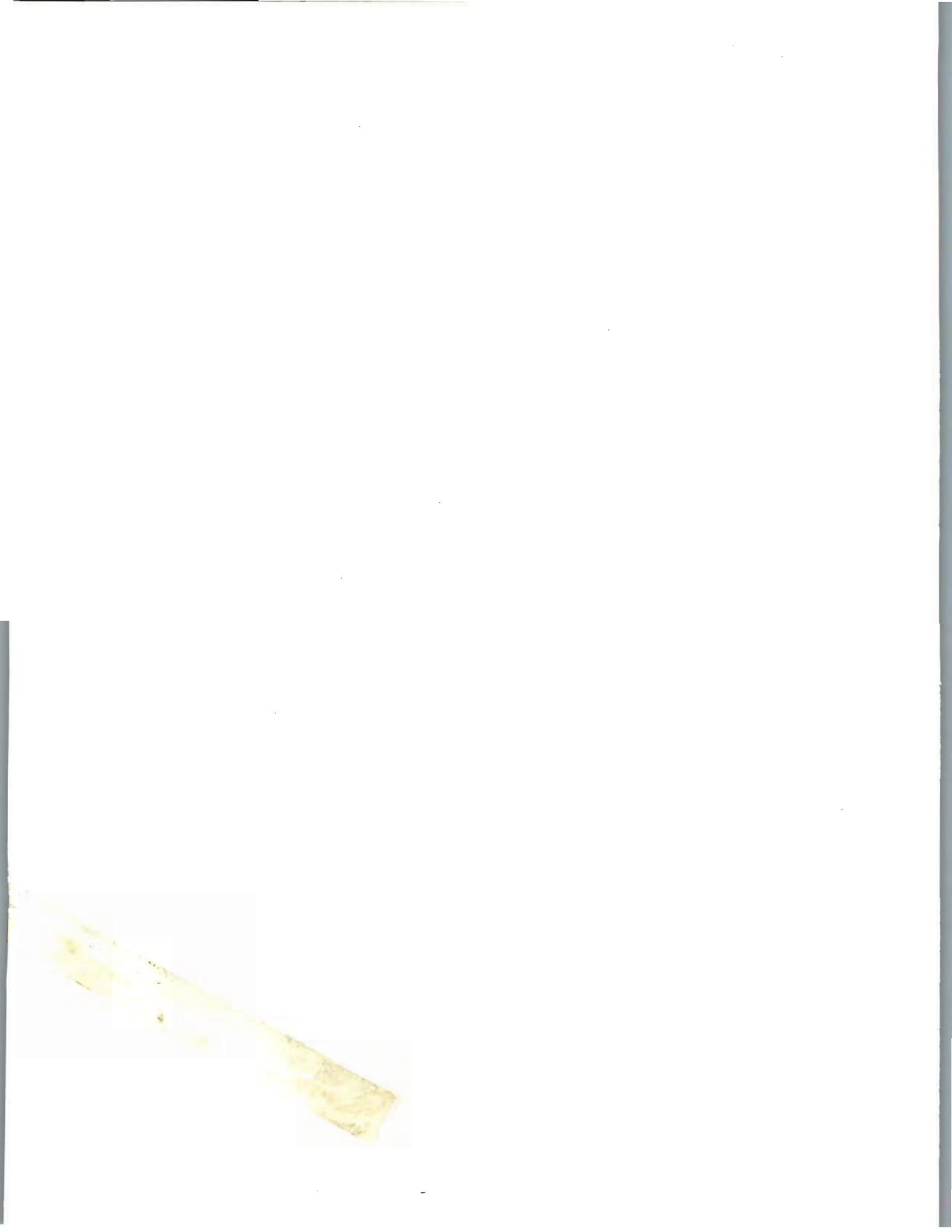


Our Lady *of* Victory

1942 to 1992





Our Lady *of Victory*

BUCKINGHAM, QUÉBEC

1942 to 1992



DEDICATION

When Father John Brady first arrived in the newly settled region of Buckingham in 1838, he was impressed with how committed the Catholic population of Buckingham was to its faith in God, and was touched with how grateful the people were to have a man of God among them to minister to their spiritual needs.

This booklet is dedicated to Father Brady and his worthy successors, who brought and continue to bring with great care and devotion the word of God to the English-speaking Catholics of Buckingham.

It is dedicated to the men and women of Buckingham who first greeted Father Brady more than 150 years ago, and to their descendants, many of whom can be traced right to the pews of Our Lady of Victory church. As pioneers and the sons and daughters of pioneers, they set a standard of Christian worship we observe to this day.

And, finally, it is dedicated to the children of Our Lady of Victory, who are the parish's leaders of tomorrow. With the grace of God and the guidance of their pastors and families, they will bring to OLV the same sense of Christian commitment their forefathers brought to it.



Statue of Our Lady of Victory in church, circa 1970.

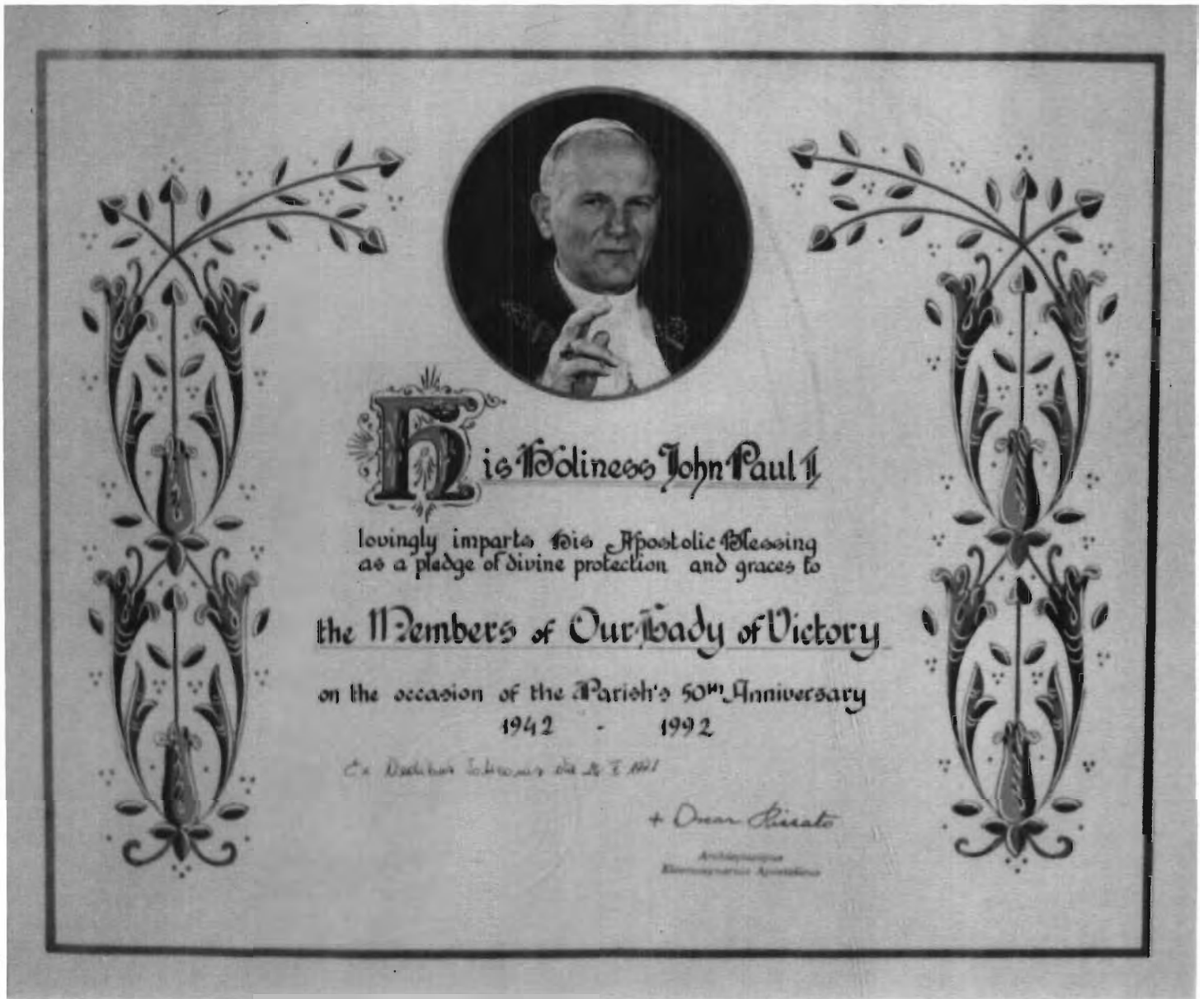
FOREWORD

Most parishioners of Our Lady of Victory Church in Buckingham can't remember a time when its familiar steeple didn't break the skyline on the corner of Joseph and Charles streets. Fifty years is a long time, but for many who participated in the church's golden anniversary in 1992, memories are still vivid of the first Mass celebrated on January 25, 1942, just three days after the parish was decreed on January 22.

Our Lady of Victory Church is a testament to the Christian faith and hope of its spiritual leaders and faithful parishioners. From its name, which anticipated a victorious end to the Second World War, to the years of modest growth and expansion, to the prosperity we enjoy as a community today, Our Lady of Victory has been a beacon of assembly and worship for English-speaking Catholics in Buckingham.

This souvenir booklet has been prepared to commemorate 50 years of Christian living. It pays homage to the men, women and children whose lives in the community radiated to and from the church. It is a tribute to the events that have shaped the parish in the past half-century. And it looks forward with confidence to the next 50 years.

We hope you will enjoy this booklet. In it you will be reminded not only of the people who have committed time and energy to Our Lady of Victory, but of the great accomplishments that have been achieved in the name of faith.



OUR PASTORS

1942-1951	Fr. E.F. Bambrick
1951-1956	Fr. W.N. Nevins
1956-1959	Fr. W.G. Fogarty
1959-1961	Fr. D.D. MacDonald
1961-1971	Fr. A.B. Ferguson
1972-1974	Fr. J. Berubé
1975-1987	Fr. F. Langevin
1987-1993	Fr. D. Jeffrey



DIOCESAN CENTRE

October 16, 1992

To the Parishioners of Our Lady of Victory

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

You are coming to the end of the 50th anniversary year of foundation of your parish.

During this year, you have paid tribute to the people who built your community and to those who have lived in it along the way.

This concern to keep in living memory the people who have built a heritage and passed it on is a beautiful gesture and one which carries great hope.

I sincerely wish that these celebrations have strengthened in your community your faith in Jesus the Good Shepherd who watches over us. I also hope they bear fruit and stimulate the human and Christian qualities of living the teachings of the Gospel.

