the Sisters. In preparation for his visit Father Murray dismissed the lay staff and proceeded to Montreal in quest of Sisters. When informed that the Sisters could not be ready to go for January 7, 1885, Father Murray responded that January 8, would be sufficient.

On January 7, 1885, three Sisters, (Sister St. Mary Francis, Sister St. Michael and Sister Mary Jane) arrived in Cornwall and were met by

Father Murray. The Sisters took up residence in a home situated on the site of the present convent. The school was immediately behind on the site of the present St. Columban's West.

The first classes in adult education in the parish began in 1885, when the Sisters undertook the teaching of young men and women employed in the factories. These classes were held on Sundays. Fifty-six young people attended the first class, all anxious to learn, but not one could read a word.

In 1888 a school was opened in the East End of Cornwall to provide service for the French speaking students. For the next twenty years Sisters from St. Columban's made the long trek daily to provide services for the French speaking population.

In 1894 the first group of students from the convent were permitted to try the High School Entrance examinations. Nine students attempted the exams, seven passed, a phenomenal feat for such a young school. In gratitude the students bought the statue of St. Anthony that is still in the entrance of St. Columban's Church.

In 1905 a new school was built to replace the modest structure built by Father Murray. The new school, a six room structure, was built on the same site as the old school. This school was added to during the years and served until 1960 when the present school was built.

Originally the convent school served the needs of the girls while the Central Ward or Boy's school, served the boys. In 1946 kindergarten classes began and for the first year boys and girls were mixed. In 1956, the co-ed system was extended to Grades 1,2. In 1959, when the Brothers left Cornwall, the Sisters of the Congregation took charge of the East School with Sister (Sr. Josephine Dillon) St. Agnes as first Principal.

The convent that had been built for the Sisters before their arrival continued to serve



NEW CONVENT

their needs until 1961 when a new convent was built. The original convent had been built by the parish on parish grounds. The new convent, however, was built by the Congregation of Notre Dame on property purchased from the parish. In gratitude for their many years of service the land was sold for a staggering price of \$1.00, just enough to make it legal.





THE PRESENTATION BROTHERS

The Presentation Brothers came to Cornwall from Ireland in the Fall of 1913 upon the request of Father Corbet who was having difficulty staffing the Boys' School. The personnel of the first community included Brothers Patrick, Felim, Angelus, Nicholas, Laserian, Borromeo and Neri.

In the early life of the community here, teaching conditions were primitive, and classroom accomodation inadequate. This did not seem to affect the Brothers who continued their work despite the hardships.

In 1925, the Brothers, always ready to accept a challenge, accepted the job of staffing Gonzaga High School. The Brothers continued this

service even after the school became an elementary school to accomodate the overflow from the Boys' School.

The Brothers were popular with the people of Cornwall, both Catholics and Protestants. They taught in the schools in a masterly way, enforced strict discipline, but were kind and understanding at all times. They often produced dramatic stage performances which delighted the public. They taught the boys the ever-popular Irish dances, many of the Brothers themselves being proficient in the Irish Jig.

Many of the Brothers were educated in Ireland and in the Province of Quebec. By 1959 the Department of Education of Ontario was demanding that the Brothers, already highly qualified, return to the Ontario Normal School. The Order, judging this to be an unnecessary expense, decided to withdraw the services of the Brothers and to use their services in other areas.

June 1959 marked the end of an era. The Brothers who had served the parish for forty-six years were withdrawn for services in Ireland and Quebec. Brothers John, Patrick, Plunkett, Henry and Valentine were those who left the diocese at this time.



THE SCHOOLS

1872 - First school was opened by Father Murray in the home of Alex E. MacDonald. It was situated on the North-East corner of Fourth and Augustus Streets. This building was later moved to the extreme East side of the property and was known as Corbet Hall.

1873 - First school building built on the present site of St. Columban's West School. This school was known as the West Ward school.

1884 - The Central Ward school was built. (Boys' School - East School)

1886 - East Ward School (opposite Nativity Church) was built.

1891 - Central Ward School expanded.

1905 - The St. Columban's Girls' School was built.

