

100th
Anniversary



Sacred Heart Parish

1910-2010 | Calgary, Alberta



Front cover photograph of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Stained Glass Window, courtesy of Father Edmund Vargas.

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690), a member of the Visitation of Mary congregation, fostered devotion to The Sacred Heart of Jesus through a life of prayer and sacrifice. She was canonized on May 13, 1920, by Pope Benedict XV. Her feast day is October 16.

Primary sources used for writing the history included minutes and documents from the archives of Sacred Heart Church, documents from the archives of the Diocese of Calgary and information received from the Missionary Oblates, Grandin Archives at St. Albert, Alberta. Among the secondary sources were: *Sacred Heart Church Calgary Alberta: Twenty-Fifth Anniversary* (1937), *Sacred Heart Church Calgary Alberta: Seventy-Fifth Anniversary* (1985), M. B. Venini Byrne, *From the Buffalo to the Cross: A History of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary* (Calgary Archives and Historical Publishers, 1973), N. J. Knowles, *Winds of Change: A History of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary since 1968* (Published by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary and St. Mary's College, 2004.) S.R.

A History of Sacred Heart Parish

1910-2010 | Calgary, Alberta

This 2010 publication of an Updated History of Sacred Heart Parish is made possible by the approval of the Sacred Heart Parish Council of a recommendation submitted to them in 2007. In preparation for the upcoming Centennial celebration the Parish Council approved the idea and requested the help of Sheila Ross, one of our parishioners. Sheila generously accepted the challenge. From that time up to June 2010, she has been actively engaged in meticulous scholarship and research. The care and diligence expended by her is beyond description. The Parish is indebted to her for this scholarly work which will be invaluable to future generations as they review the development of our Parish and Church.

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Introduction

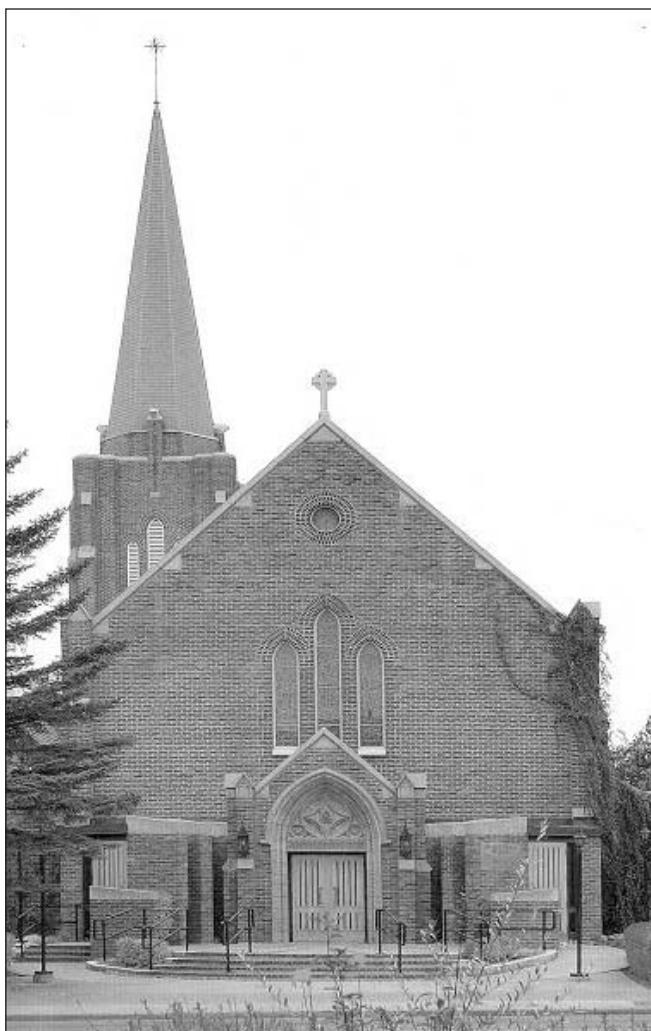
In celebrating the centenary of Sacred Heart Parish, the venerable history of the church and the innumerable contributions by parishioners will be commemorated. The foresight of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and the confidence in the future of the Diocese of Calgary shown by the faithful will also be recalled.

Thirteen men, including three Oblates of Mary Immaculate, have served as pastor at Sacred Heart Parish, men who have determined the shape and direction of the parish. The focus of this historical narrative is the pastorate of each of these worthy priests, as reflected in the forms of piety revealed in the daily life of parishioners.