These festivities have brought you closer to each other. They are a seed of charity and unity.

May our Blessed Mother continue to watch over you and lead you to Jesus.

Sincere congratulations to all who have participated in these celebrations.

Your brother Bishop,

Roger Ebacher

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CHURCH

490 Charles St., Buckingham, Québec J8L 2K5

Telephone
(619) 986-3763

Dear fellow parishioners,

To be part of a Golden Jubilee is a privilege for anyone; to be part of the 50th anniversary of our Christian community is a high point of my priestly ministry.

I have been with you only five of these fifty years. For many of you, this milestone encompasses most of all of your life. However, since August of 1987, I have tried my best to offer the spiritual leadership for which I had been sent here by my La Salette religious congregation.

Together, we have struggled, we have grown. Co-responsibility has been the key word of my ministry among you. My insistence has been on the reality that this is 'your' parish, that I am here to serve 'you'. This incarnates the theology of 'Church' expressed by Vatican II, as reiterated in the archdiocesan policy which states that the communities which will survive in the future are those who give themselves the necessary services they need to do so. Several people have experienced a deeper sense of belonging to Our Lady of Victory Parish, and the Church in general, by their active involvement in its life, especially through the recently formed Pastoral Council along with the long-standing and the new committees.

Together, we have continued to build on the past; we have solidified the foundations for the future. Your dedication of a half-century, your involvement in the present, should give you confidence in a future that will be even more fruitful. OLV parishioners will continue the mission of Jesus in our world by being active members of His Body, making him present in their community through mutual support and service.

May your God-given vocation bring greater meaning to your lives, deeper satisfaction in your dedication, and clearer vision of what this parish will be like in the years ahead.

Your brother-pastor,

Fr. Donald Jeffrey, m.s.

Donald Jeffrey, m.s.





Ville de Buckingham

Cabinet du maire
Réginald W. Scullion

Buckingham, March 9, 1993

TO THE ATTENTION OF ALL PARISHIONERS OF OUR
LADY OF VICTORY CHURCH OF BUCKINGHAM.

To All:

On behalf of all members of the Council of the Town of Buckingham, I wish to congratulate Our Lady of Victory Church and all parishioners for the proclamation of the 50th anniversary of your Church in January 1992.

With you, it is touching to my heart to realize this happy event happening in this community.

It is proof, with unity through God and Faith, that all people from the very beginning, regardless of language, race or culture, can accomplish in this great country.

As Mayor, I would like to express my best wishes for the future of your Church. My warmest congratulations to the wardens, to Father Donald Jeffrey and to all of their predecessors, to all parishioners and members of this community.

Yours very truly,

R.W. Scullion

Reginald W. Scullion,
Mayor of Buckingham.

FIRST BAPTISM

On this 25th day of January in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-two, I, the undersigned parish priest, have baptized Mary Veronica, born on the eleventh instant of the lawful marriage of Hugh Michael Connolly and Dorothy Gladys Garvey. The sponsors were Joseph Connolly and Genevieve McAndrew.

E.F. Bambrick, p.p.

On this 25th day of January in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-two, I, the undersigned parish priest, have baptized Thomas David Victor, born on the twelfth instant of the lawful marriage of Daniel Butler and Evelyn Kelly. The sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred McClements.

E.F. Bambrick, p.p.

FIRST FUNERAL

On this first day of April, in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-two, I, the undersigned parish priest, have performed the funeral service over the body of David Neilon, aged 90 years, husband of the late Brigid McPike, who died March 30 of this year. Were present Gerald and Joseph Neilon.

E.F. Bambrick, p.p.

FIRST MARRIAGE

On this second day of May, in the year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Forty-two, a dispensation from three banns having been obtained from the Most Reverend Alexandre Vachon, Archbishop of Ottawa, I, the undersigned parish priest, have joined in Holy Matrimony James Dalton Appleby, son of Athos Appleby and Mary Egan, of this parish on the one part and Mary Catherine Madeleine Cullen, daughter of the late Martin Cullen and Monica Cosgrove of this parish on the second part. The witnesses were Robert Gorman and Harold Cullen.

E.F. Bambrick, p.p.

Rev. E.F. Bambrick Opens New Parish At Buckingham

BUCKINGHAM, Jan. 25. — (Special) — Marking establishment of a new English-speaking parish to be known as "Our Lady of Victory" parish, Rev. Ernest F. Bambrick, former parish priest at Fitzroy Harbor, chanted mass and conducted official opening ceremonies in the temporary chapel on Main street here this morning.

Eight and ten o'clock masses were crowded, and before the eight o'clock mass Father Bambrick, who is to be priest of the new parish, blessed the building and read the decree of Archbishop Vachon setting forth establishment of the parish and designating its name.

Congratulations from Archbishop Vachon were extended and hopes expressed for the success of the parish under guidance of Father Bambrick, who left Fitzroy Harbor last week, after 14 years' service to assume his new duties here.

Father Bambrick also read the official appointment from the Archbishop and announced the site of the new parish church to be erected on Charles street.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was held at the evening service. An address of welcome on behalf of the parishioners was read by Harold Gorman, and Father Bambrick in turn welcomed his new parishioners to the church.

Two christenings were held in the afternoon. They were for Thomas David Victor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Butler, and Mary Veronica, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Connolly.

As Our Lady of Victory celebrates its fiftieth anniversary, it is fitting to take a look back at its beginnings as a parish. Today we take for granted the hard work and commitment that went into building the beautiful church that sits on the corner of Joseph and Charles streets. Founding members have not forgotten: they know that what they built will serve the English-speaking Catholic Christian community for generations to come.

A DREAM IS BORN

According to historical sketches that have been written periodically over the years, many English-speaking Catholics dreamed of having their own parish long before Our Lady of Victory was decreed in 1942. Up until then, Buckingham's English- and French-speaking Catholic population worshipped together at St. Gregory's Church. However, as time went on the parish grew and the expectations of parishioners changed.

In the 1990 history of Buckingham written by Pierre Louis Lapointe, he says the move by English-speaking parishioners to break away from St. Gregory's dates as far back as 1904-1905. Successive petitions to the Archbishop over the next 35 years brought the matter to an often fevered pitch, until a final request penned by The English Catholic Young Men of Buckingham, headed by Hugh McGurn and including William Gorman, Allan MacMillan and Frank Cosgrove, was routed to Rome in the spring of 1935.

It took another four years for a decision to be handed down, but on March 28th, 1939 the seemingly endless wait had finally come to an end. On that auspicious day, the Pope authorized the establishment of Our Lady of Victory Church.

It would be almost another three years before the decree would be written and the news brought to Buckingham's Catholic population. There are a number of reasons for this delay, not the least of which were the standard administrative concerns on the part of the Holy See. As well, Archbishop Forbes, who had been instrumental in dealing with the church's request, died in the spring of 1940. The file was then transferred into the hands of Archbishop Vachon.

The delay must also be placed into the context of history. The serious work conducted in Rome to establish the new parish coincided with the dark days immediately preceding World War Two, when the world was caught in the grips of fear and uncertainty. As unlikely as it may have seemed, events in Europe had a direct impact on the day-to-day operations of a little town like Buckingham.

Parishioners old enough to remember the creation of Our Lady of Victory also recall that for many, the move to separate from St. Gregory's was an emotionally difficult time. While there was little opposition on the part of the French-speaking Catholic population, many English-speaking Catholics felt they should not have had to leave empty-handed from a parish which they helped build over the course of a century. Others believed an English Catholic community with so few numbers did not merit a parish of its own. There were also financial fears: from where would the money come?

The members of the new Our Lady of Victory church eventually left St. Gregory's without a financial settlement. Starting with faith alone, and in a spirit of confidence and commitment, each of the founding wardens contributed approximately \$3,000 in loans to set the project on its feet. By today's standards it was a modest start, but modesty would be the hallmark of the church's progress over the next 50 years.

The jubilant early days of Our Lady of Victory may have been tempered by mixed emotions on the part of many parishioners, but it was quickly replaced by a deep and abiding sense of community. That was clearly evident in the speed with which a permanent church was completed, and it is evident even today among the hundreds of devoted parishioners. It is truly a home, not a house, for Christian Catholics.

This portion of our history would not be complete without a word about why Our Lady of Victory is often called "The Irish Church", not an English Catholic church, as it actually is. For two reasons, the name gained common usage when the church was established. The first is that the committee to establish a new church consisted primarily of Catholics of Irish descent. Second, the majority of their English-speaking supporters were also of Irish extraction. However, there were among founding parishioners a number of Catholics with backgrounds other than Irish. Needless to say, they played as vital a role in the parish's development as their Irish-Canadian counterparts.

The long-awaited decree for Our Lady of Victory was granted January 22, 1942, part of which reads as follows:

"... in pursuance of an Apostolic Indult requested by Canon 216, 4 of the Code, and granted by a Rescript of the Sacred Consistorial Congregation, have erected and do hereby erect into a separate and distinct removable parish under the name of Our Lady of Victory, for all spiritual ends and purposes, the congregation of the Catholics of Buckingham speaking the English language, domiciled within the said parish of Saint Gregory of Nazianze of Buckingham, such as it actually exists."

These words marked the beginning of what has become a thriving community of worship. In anticipation of the decree, Archbishop Vachon sent the Rev. E.F. Bambrick to Buckingham to help set up the new parish. He would consequently be appointed our first pastor.

Erection decree of the removable parish of Our Lady of Victory of Buckingham, January 22, 1942

To all who the presents shall see, we make known that:

WHEREAS, firstly, a petition dated December twenty eight 1931, followed by another petition dated January twenty eight 1932, has been presented to US by a certain number of freeholders, English-speaking parishioners of the Parish of St. Gregory of Nazianze of Buckingham, asking an English-speaking Parish to be erected from the actual Parish of St. Gregory's of Buckingham:

- 1) That the existence in the said parish of a great number of worshippers who understand the English language only or the French language only necessitates the repetition in the two languages of all the announcements given from the pulpit on Sundays, and obliges the parish priest to curtail his spiritual instructions, or to prolong the Church services;
- 2) That the number of those speaking and understanding each of the two prevalent languages justifies the dismemberment or subdivision of the parish into two parts, the one to be administered as a French Parish and the other as an English Parish;
- 3) That the better interests of Religion require the erection of the said Parish;
- 4) That the petitioners and those they represent are sufficiently numerous to support a Church and a Pastor;
- 5) That the petitioners assure that they are not unmindful of the services rendered to them by their former pastors and Curates of St. Gregory's;

Therefore, the Holy Name of God having been invoked, having conferred on the matter with the Reverend Father Avila Bélanger, Pastor of St. Gregory's, and having in view the best interest of the souls confided to Our care, We, in pursuance of an Apostolic Indult requested by Canon 216, 4 of the Code, and granted by a Rescript of the Sacred Consistorial Congregation, have erected and do hereby erect into a separate and distinct removable parish under the name of Our Lady of Victory, for the Catholics of Buckingham speaking the English language, domiciled within the said parish of Saint Gregory of Nazianze of Buckingham, such as it actually exists.