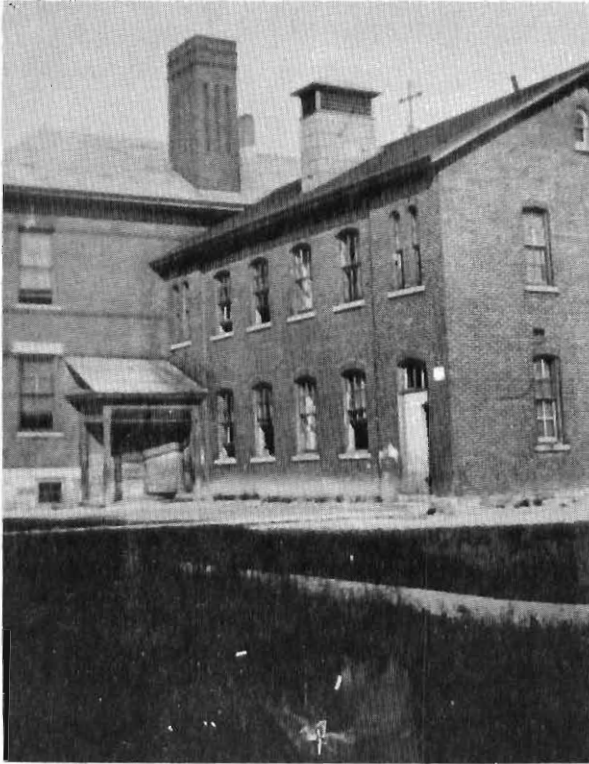
1928 - The Girls' School was expanded.

1949 - St. Columban's Boys' School was built. This is the present St. Columban's East school.

1960 - St. Columban's Girls' School was built. This is the present St. Columban's West school.

1967 - Bishop MacDonell Senior school completed.

From the beginning until 1944 all Catholic schools were built and maintained by the parishes and rented to the School Board. In 1944 the Department of Education of Ontario was no longer satisfied with the arrangement and all school properties were bought from the parishes. The parishes no longer have any control over the schools.



CENTRAL WARD SCHOOL



GONZAGA



NEW WEST WARD SCHOOL



ST. COLUMBAN'S EAST



ST. COLUMBAN'S WEST



BISHOP MACDONELL

THE RELIGIOUS HOSPITALLERS OF ST. JOSEPH

On February 9, 1897, the first Community of Hotel Dieu Sisters, Religious Hospitaliers of St. Joseph, arrived in Cornwall from Kingston. They were accompanied by Bishop Alexander Macdonell and had come to staff the new Hotel Dieu Hospital. The Sisters who came at this time were Mother Donnelly, and Sisters Hopkins, Macdonell, Powers and Amable.

Their first visit in Cornwall was paid to St. Columban's where they offered prayers for the success of the new Foundation.

Following complete renovation of the John Sandfield McDonald house the first patient was admitted to the Hospital on June 14, 1897, by Dr. J.C. Hamilton.

The first local postulant, Sister St. Alexander née Margaret Charlebois of Alexandria, entered the convent on September 8, 1897. The increasing number of patients and relating growth of activities soon necessitated that application be made to Montreal and Kingston for more help. In February 1898 two additional Sisters came to the diocese from Montreal.

On July 16, 1899, the cornerstone was laid for the new Hospital built on the site at the corner of Water and York Streets. This building later became part of the Macdonell Memorial Hospital of today.

In the years that followed the Religious Hospitaliers were responsible for staffing St. Paul's Home for the Aged and the Nazareth Orphanage. The increase in the number of Sisters at this time demanded a new Monastery. On July 2, 1914, the first sod was turned and on June 15, 1915, Bishop Macdonell blessed the Monastery.

In 1928 the St. Joseph's School of Nursing was founded by the Religious Hospitallers. The actual school, now a part of St. Joseph's Villa, was built in 1939.

The present Hotel Dieu Hospital was built in 1955 and St. Joseph's Villa, opened in 1969, is the continuation of the original St. Paul's Home





GEORGE VASBINDER

The name of St. Columban's Church in Cornwall and that of George Vasbinder are practically synonymous. But few, if any, of the 5000-6000 parishioners are aware of the fact that George Vasbinder was the Church sexton for sixty-three years.

In 1915 George left a job as a farm hand in Northfield Station and found his way to St. Columban's where he offered his services to Father Corbet. He was hired as sexton and remained in the position until his death in 1978.

George, a soft-spoken man, who seldom mixed words, was considered a jack-of-all-trades. He could turn his hand from plumbing to electrical repairs without batting an eye. He was as at home in his cemetery as he was in his church. After sixty-three years the church and cemetery were

both considered his private domain.

His list of accomplishments included: construction of the verandah on the rectory; building his own home; construction of the cemetery vault; the Calvary scene east of the Church and many more. The beauty of the Church grounds and the neatness of the Church itself could all be credited to George's fine work.

In 1966 George was honoured for his service to the Church by receiving a diocesan medal of honour. The medal itself was small recompense for so many years of service, but then how can one thank someone for so many years of faithful service. Perhaps the only thanks are the words from Scripture: "Well done, good and faithful servant".