Monsignor Arthur Hetherington had the greatest influence on the development of the parish. The five decades that spanned the period between his installation as pastor and his retirement were years of profound transformation in Sacred Heart Parish and in the Diocese of Calgary. With his death, a link to the past was broken.

During the following decades, pastors and co-pastors guided parishioners through more change, much of which mirrored the unprecedented change that was taking place in Calgary. Residential homes made way for high-rise apartments. A city of new buildings and new people signified the old giving way to the new. The character of the parish changed.

Now a downtown parish, Sacred Heart draws its members from all areas of the city and beyond. Whereas parishioners have previously been predominately from Europe by birth or descent, the changing face of the city during the past decade is reflected in the multi-ethnic parish of today.



Early Years of the Roman Catholic Church in Western Canada

The history of Sacred Heart Parish can be traced to missionary activity in the early days of Western Canada, which followed the fur trade along routes that trailed the natural waterways of the country. Traders entered from the Hudson Bay and its tributaries or from Quebec through the Great Lakes and Red River System. They were usually employees of the Hudson Bay Company or the North West Company, both of which built trading posts at considered points along the routes and competed for the profits of trading with the native population. Many of the French Canadians and a sprinkling of the Scottish and Irish trappers and clerks were Catholics who married native women, giving rise to the unique Metis population which considered itself Catholic.

The first request for missionaries for the Metis came in 1816 from the Scottish and Irish members of Lord Selkirk's Red River Settlement following an outbreak between local Metis and colonists at Seven Oaks, near the Hudson Bay's Fort Douglas, which is now known as Winnipeg. The second request came from Lord Selkirk himself in 1817 following another occurrence of violence.

In 1818, Bishop Joseph-Octave Plessis, of Quebec City, who had jurisdiction over the entire North-West, sent Father Joseph-Norbert Provencher and Father Severe Joseph Dumoulin to establish St. Boniface Mission near Fort Douglas. In 1820, Provencher became an auxiliary bishop to Plessis and was made the apostolic vicar of the territory west of the Great Lakes to the Rockies and from the American border north to the Pole.

In 1835, Bishop Provencher met in Paris with Bishop Charles Joseph Eugene de Mazenod of Marseilles, founder of the Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. At this time, Bishop de Mazenod was considering missionary activity in foreign countries and presumably the conversation turned to the shortage of priests for the western missions. In 1841, de Mazenod met in Marseilles with Auxiliary Bishop Ignace Bourget of Montreal and missionary activity was definitely a topic of discussion. In December 1841, six Oblates arrived in Montreal and were subsequently entrusted with St. Hilaire Parish on the Richelieu River, which became their base of operations.

On August 25, 1845, Father Pierre Aubert, OMI, and a young Oblate sub-deacon, Alexandre-Antonin Tache, arrived at St. Boniface, the first Oblates to serve in Western Canada. Bishop Provencher ordained Tache to the permanent diaconate at St. Boniface on August 31 and to the priesthood on October 12, followed by profession of Oblate vows on October 13, 1845.

In 1847, Bishop Provencher was made Bishop of the Diocese of the North-West Territories. In 1850, Father Tache was named coadjutor to Provencher. In 1852, the Diocese of the North-West Territories was renamed Diocese of St. Boniface. Following the death of Provencher in 1853, Tache was ordained Bishop of St. Boniface.

During his years at St. Boniface, Bishop Provencher seldom had more than a few priests at his disposal, barely enough to serve the area surrounding St. Boniface. He relied on priests loaned from parishes in Quebec, men who were usually unable to withstand the rigors of frontier life for an extended period of time. At his request,

Father Modeste Demers and Father Francois Norbert Blanchet stopped at Fort Edmonton for ten days in September 1838, on their way to Fort Vancouver. They reported that Fort Edmonton and the surrounding vicinity were suitable for missionary work.

In 1842, Bishop Provencher established a mission at Lac Ste. Anne, approximately 36 miles west of Edmonton and entrusted it to Father Jean-Baptiste Thibault, who set out for Fort Edmonton on April 20, 1842. He was followed by Father Joseph Bourassa, another priest from Quebec. The men worked tirelessly from Lac Ste. Anne Mission, the sole missionaries in a vast area.