The head of the family shall determine the nationality of its members, reserving, however, the right of the Archbishop to decree otherwise.

This "removable" Parish to be and remain entirely under Our spiritual jurisdiction, with the obligation on the part of the Rectors or administrators who shall be appointed by Us or By Our Successors to conform to the rules of Ecclesiastical discipline in this Diocese, especially to administer the Sacraments, to preach the Word of God and to procure to the faithful of this parish all required spiritual help which Religion can give, the faithful being commanded to pay to the Rectors and administrators the required tithes or dues as well as the other offerings which are wont to be made and are authorized in this Diocese, and to show their respect and obedience in all things appertaining to Religion and conducing to their eternal welfare.

We have decided and do hereby decide that, out of the proposed sites for the church and rectory of the future parish, there be chosen, on account of its centrality, the property described for municipal purposes at Lot No 345 situated on the eastern side of Charles Street, Buckingham, Hull District.

We appoint the Reverend Ernest Bambrick Pastor of the new parish allowing him to organize it as soon as possible.

Given at Ottawa, from the Archbishop's Palace, under Our hand and seal and the signature of Our Chancellor, this 22nd day of January One thousand nine hundred and forty two.

+ Alexandre Vachon
Archevêque d'Ottawa

Alexandre Vachon,
Archbishop of Ottawa

J. Lebeau

J. Lebeau, Chancellor

SOLEMN CELEBRATION



The first Mass was celebrated on January 25th, 1942 in the building which was then known as Cameron's store, but what most people in Buckingham still know as Haspect's Bowling Lanes. It is located on the northeast corner of Main and Market streets.



The church's first home deserves a word of explanation. Being converted from a general store, and at one time home to La Scala movie theatre, a good deal of preparatory work was necessary before the space could be used for worship. The room had formerly been used to store, among other things, animal hides. Money was scarce, but the energy and determination which comes with vision transformed the space into a suitable place to celebrate the sacraments. Modest and temporary though it was, a parish had been born.



The first three wardens of the new parish. From the top: Allan MacMillan, William Gorman, Leo McDonnell.

With a church to call their own, the pioneer parishioners were content to grow gradually and steadily. The first altar was bestowed to the parish by St. Malachy's church in Mayo, and the original pews were bought from a Presbyterian Church in Stittsville, Ontario. Kneeling benches and confessionals were made from 2" x 6" wood obtained from Independent Coal.

The first organ was donated by Agnes and Louise Cosgrove, both of whom would become very active in the church's choirs. The pioneer wardens were William Gorman, Allan McMillan and Leo McDonnell. Mr. McDonnell is the only remaining original warden. He played an active role in OLV's 50th anniversary celebrations.

Until the new rectory was built, the first pastor, Father Bambrick (1942-1951), stayed respectively with the Cosgrove and Kearnan families, and then moved into a home owned by Bert Cameron on Main Street.



Robert Cameron's store - circa 1936. At the time the store became the first O.L.V. church in 1942, Mr. Cameron's son, Reg, was living in the attached residence to the left in the photo.

In this setting Father Bambrick guided and nurtured the new parish. On January 25, 1942, he baptized two babies — Mary Veronica Connolly, daughter of Hugh Michael Connolly and Dorothy Gladys Garvey; and Thomas David Victor Butler, son of Daniel Butler and Evelyn Kelly. The first wedding ceremony was held on May 2, joining James Dalton Appleby and Mary Catherine Madeleine Cullen. The first funeral service was for David Neilon.



Father Bambrick and the first couple married in the new parish - Madeleine Cullen and Dalton Appleby.

A VISION TAKES SHAPE

The parishioners of Our Lady of Victory parish did not wait long to begin the work that would see a permanent place of worship rise on the lot they secured on Charles Street. The community of Buckingham was equally enthusiastic in encouraging the fledgling parish. In the same year the parish was established, the Town of Buckingham sold to O.L.V. the lot (for \$1.00) on which the church today stands. Formerly the site of the Brisebois Hotel, the property had been repossessed by the town for non-payment of taxes.

The digging to begin the foundation was donated courtesy of the Electric Reduction Company (ERCO), now called Albright and Wilson, The Americas. The Company provided both the use of a power shovel and crew to do the work. On October 13th, 1942 the ground was broken and the excavation completed in three days.

Our Lady of Victory Church was designed by Ottawa architect Auguste Martineau and built in two instalments. Construction of the "basement church", upon which a superstructure would be added as resources permitted, began as soon as excavation of the lot was completed. It cost about \$50,000 and was completed in April 1943.

In the middle of World War Two, building supplies were at a premium. For example, wood pillars were used instead of steel because the latter could not be found. The wood pillars have since been replaced with steel support.

The bell that called parishioners to worship was donated by the Town of Buckingham. It was replaced by an electronic bell system when the superstructure was completed in 1958.

The parish rectory was completed and ready for its first occupant by Christmas Eve, 1943. By then, parishioners were well settled into their new church and



Brisebois Hotel - early 1900s. On the present day site of O.L.V. church on Charles Street. The hotel was destroyed by fire in the mid-1920s.



The basement church was completed in April 1943 and was in use until the superstructure was completed in late 1958.



things were running smoothly. Everything was in its proper place, and people began to look forward to the day when the church was fully completed.

Interior of the basement church, which is presently the parish hall. The choir was located behind the lattice work on the left of the altar.

Archbishop Alexandre Vachon and Father E.F. Bambrick, the founding pastor, on the occasion of the Archbishop's first visit to the new parish on May 31, 1942. This photo was taken in front of the residence of Reg Cameron, adjacent to the church.



Procession to the church on the occasion of the first visit of Archbishop Vachon. Left to right are Father Bambrick, Martin Cullen, (unknown), Lorne Cullen, Father Gerald Gorman, (unknown), Archbishop's assistant, Archbishop Vachon, Angus Garvey, Robert Costello. In centre foreground are cross-bearer Bernard Costello and Acolytes Gerald Kane (left) and Burton Gorman (right).



In a souvenir program from a St. Patrick's concert dated 1946, a progress report on the church describes the basement as:

"While not pretentious, it is nevertheless clean, neat and comfortable and has a seating capacity of over three hundred. Besides the church proper and sanctuary, we have the choir in its correct liturgical place, the priests' and sanctuary boys' sacristy and baptistry.

During the Fall and Winter of 1943-1944 a new Glebe House was built. Thanks to the efficient fiscal management of our pastor and trustees and the generosity and kind co-operation of our people, the sum of over sixteen thousand dollars has been saved and paid on our debt."



First Communion group - May 18, 1947. Front row: Dorothy Ann Dunlop, Ann Smith, Bernadette Goulet, Mary Alice Kearnan, Veronica Raby. Second row: Delcourt Soucy, Matthew Brown, Gordon McDonnell, Carl Hamilton, John Butler, Mark Pearson, unknown, Kerry Carling, Blair Constantin.



First Communion group - 1946. Front row: Mary Butler, Jane Neville, Clarisse Bergeron, Susan Cameron, Marina Champagne, Bernadette Lawlis, Father Bambrick, Cecil Clemis, Leo Gorman, Ken Pearson, Gary Pearson. Back row: Dan McFaul, Raymond Lacelle, Clarence Kavanaugh.



Confirmation Group - September 19, 1957. Clergy left to right: Fr. Fogarty, Archbishop Lemieux, Monsignor Brunet of St. Gregory's parish, Father Brennan of Assumption parish. First row, left to right: Ronnie Girard, Peter Lacelle, Michel Groulx, James Ladue, Brian Limmer, Donald Kearnan, Terry Carling, John McDonnell, Robert Bastien, Francis Furmanczyk, Conrad Charette, Fernand Desjardins. Middle row, left to right: Patrick McDonnell, Gerald Connelly, Paul Nixon, Linus Weatherdon, Andrew Seguin, Pat Hayes, Raymond Lepine. Back row, left to right: Robert Clemis, Mark Lemieux, Ronald Nadon, Ken Simpson, Normand Pelletier, Michael French, Barry Roach. Beside Fr. Brennan: Albinus Butler.



First Communion Group - 1959. First row, left to right: Linda Archer, Ann Cosgrove, Betty-Ann Dupuis, Theresa Bejenko. Second row, left to right: Kathleen O'Hara, Monique Robitaille, Elaine Stanyar, Linda Brazeau, Donna French, Linda Berndt, Maureen Tremblay, Diane Cameron, Marsha Roos. Third row, left to right: Richard Racicot, Thomas Furmanczyk, Paul Lacelle, Lawrence Furmanczyk, James Pearson, Dennis Fleuguel, Bruce Pearson, Carl Piecha, Thomas Carling, Patrick Chartrand, Eugene Ouellette, Francis Kane, Richard Carriere, Terrence Cameron, Daniel Cameron, Maurice Laurin. Note original altar railing and pre-Vatican II position of altar.



Confirmation, June 19, 1963. Group A. Front row, left to right: Perry French, Charles Lemieux, Suzanne Petit, Suzanne Dupuis, Nancy Pearson, Patsy Teske, Jane Carriere, Nancy Carriere, Anne Robitaille, Steve Gay, Dennis Fleuguel. Second row, left to right: Charles Tassé, Christopher Archer, Richard O'Hara, Jennifer Bigelow, Jeannie Desjardins, Frances McFaul, Joanne Nadon, Brian Burke, Michael Lavell. Third row, left to right: Margaret Gauvreau (principal), David O'Hara, Timothy Ryan, Donna Rose, Francine Lepine, Ann Furmanczyk, Brenda Goulet, (unknown), Debbie Farnand, Beverly Hewson, Richard Ladue, Michael Farnand, Tony Carriere, Peter Forcier, Bernadette Gauvreau (teacher). Back row, left to right: Herbert McFaul (sponsor), Father A.B. Ferguson, Bishop Windle, Catherine McFaul (sponsor).



Confirmation, June 19, 1963. Group B. Front row, left to right: Randy Soucy, Louise Tremblay, Madeleine Gauthier, Christine Price, Margaret Robitaille, Mary Furmanczyk, Irene Lemieux, Barbara Lavell, Gary Frederick. Second row, left to right: Jack McGurn, Pat Cullen, Lynn Matte, Lyla Stephens, Wanda Ouellette, Joann Kearnan, Betty-Ann Brazeau, Kathleen O'Hara, Francis Furmanczyk. Third row, left to right: Margaret Gauvreau (principal), Richard Nixon, Reggie Pearson, Carol French, Nancy Kane, Clare French, Judy Farnand, Patricia Murphy, Stephen Carriere, Richard Racicot, Loretta Nixon (teacher). Back row, left to right: Herbert McFaul (sponsor), Father A.B. Ferguson, Bishop Windle, Catherine McFaul (sponsor).