THE FLECK FAMILY

Music has long been considered an important part of the life of any parish; St. Columban's is no exception. What is somewhat unique about St. Columban's, however, is that one family provided the musical accompaniment for seventy-two years.

George Fleck, a trained musician, who was originally from Europe, has the honour of being the first male organist hired by the parish in 1880. For several years his service was given daily to the church in order to enhance the different celebrations.

On October 9, 1889, Father Murray engaged the services of Charles Fleck, son of the former organist. Charles Fleck was to continue his service for fifty-two years, retiring in 1941, two weeks before his death. Under Charles Fleck the choir was reorganized and music truly became an important element of parish life. Charles was an accomplished musician playing the organ, violin and piano, and his talents made St. Columban's choir famous through-out Eastern Ontario.

In 1941 when Charles died, his wife, Bertha, replaced him as organist and continued the family tradition. Each morning Mrs. Fleck made her way to church to accompany the priests in the daily requiem Masses. Mrs. Fleck retired in 1952 when the new organ was installed. She was replaced by Mary Parisien who has continued the service until the present time.

THE PARISH CHOIRS

THE SENIOR CHOIR

The Senior Choir, presently under the directorship of Dr. A. E. R. MacPhee, traces its origin back to 1939. Sister St. Mary Vincent formed an adult choir of ladies and gentlemen to sing at the High Masses on Sunday and on certain major feasts. Brother Kevin continued the work started by Sr. St. Mary Vincent but gradually the numbers seemed to decrease. In 1946 Dr. MacPhee, a member of Sister's original choir, became the director and the choir became an all male choir until 1974 when it once again became a mixed choir.

ST. COLUMBAN'S GIRLS' CHOIR

1940 marks the advent of a new choir composed of girls from St. Columban's Girls' school. The choir was under the directorship of Sister St. Benedict and provided services on Holy Days and for special occasions when the Senior Choir was not available. 1959, when the parish schools became co-ed, the choir followed suit. Sr. St. Benedict trained the students from the West school; Sr. St. Jules trained the students from the East school and also conducted the choir in church. In 1967 this choir ceased to function.

FOLK CHOIR

The liturgical changes of Vatican II not only brought the vernacular to the celebration of Mass but also allowed for a new variety of music. In 1970, Paul Marchese - a seminarian - formed a choir of young people who would sing a Folk Mass. The choir made its debut at Easter that year and continues to the present. Upon Father Paul's departure in 1977, James Wood took over the directorship.

THE JUNIOR CHOIR

In 1971, Bill Brown, presently a teacher at St. Columban's West school, formed a new choir of students from the elementary schools. It was felt that there was a need for a Junior choir that would answer the needs of young people who wished to sing and were not old enough for the Youth choir. The Junior choir would provide still another variety of music for the liturgy at St. Columban's. Since 1971 the Junior choir has provided beauty at the 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday.



PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

CATHOLIC ORDER of FORESTERS

The object of this organization was to promote Friendship, Unity, and true Christian Charity; Friendship in assisting each other by every means in their power; Unity in uniting together for mutual support in sickness or death, and in making suitable provision for widows.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The Catholic Women's League is an organization banding into one corporate body the Catholic Women of Canada under the motto, "For God and Country", to promote with united effort, and in a spirit of national unity, their religious and intellectual interests, and their social and industrial works.

ST. COLUMBAN'S DRAMA CLUB

Established to promote good entertainment for the Parish especially in the area of plays and concerts. The traditional Irish plays and concerts were organized by this group. The group later expanded to Broadway plays and later was incorporated into the Glen Productions.

THE SODALITY of MARY

An organization to promote devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Christ.

THE LEGION of MARY

An organization under the patronage of Mary that endeavours to encourage lapsed Catholics to return to the Church.

THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY

An organization of Catholic gentlemen to promote greater respect for the Holy Name of Jesus, and to encourage frequent communion among its members.

THE ST. COLUMBAN'S YOUTH GROUP

An organization of Parish youth to promote spiritual, emotional and social growth of the young people.

LEAGUE of THE SACRED HEART

An organization to promote devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

SCOUTS, GUIDES, CUBS, BROWNIES

Organizations for the young that promote the spirit of patriotism, good citizenship and unity.

THE ST. COLUMBAN FAMILY

NATIVITY PARISH

Founded in 1887 to meet the needs of the French speaking population of the East End of Cornwall.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

Founded in 1937 to serve the needs of parishioners in the West End of the city. It was originally a mission chapel of St. Columban's and later became a parish.

ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH

Founded in 1944 to serve the needs of parishioners in the North West end of the city.

FACES FROM THE PAST



FACES FROM THE PAST



FACES FROM THE PAST



AUTOGRAPHS

COVER DESIGNED BY BERENICE DICKSON

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