In 1852, **Father Albert Lacombe** (1827-1916) replaced Father Thibault, who was exhausted from his labours at Lac Ste. Anne. Lacombe was a priest from St. Sulpice in Quebec who had envisioned a life in Western Canada since boyhood, when he heard tales of a grand-father who had gone there from the village to seek a fortune as a fur trader. He began his training for the priesthood at Collège de L'Assomption and while continuing with his theological studies at the Bishop's Palace in Montreal met Father George-Antoine Bellecourt, who was in Montreal raising funds for the western missions. He demonstrated an interest in missionary work and shortly after his ordination at Saint-Hyacinthe on June 13, 1849, was sent to Pembina in North Dakota, as an assistant to Father Bellecourt.

At Pembina, Father Lacombe was confined to parish duties and only occasionally was able to fulfill a desire to accompany the native hunters on the plains. Disheartened, he returned to Montreal within a year, realizing that he would need the discipline and backing of a religious congregation in order to accomplish his goals.

In 1852, while working as a curate in Berthierville, Quebec, it was Father Lacombe's good fortune to meet with Bishop Tache, who was in Montreal searching for candidates on behalf of Bishop Provencher for the missions. Bishop Bourget allowed him to return with Tache, along with Father Henri Grollier, OMI, another recruit for the missions. On arrival at St. Boniface, Provencher sent both priests to the Lac Ste. Anne Mission. Lacombe began his noviciate

at Lac Ste. Anne in 1855 under the direction of Father Rene Remas, OMI, and professed his vows on September 28, 1856.

Thrown on his own resources as he had previously desired, Father Lacombe, who had Ojibway blood in his veins, found himself completely embarked upon his life work at Lac Ste. Anne Mission. Along with Alexis Cardinal, his Metis guide, he visited and taught the Cree in northern Alberta when weather permitted and ministered to parishioners at Fort Edmonton during the rest of the year, while studying the Cree language.

Father Lacombe met members of the Blackfoot Nation each year when they traded at Fort Edmonton but it was not until 1857 that he travelled south into the plains area of Alberta, which had been devoid of Catholic missionaries other than visits in 1845 and 1846 by Father Pierre-Jean De Smet, SJ, of the St. Mary Mission in Montana. He was desirous of dividing his time between the Cree Nation in the north and the Blackfoot Nation in the south, known to be hostile to intruders but eventually accepting of the engaging young priest with a travelling altar.

In January 1865, Father Lacombe was designated by the Oblates to be a freelance missionary on the prairies. He set out immediately, naming the mission "Our Lady of the Prairies." For six years, he happily spent long stretches of time with the Blackfeet – baptizing, instructing young mothers and children and meeting with the men during the evenings. When the Blackfeet left their encampments in the spring of each year, he returned to St. Albert, the central Oblate mission that had been established in 1861 and was located northwest of Fort Edmonton. During the summers, he was back again on the plains, following the buffalo hunts. To the Blackfeet, Lacombe was known as Arsous-kitsi-rarpi, the Man-of-the-Good-Heart. To the Cree, he was Kamiyo-atchakwe, the Man-of-the-Beautiful-Soul.

In 1871, the Diocese of St. Albert was hived off from the Diocese of St. Boniface, which was elevated to a metropolitan see. **Most Reverend Vital Justin Grandin, OMI** (1829-1902), was the first bishop of the Diocese of St. Albert. He was born in Saint-Pierre-la-Cour, France, entered the Oblate noviciate at

Notre-Dame-de-l'Osier, on December 28, 1951, and professed his vows on January 1, 1853. He was ordained to the priesthood on April 23, 1854, by Bishop de Mazenod, volunteered immediately to serve in Canada's North-West and arrived at St. Boniface in November 1854. He was ordained a bishop at Marseilles by de Mazenod on November 30, 1859 and was appointed an auxiliary to Bishop Tache. In 1868, he was named Vicar of Missions for the Vicariate of Saskatchewan.

Bishop Grandin chose Father Lacombe as his Vicar General, intending to use the priest's considerable gifts of persuasion in areas other than prairie mission work. In 1872, Lacombe was sent to Quebec to find priests who would join the Oblates as missionaries, to collect funds for the missions, to appeal to governing authorities for native schools and to encourage French Canadian settlement in the North-West.