Confirmation, June 19, 1963. Group C. Front row, left to right: Louis McFaul, Denis Marinier, Philip Connolly, Diane Marinier, Barbara Lavell, Norman Cameron, Lionel Stooke, Michael Dalton, Peter Bisson. Second row, left to right: Thomas Butler, Larry Cameron, Grant Pearson, Nancy Cameron, Joan Fleuguel, Faye Cosgrove, Debbie Clement, Leah Butler, O'Neill Tremblay, Sandy Assad, Pat Kane. Third row, left to right: Margaret Gauvreau (principal), Mark Cameron, F. Newton, Anne Marie Lemieux, Lynn Limmer, Sandra Murphy, June Preston, Carol-Ann Giroux, Michael Desjardins, Genevieve Constantin (teacher). Back row, left to right: Herbert McFaul (sponsor), Father A.B. Ferguson, Bishop Windle, Catherine McFaul (sponsor).

JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT

The mid-1940s were perhaps one of the busiest periods in the church's history, but there was always time and energy for a little fun. Looking back, the 1940s and 1950s were the heyday of amateur entertainment in the parish community.

Because there were so many people of Irish descent in Buckingham and at OLV, St. Patrick's Day was always elaborately celebrated. The diverse talents of amateur actors, singers and comedians all found a means of expression on

Cast of "Laughing Irish Eyes", March 17, 1950. Left to right, back row: Patrick Ryan, Robert Costello, Martin Cullen, Lorne Cullen, Bernard Costello, Helen Ladue. Front row: Marie Vallillee, Rita Belter, Claire Chenier, Bae Martin, Frances Mahler, Augustine Neville, Peggy Lawlis.





*Cast of "Blarney Street",
March 17, 1954. Left to
right: Lorraine Cullen,
Martin Cullen, Margaret
Dorion, Everett Pearson,
Bae Martin, Owen
Campbell, Hugh Lemieux,
Reg Cameron, Andrew
Neville, Janet Addy,
Joseph Doherty, Marie
Devlin, Norah Renwick,
Rolly Poirier, Edgar
Neville.*



*Cast of "Norah Wake
Up", March 17, 1955.
Left to right: Lorne
Cullen, Lenora Dunning,
Jack Bingham, Roger
Frankham, Barbara
Martin, Harold Cullen,
Raymond McDonnell,
Bae Martin, Joseph
Doherty, Janet Addy, Reg
Cameron, Diane Martin,
Margaret Dorion, Hugh
Lemieux, Marie Devlin,
Andrew Neville.*

March 17. As much as any other facet of our parish life, St. Patrick's Day contributed to a living sense of community in the church.

But celebrating St. Patrick's Day did not begin when Our Lady of Victory opened its doors. In fact, The Buckingham Post records that in both Buckingham and Mayo, the day had been celebrated as far back as the turn of the century.

The St. Patrick's tradition at OLV was also preceded by the work of a St. Patrick's Society which was formed in Buckingham in the 1930s. Composed of young English-speaking Catholic men and women, it sponsored concerts on March 17. Many of the same people who were involved in those entertainment activities were responsible for founding the concert tradition at OLV when its doors opened.

Many amateur actors and entertainers were no strangers to the stage. At school throughout the 1930s the Brothers and Sisters encouraged dramatics among students, teaching them how to act, move on stage, prepare for roles. They also provided props, costumes and make-up to help students bring their performances to life. Brother Francis, a member of the Brothers of Christian Instruction, was particularly interested in developing dramatic talent in students. He played a big part in encouraging students to perform for their peers in shows staged at St. Michael's College.

The first St. Patrick's play was performed in the parish in 1942 by a group of actors from the Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary church in Eastview (now Vanier). The pastor of the Eastview church at the time was Father Gerald Gorman, a former

Cast of "Peg O' My Heart", March 17, 1957.
 Back row, left to right:
 Lorenzo Cadieux, Harold Cullen, Edmund Costello, Lorne Cullen, Robert Pearson, Father Fogarty, Rolly Poirier, Gordon McDonnell, Gregory McDonnell, Jack Bingham. Front row, left to right: Margaret Dorion, Veronica Raby, Helen Cullen, Loretta Raby, Frances (Bae) Martin, Joan Cameron.



Buckingham boy whose brother William was one of the founding members of OLV.

The following year the parish staged its own play called "Blarney Street" under the direction of Harold Gorman. Thus began the long tradition of the three-act play.

The annual St. Patrick's concerts were sponsored by the Holy Name Society. From 1942 until 1952, concerts were held at St. Michael's College hall. In 1953 the venue was changed to Buckingham High School. Entertainment continued to be staged there until 1959, when the superstructure of the church allowed for the conversion of the "basement church" into a church hall.

The concert was always preceded in the afternoon by a St. Patrick's tea, a tradition that continues to this day. The play itself was usually a comedy, in keeping with the nature of the day. Musical entertainment before and during intermissions rounded out the popular event.

Rehearsals began two to three months before St. Patrick's Day. A committee chose a play in December or early January, keeping in mind the parish's available talent as well as the royalty fee for every performance of the play.

The services of the director also had to be donated. Initially, the committee engaged outside directors like Bernard McManus, Roger Frankham and Purvis Wood. Later, directors were chosen from within the parish. Rehearsals would begin in January in borrowed halls until the superstructure was built. Actors usually met Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sunday afternoons, and more frequently as St. Patrick's Day approached.

Players traditionally gave as many as three performances: two evening performances, one of which was always on March 17; and a performance on the Sunday preceding March 17, for which special prices were offered school children.

The men and women involved in the concerts in the early years cherish many fond memories. Plays with names like "Turning the Trick", "Too Many

Relatives", and "And Lose His Own Soul" evoke nostalgic smiles for many, and pique the interest of the younger generations who were not around to see them.

Reg Cameron, an enthusiastic participant on the stage, recalls a number of amusing anecdotes. Back in 1953 the cast of "And Lose His Own Soul" was taken on the road to Arnprior. This was a common event in years when circumstances warranted and interest was expressed. Reg played a priest in the play, and dressed in his cassock backstage after the performance, he was chatting with local priest and old friend Father Kennedy.

Father Kennedy said to Reg "This is one of our parishioners, Father, and he would like you to bless his beads." After a wink from Father Kennedy, Reg obliged by going through the motions while, unseen by the old fellow, Father Kennedy silently pronounced the real blessing. Reg finally said to the old fellow, "You know, I'm not really a priest." The old man replied "Aw, go on with you, you're just saying that." Reg replied, "No, really, I'm a married man with seven children." The old fellow said "You're tellin' a lie, Father, you're tellin' a lie."

In the years that followed, the three-act play gave way to one or more one-act plays. In the early 1970s the stage in OLV hall was completely removed.

Proponents of the decision argued that more room was needed to accommodate other activities such as bingos and suppers. Unfortunately, the lack of stage facilities spelled the beginning of the end of a tradition. Interest gradually diminished and the annual St. Patrick's Day concerts became less ambitious. Finally, years lapsed when plays and other forms of entertainment on St. Patrick's day were no longer staged.

Concerts were revived in the mid-1980s through the efforts of veteran organizers and younger church members. While not as elaborately presented, the

entertainment provided on St. Patrick's day still has the power to pack the church hall.

The dramatics at OLV would not have attained their legendary status without the influence of the Cullen family, at the centre of which was the late Harold (Toody) Cullen. He was the driving force behind entertainment activities in the first 30 years of the parish's life.

Toody was multi-talented. He was an excellent M.C., had a natural talent for comedy, could sing a song well and sell it to listeners, and had a special rapport with his audiences. He was a fine actor who performed in many plays and skits, and very capably produced and directed most productions from 1942 until his death in 1974. A parish like OLV only ever has one "Toody". To a couple of generations of people, he was Mr. St. Patrick's.

Toody was ably supported in his efforts by his talented sister and brothers. Madeleine Cullen Appleby performed in a number of the early plays before leaving Buckingham. Lorne Cullen, who is best remembered for a fine singing voice, performed in most St. Patrick's Day plays and entertained audiences with songs between acts. He was devoted to the tradition, and was involved until a couple of years before his death in 1992.

Martin Cullen sang and acted alongside his brothers and sister in the years of the big productions. With his brothers Lorne and Toody he sang the traditional Irish songs and co-wrote and performed a number of one-act skits written by the threesome. He produced and directed plays with great success, and was largely responsible for the resurgence of the St. Patrick's Day concert in the mid-1980s.



Father Richard Metzenfeldt assisted in the administration of the parish in 1956.

OUR HOPES ARE REALIZED

Plans to cover the "basement church" with a permanent superstructure were never far from the minds of parishioners and their successive pastors. Through the years between 1943 and the end of 1958, as parish life settled into routine, we were blessed one after another with committed spiritual leaders. They guided us in our Christian lives and led us to our dream of worshipping in a church of which we could be truly proud.

Father Ernest Francis Bambrick, our founding pastor, directed us in our formative years, the years during which we accomplished the first critical steps to build our church and gain our footing as an independent and respected parish in the community. Following his departure in 1951, we were honoured to have Father Wilfred Nevins as our pastor. Father Nevins carried on the challenging work as spiritual leader of a growing parish and brought us closer to our dream for a completed church. In 1956 Father William Gerald Fogarty replaced Father Nevins. His mandate was an important one — the planning and supervision of building the superstructure and enlarging the rectory. Father Fogarty spent only three years in Buckingham, leaving soon after the church was blessed in June 1959. However, his influence, together with the dedicated efforts of his predecessors, will always be felt in the church.

Three former pastors. Left to right: Father W.G. Fogarty, Father W.N. Nevins, Father E.F. Bambrick. October 18, 1952.



Visit to the parish by Archbishop Alexandre Vachon - September 12, 1948. Left to right: Father Bambrick, Archbishop Vachon, Hugh McGurn (one of the founders of the parish).



Father Edward Lyons, S.F.M. Father Lyons assisted in the administration of the parish in 1956.

As a community of worshippers, in our first 15 years as a parish we were assisted on weekends with great devotion by priests from the English Oblates. Most of the Oblate Fathers were members of the staff of St. Patrick's College in Ottawa.

The superstructure design created by architect Auguste Martineau cost parishioners \$125,000. A mortgage of \$100,000 was taken out; the balance of about \$25,000 was sitting in the bank, a diocesan fund where parishes could place their surplus funds, at interest, and the money would be loaned by the Archbishop to parishes in need. Together with the \$60,987.50 in interest fees, the mortgage on the church totaled \$170,987.50. On December 15, 1973, the mortgage was burned in a special ceremony. English-speaking Catholics

now owned their own church outright. When the superstructure was built, an addition was made to the rectory which almost doubled its size. It was joined to the church with a connector, was equipped with a separate housekeeper's quarters, a large dining room, and new kitchen. With the church basement now free, the space was converted into a church hall. The sacristy was turned into a kitchen, and the altar boys' room was converted into what is today called the conference room. The church itself was built by contractor Donat St-Amour.

The first Mass in the new church was celebrated on Christmas Eve, 1958. It was blessed on June 21, 1959 by Archbishop M.J. Lemieux of Ottawa. On this auspicious occasion, Father Fogarty presided. Shortly thereafter, he would leave to become pastor of Our Lady of the Annunciation church in Hull. Interestingly, Father Fogarty would return to participate in Our Lady of Victory's 25th anniversary in 1967 and the parish's 40th anniversary in 1982. By then he was Monsignor Fogarty.

During this period, somewhere around 1956-57, the parish bought the house beside the rectory for use as a caretaker's home. Over the years a number of families have occupied the home while employed by the church. In 1964, the church acquired the property on the corner of Charles and Joseph Street. Formerly the site of The Buckingham Creamery and a co-operative store, the building burned in 1963. Today, the lot is beautifully landscaped and kept by the caretaker.

In September 1960 Our Lady of Victory school opened its doors. While it was not a parochial school, the church and the school with the same namesake were closely linked. The pastor of the Our Lady of Victory Church was responsible for the spiritual needs of the pupils. After 25 years in service to the English Catholic community, a decision was made in 1985 to close the school. Parents believed that with declining enrolment and other pressures, joining forces with the Western Quebec Protestant School Board was the most practical way to ensure their children continue to obtain the best quality education available.



Blessing of the new church, June 21, 1959. Procession led by the Pastor, Father Fogarty. Cross-bearer Peter Dunlop and two acolytes preceding Archbishop Lemieux, Father Bambrick (left), Father McCoy (right) followed by the altar servers.



View of the blessing of the new church.

The school spirit found at Our Lady of Victory school in its 25-year history matches that which still exists in our church. Students and personnel alike share many fond memories of their "school" days. Many would agree it is due in large measure to the commitment of the church to see to the spiritual needs of the students.

LIFE IN THE PARISH COMMUNITY

In the parish's early years, a number of societies, committees and other organizations were created that have had a great impact on the community of parishioners ever since. One of the most prominent of them was the Altar Society, which was established by Father Bambrick around 1942. The Altar Society was an organization comprised of women whose responsibility was to provide and maintain the priest's vestments, altar cloths, and altar boys' surplices.



O.L.V. school



Top left: St. Lawrence Academy, sometimes referred to as "the convent". O.L.V. school occupied space in this building until moving into the newly constructed O.L.V. school in 1960.

Top right: St. Michael's College



Graduating class from 1959-1960. (Back row, from left) A. Baker, O Soucy, S. Lawliss, W. Kearnan, J. Roach, J. Lahey, F. Weatherdon, E. McNamara, R. Cameron. (Standing in front) C. Laurin, D. Martin.



Teaching and administrative staff at O.L.V. circa 1973. Standing, left to right: Russell Giroux, Mrs. Russell Giroux, Mrs. Betty Bisson, Harvey Cuddihey, Paul Sinclair, Genevieve French, Loretta Nixon, Mike Strimas. Seated, left to right: Marion Champagne, Doris Lemieux, Leona Desjardins (secretary), Norbert Ricard (principal), Bernadette Gauvreau, Genevieve Constantin, Frances Costello.



O.L.V. parish representatives at Holy Name Society rally in Ottawa - June 19, 1955. Left to right: René Laurin, Victor Laurin, Edmund Costello, Bernard Roach, Patrick Dalton, Gilbert Limmer, Joseph Carriere, Reg Cameron, Martin Cullen, Edward Lemieux, Edward Dunlop, Bill Smith, Lloyd Gorman, Dan Smith, John Gorman, Edmund (Slim) McDonnell. Note: The HNS banner seen here is presently on display in the parish hall.

Another important organization, the Holy Name Society (HNS), was formed by Father Bambrick in the 1940s. An organization for men, it was dedicated to the elimination of profanity and the promotion of devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. Every year in the diocese of Ottawa a rally was held for all HNS members. For this purpose and on occasions like the Marian Congress which was held in Ottawa in 1947, a large portable banner was purchased that identified OLV's society.

The second Sunday of each month was Communion Sunday for HNS members. On these mornings the banner was on display in the sanctuary. This was often followed by a Communion breakfast, at which a special guest was invited to speak.

The Holy Name Society met monthly. It is interesting to note that until the superstructure of the church freed the basement for other activities, members met on Sunday evenings in the Town Hall a few steps away. During Father Fogarty's years with us meetings were held in the basement Church.

In the secular life of the parish, the Holy

Name Society founded the Catholic Boy Scouts troop. It also sponsored the popular annual St. Patrick's Day concerts.

In the time of Father Forgarty, the Altar Society changed its name to the Catholic Women's League (CWL). When the HNS wound down and finally disbanded in 1965, members of both the CWL and the HNS joined with the guidance of Father Ferguson to form the Parish Organization. With the arrival of Father Langevin, the function evolved further and was renamed the OLV Society in early 1976.

Essentially, the OLV Society performs the tasks that were once undertaken by the groups from which it evolved. Members continue to devote themselves to the material needs of the parish.

A HALF-CENTURY OF MUSIC

More than any other pastor in the past two decades, Father Jeffrey has cultivated and encouraged a greater integration of music in the Mass. In many ways, his efforts to use music to greater advantage is in keeping with a long tradition in the parish. Many younger parishioners can't recall a time when music played a very formal part in the weekly services. For older members, however, the celebration of the Mass in this fashion is like a revival of part of our heritage.

Choirs in OLV over the course of 50 years have had many incarnations. When the church was established, two separate choirs, senior and junior, were formed to sing the Mass under the guidance of a succession of dedicated directors and organists.

The first senior choir consisted of males only. It was directed and led musically by Louise Cosgrove. She was assisted by her sister Agnes. The junior choir was a mixed group which sang under the guidance of the same two women. In early days, there were three Sunday morning masses — at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The senior choir sang at the third Mass, which was a High Mass. The first Mass of the day was intended for the parish youth. It was attended by

the junior choir. The middle of the three services was a Low Mass.

Louise Cosgrove also played at special services such as weddings and funerals. Several years later, Frances (Bae) Martin took over from Louise Cosgrove as organist. In early years, the weekday service was a High Mass. It was sung by one or two Brothers of St. Michael's College. The Mass was attended by four servers. Later, it was sung by Janet Addy and Bae Martin played.

By 1955 Father Nevins' health was failing and Father Metzenfeldt came to assist him in his pastoral duties. Father Metzenfeldt organized a large senior choir consisting of men, women and children of the parish. However, he only stayed a few months, leaving in the New Year of 1956 to return to studies. It is interesting to note that Father Metzenfeldt was a devotee of the Gregorian chant.

After years of dedicated service, Louise Cosgrove retired from her position as choir director. The void for a time was filled by a Brother from St. Michael's. Soon, however, Lorne Martin was appointed choir director and held the post for many years.

Throughout this period, and up until Father Ferguson's death in 1971, choir directors were assisted on occasion by a number of people in the community. In the 1940s and 1950s, for example, Romeo Chartrand from St. Gregory's parish led a choir of men at Easter masses which began at 6:30 a.m. As well, one or more of the Brothers of Christian Instruction assisted in directing the choir at various times in the group's early history. When Lorne Martin was choir director, he deferred willingly to Father Ferguson in the Christmas season when a large, mixed choir was formed to celebrate Midnight Mass. Father Ferguson was an accomplished pianist and had an extensive background in sacred music. His contribution in this area was appreciated.



Madeleine Gauthier, a leader of the junior choir who provided guitar accompaniment.



The longest serving choir leader the parish has had is Betty Filiatreault, who took up her duties in the early 1970s and remains in the position today. Mrs. Filiatreault began by guiding the junior choir, but later took over the same duties for the senior choir, which consists now of a number of parish women. On Sunday mornings, and on other occasions, the senior choir is accompanied by Gerry Cullen on the organ. Gerry took over as organist from Bae Martin sometime in the late 1960s. He remained as parish organist until 1980 or 1981, when he was replaced by Marg Dorion and then Kay Cosgrove. Gerry returned as organist in 1990.

Junior choir, 1978. Front row, left to right: Gail Dunnigan, Darlene Miller, Edward Dunnigan, David Laframboise. Middle row, left to right: Debbie Jeror, Mary Ann Lotz, Carla Wert, Ann-Margaret Lotz, Tom Lotz. Back row, left to right: Linda Cameron, Joanne Cameron, Gale Jeror, Jane McNamara.

The most recent junior choir was established in early 1973, when Father Berube approached Our Lady of Victory School about organizing a student group of singers. The project began with 36 pupils from the upper elementary

Group photo taken on the occasion of the presentation of Colours to the 2nd Buckingham Boy Scout Troop and Cub Pack by the Lions Club, St. Michael's College Hall, June 10, 1948.

Seated: Angus Cameron, Alvin Schryer, Sc. Comm., Frank McKinnon, Pres. Lions Club, Father E.F. Bambrick, P.P., and Patrick J. MacGrath, Dist. S.m. First row: Patrick Ryan, S.m., Douglas Brown, C.M., Lorne Cullen, T.L., Raymond Dalton, Robert Cameron, Cecil Clemis, Kenny Daoust, Thomas Dorion, James Cameron, Delcourt Soucy, Leo Laurin, David Cameron, Dalton Appleby, A.S.m. and Robert Costello. Second row: Michael Lawlis, unknown, William Kearnan, Paul L'Abbé, Gilbert Raby, Andrew Neville, Raymond Goulet, Louis Bigelow, Hilary Lawlis, Kenneth Pearson and Raymond Gorman. Third row: Frank McDonnell, Robert McDonnell, Patrick Gorman, Steve Vallillee and Edmund Ryan.



grades, but their numbers dwindled over time. While he was a teacher at OLV, Mike Strimas directed the group, which was often accompanied by Lyall and Hugh Campbell on guitar.