Father Lacombe's replacement for Our Lady of the Prairies Mission, re-named Our Lady of Peace Mission in 1869 by the Vicarial Council, was **Brother Constantine Scollen** (1841-1902), the first permanent missionary in the future Diocese of Calgary. He was born at Newtown Butler in County Fermanagh, Ireland, entered the Oblate noviciate at Sicklinghall in northern England in 1858 and professed his vows in 1859. He was teaching at Inchicore, near Dublin in 1860, when he met Bishop Tache, who was in Ireland searching for English-speaking Oblates for his missions. He applied to serve in Western Canada and planned to study for the priesthood, if not with the Oblates then in the diocese of his uncle, Archbishop Thomas Louis Connolly of Halifax. He arrived at St. Boniface in 1862 and shortly thereafter crossed the prairies with Lacombe to open a school for the children at Fort Edmonton.

Brother Scollen made his perpetual vows as a teaching brother on August 15, 1865, at St. Albert. In 1870, he began his theological studies under the direction of Father Vital Fourmond, OMI.

He learned French, Cree and Blackfoot languages while teaching at Fort Edmonton and while serving at Saint-Paul-des-Cris (Brosseau) in 1869. He followed the summer missions with Father Lacombe from 1865 to 1871 and joined Father Lacombe at Rocky Mountain House during the winter of 1871-1872, where they worked on a Cree dictionary. He worked on the prairie missions with Bishop Grandin during the summer of 1872 and was ordained to the priesthood by Grandin on April 12, 1873. Two days later, he set out to formally establish Our Lady of Peace Mission.

The mother house of the Diocese of Calgary, **Chapel of Our Lady of Peace**, was situated on the north side of the Elbow River, approximately four and one-half miles southeast of the former Jumping Pound Post Office, about twenty-five miles west of the confluence of the Elbow and Bow Rivers, where Calgary is located. It was built for Father Lacombe by Alexis Cardinal in November 1872, a small hut with walls of tree trunks and a roof of branches covered with bark over a floor of bare ground and heated by a chimney of flat stones. A small alcove was added to serve as a chapel and dormitory. It was located near the winter encampments of the Blackfeet and on a trail followed by the Peigans on their way to Rocky Mountain House where they disposed of the year's furs.

Father Scollen was assisted at Our Lady of Peace Mission by Alexis Cardinal and by Louis Daze and Jean L'Heureux, who served as catechists and interpreters. During the winter of 1874, Father Etienne Bonald, OMI, also stayed with Scollen, to instruct him in religious studies that had not been completed before his ordination and to learn English and Cree from him.

Father Bonald experienced difficulties in adjusting to life at the small mission and returned to St. Albert in March 1875. He carried with him the body of Louis Daze, who had been lost the previous winter in a storm. He was replaced by Father Leon Doucet, OMI, who arrived at the mission from Buffalo Lake, Alberta, on May 15, 1875.

Early Years of the Roman Catholic Church in Calgary

On July 10, 1875, Father Scollen returned from a trip to Fort Macleod, allegedly with news that the North-West Mounted Police were in the area and were considering opening a fort at the confluence of the Bow and Elbow Rivers. Knowing that a trading post for natives would follow any establishment, he instructed Alexis Cardinal to build a hut at the confluence so that there would be a mission near the fort. On July 12 Scollen left to visit the Plains Cree with Father Zacharie L. F. Touze, a novice from St. Albert who was sent to help with the missionary work. Father Doucet remained at Our Lady of Peace Mission during the summer of 1875 with Joseph, an orphan who had been befriended by Cardinal.

The hut that Alexis Cardinal built near the west bank of the Elbow River was similar to the first Chapel of Our Lady of Peace. Father Doucet moved into it with Joseph at the end of the summer of 1875 but did not consider it suitable to be used as a place of worship. Cardinal and his brother, Louison Cardinal, were commissioned to build a log house with an attached chapel on the east side of what is now 2nd Street Southwest between 23rd and 24th Avenues, where the Holy Cross Hospital was located for many years.

In October 1875, Father Doucet and Joseph moved into a tent that was set up at the new site and on November 15 moved into the third Our Lady of Peace Mission. Bishop Grandin arrived in Calgary for a two-week visit on June 20, 1876 and noting the increasing numbers of newcomers in the surrounding area, directed Father Scollen to expand and improve the mission building so that the priests could make inroads with the native population. A house-chapel with a garret was built alongside the mission. It was completed in October 1876 and served as headquarters for the Southern Missions.