Over the years, faces changed in the choir. Tony Cullen, son of OLV's current organist Gerry Cullen, accompanied the choir for a time on guitar. Later, Madeleine Gauthier provided music and leadership for the group, which was originally led by Betty Filiatreault. This group began by singing at the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, but later moved to the Saturday evening Mass. As Madeleine Gauthier's schedule grew busier and prevented her from playing, Gale Jeror played guitar. She and Karen Laframboise were very helpful while they were members of the group. In 1976 this choir performed at Ottawa city hall when the city celebrated its 150th anniversary. They also appeared on CJOH's "New Faces" program. Always evolving, the group began over time to admit adult members, many of whom were the mothers of younger members. Today, there is one choir under Betty Filiatreault's guidance which serves Sunday masses as well as funeral and other special services. Today, there is no Saturday evening choir.

THE PARISH YOUTH

The 2nd Buckingham Scout Troop and Wolf Cub Pack existed from 1947 to 1973. They were founded by Patrick Ryan, who was impressed by the services the organizations rendered at the Ottawa Marian Congress in 1947. He believed a Scouts and Cubs organization would help the parish and benefit the boys who joined.

The many boys who were part of the "2nd Buckingham" were trained in the skills typically taught by the organization. The succession of adult leaders, most notably Patrick Ryan and Bill Lawlis, gave generously of their time over the years to create great memories for hundreds of local boys. With the help of the parish, a Scout hall was built and tents and other necessary supplies were bought for camping and other activities.

Unfortunately, someone set fire to the Scout hall and the equipment was destroyed. As well, interest in the organization dwindled and leaders became more difficult to find. In 1973 the "2nd Buckingham" was forced to surrender its charter.



2nd Buckingham Boy Scout Troop, Winter Camp, Big Lake, Blanche, February 27 to March 1st, 1953. Left to right: John Sellers, Raymond Delcourt, R. McDonnell, Armand Daoust, Kenneth Pearson, Mathew Brown and K. Carling. Second row: Raymond Dalton, Gregory McDonnell, Carl Hamilton, Philip Pearson, Cecil Clemiss, Edward Bisson and Leo Laurin. Third row: Andrew Nadon, Gordon McDonnell, Delcourt Soucy and Kenneth Daoust. Fourth row: Patrick Ryan, Leo Gorman and William Lawlis.



2nd Buckingham Boy Scout Troop, 1st class awards, Friday, June 4th, 1965, O.L.V. parish hall. Left to right, first row: Louis McFaul and Stephen Carriere. Second row: Mark Cameron, John Rae, Michael Cameron, Albinus Butler, Frank Kane and Lynas Butler. Third row: Reginald Pearson, William Fortier, Ronald Lavell, James Pearson, George Gauthier, James Desjardins, Donald Kearnan, Joseph Quible, William Lawlis, Brian Limmer, William Pearson, Richard Racicot, Donald Judge, Ronald Gerard, Kenneth Simpson and Bruce Pearson. In background is Father Ferguson.

Girl Guides, June 25, 1959. Front row, left to right: Ann Cullen, Lynn Wallingford, Maureen Cullen, Velma French, Theresa Gauthier. Second row, left to right: Eileen Jeffrey (leader), Jean Costello, Judy Tremblay, Mary Lou Fraser, Mary Lou McGurn, (unknown), Barbara Weir (leader), Christine Cameron, Ann Fortier, Debbie Maloney, Betty Ann Gorman.



In their time, the Scouts and Cubs were a great asset to the parish. The organization was an ideal setting in which children had fun while learning to be good Christians and citizens. The organization of Girl Guides and Brownies played a similar role for the girls of Our Lady of Victory. Sponsored by the CWL, the first enrolment and induction ceremony took place June 25, 1959. It was the only Guide group in Buckingham, and being non-sectarian, it welcomed girls from all religious denominations. The creation of the movement was made possible in part when the basement church was freed for secular activities.

The first leaders of the Guide company were Eileen (Ryan) Jeffrey and Barbara (Martin) Weir. The Brownie pack was led by Margery Ryan and Caroline Maloney. Other leaders over the years were Kay Whyte, Evelyn Robitaille, Mary Stanyar and Ann MacLennan. The movement was an active one in the community and in parish activities. Like their counterparts in Scouts and Cubs, the Guides and Brownies learned practical and social skills that prepared them for adulthood.

Thanks to a number of generous parishioners who gave of their time, hundreds of Buckingham and area women cherish many fond memories of their days as Guides and Brownies. Among the leaders over the years were Denise Judge, Rita Horton, Lena McFaul, Helen Desjardins, Anne-Marie Lemieux, Maureen Dunlop, Ethel Pearson, Vivian Simpson, Peggy Nadon and Sandra Pearson.

In the 1980s, interest in the Guide movement began to wane. By 1990 it was no longer active and was abandoned. However, the Brownie movement continues to be active. Among the dedicated leaders is Monique Robitaille Simpson, who keeps Brownie traditions alive.

A number of other committees have come and gone as need has arisen. Among them were a Youth Committee, Bingo Committee, and Dance Committee. The work they accomplished and money they raised to help pay off parish debts can not be overestimated. Their dedication is part of the fabric of Our Lady of Victory.

WORSHIP IN CHALLENGING TIMES

The 1960s and early 1970s were a time of transition for the Catholic Church. In the context of Our Lady of Victory's 50-year history, challenges were met during times which were busy but, compared to our building years, were uneventful.

Father Donald MacDonald ushered in the 1960s. Replacing Father Fogarty in 1959, his primary focus while he was here was to continue to guide a growing congregation in its Christian faith. As well, Father MacDonald assumed the material consideration of paying off the debts incurred in the construction of the new superstructure.

Father MacDonald's departure in 1961 brought the arrival of Father Alexander Ferguson, who would be with us for a decade until his death. Father Ferguson was a very capable Christian leader in what were challenging times for the Catholic Church.

In 1967, Our Lady of Victory celebrated its 25th anniversary in the same year as Canada marked its centennial. The occasion was marked on October 8 of that year with a memorable celebration in the church. Unfortunately, Bishop Charbonneau of the newly-created Diocese of Hull was unable to attend. On that day J.P. Laurin, Ltd. dedicated a marble plaque to the parish with the names and dates of the pastors of our Lady of Victory. The plaque today hangs in the vestibule of the church.

As much as a devoted pastor, Father Ferguson is remembered as a very capable administrator. He played an instrumental and long-term role in eliminating our debt. Unfortunately, when the church's mortgage was burned in 1973 he was not alive to celebrate with the parish.



Former pastor D.D. MacDonald baptizing two new parishioners. (left) Holding Shawn Murphy is Mary-Alice Kearnan. Behind her is Michael Mongeon. (right) Holding Larry Carriere is Betty-Ann Mongeon. Behind her is Bill Kearnan.



Father A.B. Ferguson and Father H.C. Braceland, pastor of St. Malachy's with Michael McFaul.



Father Alexander B. Ferguson

Father F. Langevin and Joseph McGurn



Father Blase, Maynooth Fathers



Father Ferguson is OLV's only parish priest to die in office. He died on October 31, 1971 at the age of 53 years. On November 3, a funeral Mass was celebrated by the Bishop. He was later buried in his family plot in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

Father Ferguson's death threatened to leave the parish without a permanent priest for the first time in OLV's history. The problem was solved temporarily when Father Blase, a Franciscan priest, was named administrator. When he was recalled to his order, he was replaced by Father Maurice Egan, pastor of St. Aloysius Church in Gatineau. The parish is indebted to both men for helping us through a difficult time.

A NEW ERA BEGINS

Our church began its long relationship with The Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette when Father John Berube was appointed our pastor in 1972. With more than one thousand parishioners, the Reverend Provincial saw that OLV could not go long without a priest to minister to it.

Father Berube's work continued where Father Ferguson's left off. He was committed to promote both the Christian and material well-being of the parish. Great improvements were made to the church during his time with us. The grounds were landscaped, renovations to the church and rectory were made, and parish life flourished.

On December 15, 1973, Father Berube was with us as we fulfilled a long cherished dream — the burning of our mortgage. In just over 30 years, and with the generous grace of God, Our Lady of Victory grew from modest beginnings with borrowed and donated space and materials to a parish with a splendid church, church hall, rectory and a network of support organizations. The event was truly a sign of God's benevolence, and a testimony of our continued faith in Him.

NEW ACHIEVEMENTS

Father Fernand Langevin was the second of The Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette to serve as our spiritual leader. He came in 1975 and to date has been our longest-serving parish priest.

With Father Langevin's guidance, a number of projects were undertaken that promoted the parish's spiritual and material growth. In response in the late 1970s to Canada's decision to receive thousands of Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees, or "boat people" as they were then called, our church played its own

small but vital part. Together with St. Malachy's Parish in Mayo and the Buckingham Anglican and United Churches, a refugee family was sponsored and given the assistance they needed to establish themselves in their newly adopted country.

The family consisted of Chhay Bun and his wife Savan, and Chhay's brother Theang. They were assisted by Bill Cameron, who directed the sponsorship, and Eileen Jeffrey, who saw to their practical living needs. After the family gained its footing in Canada, members moved on to follow job opportunities. Their time with us was a valuable lesson in how blessed we have been by God and how important it is to share our bounty.

When Father Clement Braceland of St. Malachy's died on August 10, 1977, the parish was left without a priest. After consultation with the diocese, Father Langevin took on the duties of the neighbouring parish. These duties also included the obligations of the annual pilgrimage to Our Lady of Knock Shrine. Under his guidance the pilgrimage continued to be an annual success.

Father Langevin served as pastor of St. Malachy's until 1987. Today, Father Jeffrey is as committed as his predecessor was in carrying out his pastoral duties. The two parishes collaborate amiably on a number of liturgical and social activities.



"Farewell to Father Langevin"

Father Langevin and Leo McDonnell, one of the three founding wardens of the parish.



Father Langevin flanked by two church wardens. On the left, Regis Lemieux; on the right, Eileen Jeffrey.



Father Langevin receiving a presentation from Edward Dunnigan on behalf of the altar servers.



Father John Brady, the first pastor of St. Gregory's parish.

THE CEMETERY PROJECT

Another project for which Father Langevin will be remembered is the restoration of Buckingham's first Catholic cemetery on Church Street. Situated on land donated in the mid-1830s to the first Catholic mission by Constantine O'Neill, the cemetery is a link to the beginnings of our faith in Buckingham.

All that remains of Buckingham's first Catholic parish is the 2.5 acre cemetery which has been lovingly restored

through the efforts of Our Lady of Victory. The first chapel was built near the cemetery in 1837 by Father Pascal Brunet and completed by Father John Brady in time for an October 9, 1840 visit by Bishop Ignatius Bourget of Montreal. About the upcoming visit, Father Brady wrote to the Bishop that:

"The people are busy building houses and preparing a bell for the reception of Your Lordship this summer. They have hauled the wood for the presbytery, but they are poor."

On his visit, Bishop Bourget erected the Mission of Buckingham under the patronage of St. Gregory of Nazianze. Father Brady was appointed pastor and given additional duties in surrounding missions. The act of the canonical erection reads:

"We have erected, and do erect by this present act, a new mission which shall be composed of the cantons of Buckingham and Lochaber, and also of all the territory which is on and in the depths of the Lièvre river, on one side as far as the seigneurie of La Petite Nation, permission being given to the people beyond the missions of Aylmer, of Chelsea, of Gatineau, of the River A la Pêche, of Buckingham, of La Petite Nation and of Grenville to fulfill their religious duties in any one of the said missions which shall be more convenient for them. The said mission shall be under the title of St. Gregory of Nazianza. We have ordained that the presbytery, already begun, be finished as soon as possible and that church wardens, in proper assembly, be elected."

Given at Buckingham in the course of our visit, Ignatius Bourget, Bishop of Montreal."

Church of St. Grégoire de Nazianze, the "Mother Parish" from which O.L.V. parish was formed in January 1942.



As Buckingham's first Catholic pastor in 1840, Father John Brady indeed had his hands full, but he expected a full life when he made his decision to become a priest. Born in Ireland in 1798, he emigrated to Montreal in 1834, where he entered the Seminary of Montreal. He was ordained in 1837 and was immediately put to work in the mission field. By 1839, jointly with Father Bourassa, he was placed in charge of all the townships north of Montreal. Settling in La Petite Nation, he soon came to love Buckingham because of the appreciation in which his Christian services were held. In a letter dated November 4, 1838 to Bishop Bourget, he wrote:

"... I saw these poor people so well disposed to profit by the means of salvation which I offered them, that soon the difficulties which at first seemed insurmountable, began to appear less great, especially when I perceived the faithfulness of the people to assemble in their little church, ..."

Ill health forced Father Brady to retire in 1862. He lived until 1880 in a home he built on the road to Thurso.

The land on which the graveyard stands was originally part of a 10-acre property on which the chapel and parsonage stood. There were also fields for use as pasture for the priest's horse and domestic animals, and a place for a garden. About the cemetery, the Bishop stipulated:

"... that the cemetery, by us assigned, be secure from animals by a good fence and then blessed; that there be enclosed at one of the angles of the said cemetery, a parcel of land sufficient to bury children who died without baptism ..."

The earliest memorial found in the cemetery was to mark the grave of a man by the name of Patrick Smith, who died February 1, 1840. By the mid-1850s the Catholic community, which had grown to more than 80 families, had outgrown



the pioneer parish site and a new church was built on the corner of Main and Denis (now Maclaren) streets, on the site of today's Post Office building. The cemetery continued to be used until 1887, when new ground for the cemetery in use today was blessed for that purpose on Main Street south. The original burial site continued to be used occasionally until the 1940s, but by then it had already been abandoned so long it was in dire need of attention.

The first efforts to restore the cemetery began as early as 1954. In 1964 responsibility for the property was transferred from the parish of St. Gregory to that of OLV. Later the same year, the site on which more than 600 Catholics are buried was declared an historical site by the municipality of Buckingham.

Over the next 32 years, volunteers from Our Lady of Victory worked hard to preserve what remained of a valuable part of our heritage. The effort was spearheaded by Bill Lawlis who, in his position as Scoutmaster, led boys in a clean-up operation. Over the next 31 years, various people in the parish worked to keep the cemetery from total destruction.

In the early 1980s during Father Langevin's time with us, the cemetery property was cleared finally of brush and the grounds levelled by a parish group

Dedication of the newly installed central monument in O.L.V. cemetery on Church Street on May 25, 1986. Pictured beside the monument are the two people most responsible for the restoration of the cemetery, Bill Lawlis (left) and Gene Lavell (right). In the background at the right is René Laurin.

under the leadership of Eugene Lavell. The ownership of the property was transferred to Our Lady of Victory from St. Gregory's parish. The restored property was landscaped with new lawns, hedges and a fence. The remaining grave stones, about 40 in all, were re-set and a monument was built.

"Celebration of the 25th anniversary of the ordination of Father Jeffrey in June 1989"



Father Jeffrey speaking at the reception on his 25th anniversary. In the background on the left is Evelyn Robitaille and on the right Robert Dunning, Master of Ceremonies.

The cemetery project culminated in a re-dedication ceremony conducted by Father Langevin on May 25, 1986. He was joined by many parishioners in paying tribute to more than 150 years of Catholic life and service in the community of Buckingham.

Father Langevin was a steadfast and reliable pastor. He was a committed Christian leader whose talents extended to practical stewardship abilities. The blend of both qualities gave great stability to OLV over the course of more than a decade.

In his years as pastor, he saw capably to the material needs of the parish. No longer new, the buildings began to show wear and needed upkeep. The roofs of the church, rectory and kitchen were replaced, the interior of the church was painted, and the church hall and entrance were renovated. Additional landscaping work was also undertaken.

In 1982, Father Langevin played a key role in marking the parish's 40th anniversary. Celebrated on September 25, 1982 with a special Mass, the event brought home many former parishioners and pastors. Mgr Fogarty and Father MacDonald were both in attendance.

LIFE 50 YEARS LATER

Since his arrival in 1987, Father Donald Jeffrey has been enthusiastic in his efforts to lead us in our Christian lives, as well as in preparing us to usher in the 50th anniversary of our existence as a parish. Church life would not be healthy if it were not always evolving. Nor would we do justice to ourselves as a community of Christians if we did not respond to changing times. We have been fortunate to have pastors like Father Jeffrey to guide us as we meet new challenges.

In the past five years, many changes have been effected to make Our Lady of Victory a more vital force in the lives of parishioners and in the community in which they live. With the new ideas brought forth in Vatican II and in our own Diocesan Council, parishioners are expected to take on more responsibility for the spiritual and material operation of their church.

Father Jeffrey celebrating his 25th anniversary Mass flanked by Father Eugene Mills, M.S. (left) and Father René Gagnon, M.S. (right). In background is Father Edward Townsend, M.S.



THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

To the two existing committees — the Finance/ Administration Committee (church wardens) and the Social Committee (OLV Society) — were added a committee for Religious Education, Liturgy, and Social Action. Out of this the Parish Pastoral Council evolved in 1990, a body through which the rightful role of the laity can be exercised in the Church in co-responsibility with the pastor. Together, they assess the needs of the community and respond to them to the best of their ability according to parish resources. They strive to act in the benefit of the common good.

St. Malachy's church in Mayo is active in the Council. Because the pastor of OLV now serves St. Malachy's, a place has been made for two representatives on the Council from the Mayo parish.

As a result of new responsibilities being assumed by parishioners, the new Law of the Fabrique favours a lay president and the directives from the Church encourages a lay person to fill the role of President on the Parish Pastoral Council. Currently, Ann Anderson chairs the meetings of the Church wardens, and Susan Legault heads up the members of the Parish Pastoral Council.

With the closing of Our Lady of Victory school in the spring of 1985, the education of our children in the Catholic religion became an issue. To fill the void, Sunday School instruction was offered in the parish hall. Four years later, the Protestant School Board at the Buckingham Elementary School agreed to add a Catholic Religion Program to its curriculum. This came at the request of Catholic parents. Ann Anderson, a professional teacher, came out of retirement to take charge of this program, which is now secured for our children. Today, according to diocesan policy, OLV concentrates exclusively on preparing children for the Sacraments. It is managed by the Religious Education.



Parish weekend retreat at Galilee Retreat House, August 1990. Standing, left to right: Eileen Jeffrey, Ann Anderson, Ellen Butler, Isabel Laframboise, (unknown), Jean Dunnigan, Susan Legault. Kneeling, left to right: Linda Cameron, Father Jeffrey, Barry Green.



Wardens serving O.L.V. during its fiftieth anniversary celebrations. Seated, left to right: Bertha Rowe, Ann Anderson (president), Ethel Pearson, Father Jeffrey. Standing, left to right: Roland Plouffe, Jerry Lawlis, Regis Butler, Roger Gauthier.



Members of the Pastoral Council during O.L.V.'s 50th anniversary celebrations. Seated, left to right: Jean Dunnigan, Father Jeffrey. Standing, left to right: Ann Anderson, Connie Payette, Ellen Butler, Isabel Laframboise, Eileen Jeffrey. Absent when photo was taken Ghislaine Burke.

Executive Committee of Our Lady of Victory Society during the 50th anniversary celebration. Front, left to right: Dan McFaul, Alma Miller. Rear, left to right: Phil Casey, Dorothy Ann Casey, Mary Lou Lalonde. Missing when photo was taken: Nancy Lanthier (president).



O.L.V. choir during the 50th anniversary celebrations. Front row, left to right: Roberta Farnand, Clare Flynn, Kathleen Brazeau, Gerry Gullen (organist), Evelyn Robitaille. Middle row, left to right: Pierrette Cameron, Eileen Jeffrey, Carmel Gauthier, Kay Cosgrove, Betty Filiatreault (leader). Back row, left to right: Carol Flynn, Melanie Roach, Margaret Dorion, Suzanne Cameron.



Lectors serving the parish during the 50th anniversary year. Front row, left to right: Martin Cullen, Betty Filiatreault, Agnes Jeror, Linda Cameron. Back row, left to right: Eileen Jeffrey, Evelyn Robitaille, George Jeffrey, Bill Cameron, Roger D' Aoust.

THE FUNCTION OF THE LITURGY COMMITTEE

The Liturgy Committee continues to stay in step with the times by implementing new ideas and customs into the Church. We have had women Lectors for some time, but most recently liturgical services have been opened further to women. We now have servers at the altar and eucharistic ministers. As well, the church's ministry has been expanded to include special Eucharistic Ministers to serve the home-bound on a monthly basis.

There are many ways to study and spread the Word of God and help develop the spiritual life of the parish. In important liturgical seasons like Advent and Lent, special meditation booklets are made available to parishioners. General literature for adults and teens is also available at the entrance of the church for additional reading.

The Liturgy Committee also directs parishioners in the decoration of the church in the various liturgical seasons. In our church, the visual aspects of worship contribute to our understanding and celebration of the liturgy. It is also important that parishioners participate in this aspect of church life.

OLV IN THE COMMUNITY

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick has become an annual communal celebration in OLV. Because St. Malachy's Church provides greater physical accessibility to the sick, it is held there every year.

Our Lady of Victory feels strongly about extending parish life into the area. It has, for example, developed a closer relationship with St. Malachy's Church in Mayo, and has encouraged representation on the new committees and the Parish Pastoral Council.