Father Scollen left Father Doucet in charge of the mission when he travelled to Fort Carleton in Saskatchewan to be a witness to the signing of Treaty Number Six by the Canadian Government, the Plain and Wood Cree and allied First Nation tribes, at Fort Pitt on September 9, 1876. He was also a witness to the signing of Treaty Number Seven, by the Blackfeet and several allied First Nations tribes and the Canadian Government, at Blackfoot Crossing on September 22, 1877. Both Scollen and Doucet were a considerable help to Edgar Dewdney, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in the North-West, in forestalling trouble when the natives gathered to air grievances before and after the signing of the treaties.

In October 1877, Father Rene Remas, OMI, was sent from St. Albert to Calgary, where he remained in charge while Father Scollen and Father Doucet visited the Peigans near the Belly River in southern Alberta in January and again in April 1878. Scollen left the Southern Missions in November 1881 and was replaced by Father Emile J. Legal, OMI, who was temporarily named the Superior of the Southern Missions.

In August 1882, Father Lacombe arrived in Calgary after an absence of ten years from the area. In late 1883 he travelled to Ottawa and successfully gained two quarter-sections in the name of himself and Father Hippolyte Leduc, OMI, Superior of the Southern Missions. The homesteads were outside of Calgary at the time and became known as the "Mission District," extending from what is now 2nd Street Southeast to 4th Street Southwest and from

17th Avenue (Notre Dame Street) to 34th Avenue, except for fifty-two acres east of the Elbow River and north of 26th Avenue that had already been ceded to a settler.

During these years, parishioners living across the Elbow River were asking for another chapel in East Calgary, citing distance from the mission and an unsafe bridge as factors. A small chapel, 38 feet by 18 feet in size, was built on the east side of the Elbow on 8th Street Southeast near 9th Avenue, near where the Deane House stands today. On December 2, 1883, the chapel was blessed and dedicated to St. Patrick. The site had been offered by M. Louis Roussel, a parishioner. The church was built by a contractor, M. O'Keefe, and was paid for by contributions.

Parishioners had settled in East Calgary because land speculators expected the Canadian Pacific Railway station to be built on the east side of the Elbow. In a surprise move, following the laying of tracks in Calgary in August 1883, the station was placed on the west side of the Elbow. Enterprising newcomers moved across the river as quickly as possible and St. Patrick Chapel was moved also, taken over ice in March 1884 and placed near the northeast corner of the mission's homestead land at 2nd Street and 18th Avenue (St. Joseph Street) Southeast.

In June 1884, Father Lacombe moved Our Lady of Peace Mission again, from 2nd Street to new and larger quarters on the south side of 19th Avenue (St. Mary Street) between 1st and 2nd Streets. There were rooms for the priests on the ground floor and a chapel on the second floor, which was entered from a stairway at the east end. Father Leonard Van Tighem, OMI, added a porch across the front of the building and made an altar for the new chapel. On June 30, 1884, Mass was offered for the first time in the chapel. On July 13 the mission house from the previous location on 2nd Street Southwest was moved by parishioners to the new mission site to serve as a kitchen, with the help of horses lent to Lacombe by the Mounted Police.

As mission and school were integral parts of the Oblate frontier parish, Father Lacombe prevailed upon Bishop Grandin to invite

English-speaking members of the **Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus** (FCJ) to Calgary to educate the children of parishioners. The sisters had been teaching native and Metis children at the St. Laurent Mission in Saskatchewan in 1885, but fled to Prince Albert during the North-West Rebellion. They travelled to Calgary by ox-cart and train, arriving on July 26, 1885. Since the congregation was a voluntary organization in the community, it was the responsibility of the Oblates to provide accommodation for the sisters. Lacombe offered his newly built church-rectory on 19th Avenue for use as a school and residence.

Father Lacombe had anticipated another move and on June 26, 1885, had the St. Patrick Chapel moved from where it had been stored, near the north-east corner of the homestead land, to the central mission site, situating it on the north side of 19th Avenue between 1st and 2nd Street, facing south. Henceforth known as Our Lady of Peace Mission Church, the first Mass was offered there on June 29, 1885.

Father Lacombe had also hired M. O'Keefe, on June 12, 1885, to build a two-storey rectory on the south side of 18th Avenue between 1st and 2nd Streets, with a kitchen-passageway that joined it to the new Our Lady of Peace Mission Church. In their Chronicles, the sisters related that the priests slept in a newly built livery barn until the project was completed. On September 7, 1885, Lacombe blessed the new building in the name of Bishop Grandin. A large tower was added to the church to accommodate an eight hundred pound bell that Lacombe had purchased, named Alberta Josephine and blessed on November 29, 1885.