In the wider community, closer links have been established with the diocese and other English-speaking parishes by having two of our parishioners represent OLV on the Pastoral Zone Council. Father Jeffrey was also involved in the creation of VOICE, the English sector diocesan newspaper. Several parishioners have contributed articles to it.

In 1992, our 50th year as a parish was marked by two solemn celebrations, around which were planned a number of activities, comprising traditional parish events and special endeavours.

Our golden jubilee year began on January 25, fifty years to the day that pioneer parishioners gathered for the first Mass in converted warehouse space on Main Street. It was celebrated by Archbishop Roger Ebacher, who was assisted by Father Jeffrey, Father Gilles Genest, and Father Jeffrey's predecessor Father Fernand Langevin. A number of local and visiting priests also participated.

On this occasion, Archbishop Ebacher recounted the days leading up to the creation of the parish; how Our Lady of Victory received its name in the dark



Eucharistic Ministers in O.L.V.'s 50th year. Roger D'Aoust and Isabel Laframboise. Missing when photo was taken: Barry Green.



Altar servers during O.L.V.'s 50th anniversary. Front, left to right: Chris Knapp, Peter McNamara. Rear, left to right: Jennifer Dunning, Matthieu Gratton, Julie Dunning. Missing when photo was taken: Ricky Lanthier, Curtis Butler.



O.L.V.'s committee of ushers who served during the parish's 50th anniversary. Front row, left to right: Norah Renwick, Regis Butler, Phil Casey, Isabel Laframboise. Middle row, left to right: René Desjardins, Peter Dunlop, Mervin Butler, Dorothy Ann Casey. Back row, left to right: Tim Ryan, Curtis Butler, Tom Laframboise, Roger Gauthier, Bertha Rowe. Missing when photo was taken: Georgette and Fred McDonnell, Ken Simpson, Regis Lemieux.



The parish's Liturgy Committee on its golden anniversary. Seated, left to right: Betty Filiatreault, Maureen Dunning, Vivian Lamarche. Standing, left to right: Father Jeffrey, George Jeffrey, Roger Gauthier, Carmel Gauthier, Isabel Laframboise. Missing when photo was taken: Sandra Pearson.



Eucharistic Ministers Serving the Homebound. Front row, left to right: Joseph McGurn, Nell McGurn, Rose Carriere, Lena McFaul. Second row, left to right: Rene Desjardins, Helen Desjardins. Third row, left to right: Isabel Laframboise, Mary Stanyar, Norah Renwick, Carmel Gauthier. Back row, left to right: Tom Laframboise, Hugh McGurn, Roger Gauthier. Missing when photo was taken, Eileen and Mervin Butler, Beverly Belter, Nicole Charbonneau.



Religious Education Committee in the parish's 50th year. Seated, left to right: Ellen Butler, Ann Price, Lorraine Cullen. Standing: Father Jeffrey, Ann Anderson.

days of World War Two when people prayed for peace with victory; and congratulated everyone for their efforts in building a thriving parish in the Buckingham community.

The second major event and the highlight of the year's activities was Homecoming Sunday, held July 19. Intended to bring current parishioners together with former members and clergy, it was a

great success. The Mass was to have been held outdoors at Centennial Place in Buckingham, but rain forced the celebration indoors to the church.

Following the Mass, a reception was held in the church hall, which was decorated for the occasion. Even our 50th anniversary logo, which was displayed prominently in the church and church hall, was home-made. Barry Green's design was chosen after an invitation was extended to parishioners to submit designs for logos. At the reception, a raffle for a water colour painting by Mrs. Vera D'Aoust was drawn and won by Michael Ryan. Also announced were the names of winners of an essay and drawing contest asking children under 12 "What does the 50th anniversary of our parish mean to me?" They were Sara Bisson, Stacey Lanthier, Karen Simpson and Lindsay Clement. Each winner was given \$10, donated by Tom and Isabel Laframboise.



The celebration of the 50th anniversary Mass on January 25, 1992. At the altar, left to right: Father Parent, pastor of St. Grégoire, Father Robitaille, Father Langevin, former pastor, Father E. Townsend, Archbishop Ebacher, Father André Fortin, Father Jeffrey, Father G. Genest, provincial of La Salette Fathers.



Father Jeffrey speaking at the 50th anniversary dinner on January 25, 1992. To his left at head table are Martin Cullen (Master of Ceremonies), Leo McDonnell, one of the original wardens, and Archbishop Ebacher

Later in the afternoon, the sun came out in time for people to enjoy the games planned by Jean and Gene Lavell at Centennial Place.

The 50th anniversary of OLV also coincided with the 20th anniversary of service to the parish by the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette. Father Jeffrey is the third consecutive pastor from that order. He was preceded by Father Langevin and Father Berube.

As a community of Christian believers, we have been truly blessed by God. It is important that we return some of the bounty that has been bestowed upon us over the past 50 years. As a token of gratitude, at Thanksgiving and again at Christmas, we collect canned goods and donate them to the local soup kitchen. This is managed through the services of the Social Action Committee.

As parishioners, we go out into the community and act as ambassadors to our faith and our church. But we also open our doors to all people by inviting them to share in our festivities. The Church hall has always been used as a place of entertainment. Church teas and other activities continue to be held here, but the OLV Society also sponsors occasional dances for the parishioners and their friends. The Mardi Gras and Harvest dances have become perennial favourites.

As always, the church community continues to be vigilant in keeping our buildings as beautiful as they were the day they were completed. Repairs to the church and rectory are made regularly. Recently, the church was given new roofing and flooring. Other repairs are made as necessary.



Social Action Committee. Regis Lemieux, Linda Cameron, Jean Dunnigan, Christine Wert.

Gift-bearers. (Front row, left to right) Rose Carriere, Norah Renwick, Jane McNamara, Georgette McDonnell, Iris Butler, Rita Weatherdon. (Second row, left to right) Mary Stanyar, Val Roy, Carmel Gauthier, Mary Doherty, Beverly Belter, Bertha Rowe. (Third row, left to right) René Desjardins, Helen Desjardins, Joseph McGurn, Nell McGurn, Lena McFaul.



(Back row, left to right) Lowell Carriere, Roger Gauthier, Fred McDonnell, Hugh McFaul. Missing: Anne-Marie Lafleur, Paul Aube, Eileen Butler, Mervin Butler, Dianne Cameron, Sherry Cameron, Larry Cameron, Therese Cameron, Dorothy Ann Casey, Philip Casey, Nicole Charbonneau, Alice Cosgrove, Maureen Dunning, Robert Dunning, Jean Dunnigan, Philip Plouffe.



Cutting the 50th anniversary cake on January 25, 1992. Ann Anderson, current president of the Fabrique, and Leo McDonnell, one of the original three wardens from 1942.

"Fun times in the parish hall"

Our singing pastor, Father Jeffrey, joins Phil Casey and his band in a song.



Father "Uncle Sam" Jeffrey, with clown Clyde Horton at Mardi Gras dance, February 19, 1990.



Celebrating St. Patrick's Day, 1983. Standing left to right: Terry Charbonneau and Michael Farnand. Seated left to right: Bill Cameron and Edward Findlay.



Retirement of Lena McFaul as parish secretary after 20 years.



*Kathleen Brazeau,
housekeeper*



J.P. Robitaille, custodian



Dorothy Ann Casey, parish secretary.

WE LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Our Lady of Victory does not resemble the parish it was in 1942. Nor would we want it to. The world has changed so much in 50 years that sometimes we have found ourselves scurrying to keep up. United as a community of Christians worshipping God and placing our faith in Him, we have been successful in meeting the challenges that have been put before us.

The parish has become a community in the true sense of the word. Over the course of a half-century, we have built a church together; we have worshipped, prayed and celebrated the sacraments as one; we have exercised our Christian charity in the community; and have enjoyed each other's company in parish social activities.

The church we know today is one which has been cultivated carefully by a succession of capable pastors. The standards by which we have been guided were set more than 150 years ago by our pioneer spiritual leader Father John Brady. He recognized the desire among our forefathers to aspire to the heights of Christian living and rewarded us with years of dedicated service. In turn, we built a Christian heritage to the glory of God that is evident even today in every aspect of Our Lady of Victory church.

In many respects, OLV has grown along with the Catholic Church. Over the past 25 years we have adapted to the renewal brought about by the second Vatican Council. Perhaps Archbishop Ebacher put it best when he spoke to the

congregation on the day of our 50th anniversary in January 1992. He said:

"We learned that our Church was in constant need of reform, that it had to be a Church for our times, that it was meant to be at the service of the world. We were reminded that the Church was not only, not even primarily, the priests, bishops and Pope. That all the baptized, all the People of God were the Church, the Body of Christ."

That is essentially what we have become — the Church. We no longer sit passively, waiting for our pastor to direct us in every decision that needs to be made. Rather, we have learned to take greater responsibility for our parish, and together with our pastor exercise our authority through the many committees we have set up for that purpose.

More than ever, OLV as a place of worship reflects the people who worship in it. With the leadership role we are expected to play, the future is very much in our hands. The decisions we make for OLV today will influence the kind of church we have tomorrow. It is truly an exciting time in the history of our church.

When Archbishop Roger Ebacher joined us in celebrating our 50th anniversary, he concluded his homily to the parish with a word of thanks to God. Those same words are appropriate in bringing this record of our first 50 years to a close.

"Together, let us thank God for what has been, for what is, and for what will be."

The 50th anniversary committee. Seated, left to right: Eileen Jeffrey, Clare Flynn, Evelyn Robitaille, Rita Tremblay. Standing, left to right: Martin Cullen, Father Jeffrey, Shawn Murphy. Missing when photo was taken: Tom Laframboise, Jean Lavell.



THANK YOU

The publication of this 50th anniversary booklet would not have been possible without the kind assistance of a number of people in the parish who donated information and photos from personal archives, time for research, and the use of their long memories. Though their names are too numerous to mention here, we thank them for their support. The committee would also like to thank Shawn Murphy for his exceptional work in the writing and editing of this publication.

In our work, every effort was made to be as accurate as possible in gathering and putting on paper the facts of our parish life. In our research, we learned that many little discrepancies had crept into our history over the years. We hope we have been successful in correcting some mistakes and not creating any new ones.

Many facts about our parish that might have been forgotten in another few years have been captured permanently here. We were grateful for earlier publications about Our Lady of Victory's early days. We used them as the foundation for this rendering of our history and hope that future parish historians will use this booklet as a stepping stone to an even more comprehensive treatment of our parish life.

For many of you, reading this booklet will be like taking a trip down memory lane. But it is more than that: the history of our first 50 years is the testament of a community of people who desired to build a place of worship with little but faith. Judging by what we have built, it is clear that the faith and grace bestowed upon us by God has been great.

*The 50th anniversary
booklet committee*