In the interim, the FCJs converted the former mission building into a convent that included living quarters, classrooms and a residence for boarders. Immediately after opening a private school in the convent on September 1, 1885, Father Lacombe and Mother Mary Green, the principal, took steps to secure government recognition. On December 18, 1885, by a proclamation of Lieutenant-Governor Edgar Dewdney, the Lacombe Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 1 came into existence, the

first school district in Alberta. The FCJs were asked by Lacombe to continue their charge and St. Mary's School, using the facilities in Sacred Heart Convent, became the first school in the District. In 1893, the FCJs had a large sandstone convent built on the same site. The former mission building remained until 1924, when it was removed in order to add a chapel to the west side of the convent.

With the coming of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the number of Catholics in Calgary increased so quickly that both Father Lacombe and parishioners agreed, at a meeting held on January 9, 1887, to build a larger and permanent church of sandstone between 1st and 2nd Streets on the south side of 18th Avenue. How to pay for it had not been thought through properly, but construction of the church began within a month. Lacombe was transferred from Calgary in August 1887 and was replaced by Father Leduc. The building of the church was interrupted until another contract was agreed upon in May 1889.

The name St. Mary's Church appeared in the register of the parish for the first time in July 1887. Although the parish had been unofficially called St. Mary's for years, Our Lady of Peace Mission was the name of the church until Father Leduc solemnly blessed it under the title of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, 1889.

On January 30, 1891, the Sisters of Charity of Montreal, usually called the Grey Nuns, arrived in Calgary. They moved into a newly constructed building near St. Mary's Church on 18th Avenue. The main floor was used as a hospital and an upper floor served as a residence for the sisters. On November 13, 1892, Bishop Grandin blessed a new and larger hospital that was built on the site of the earlier Our Lady of Peace Mission, on 2nd Street Southwest between 23rd and 24th Avenues and dedicated it to the Holy Cross of Our Saviour.

St. Mary's Parish Hall, a three-storey sandstone building, was built to the east of St. Mary's Church in 1905. The district was called Rouleauville, undoubtedly honouring Chief Justice Charles B. Rouleau, who settled in Calgary in 1886 and had a house built for his family in the area. Rouleau and his brother, Dr. Edward

H. Rouleau, were influential in the development of the lively French-speaking enclave.

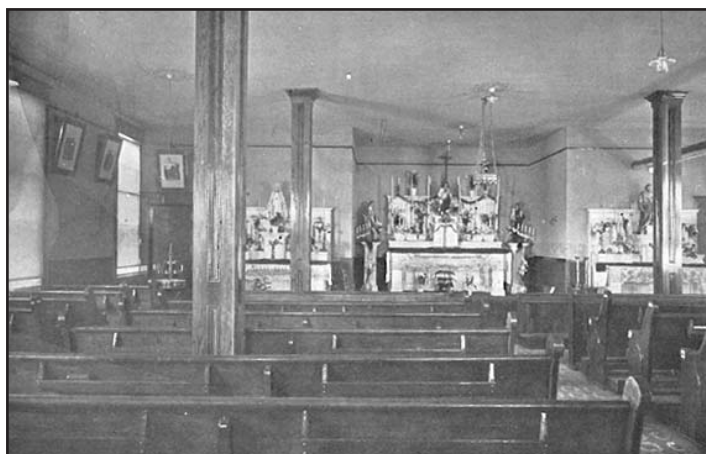
In Rouleauville, St. Mary's School in Sacred Heart Convent was reputed to be the premier school in the Northwest Territories. The Calgary Herald's editorial page carried an article on February 2, 1906, decrying the impudence of speech and lack of manners shown by children in the public schools and cited the "courtesy, good manners, modesty and polite deportment" taught by the sisters as a reason why so many in Calgary were sending their children to the Convent School.

The second Bishop of the Diocese of St. Albert, **Most Reverend Emile Joseph Legal, OMI** (1849-1920), was pleased to have a French-speaking stronghold in Calgary. Bishop Legal had been installed on June 3, 1902. He was born at Saint-Jean-de-Boiseau (Loire-Atlantique) in France, studied for the priesthood at the University of France and was ordained to the priesthood at Nantes on June 29, 1874. He entered the Oblate novitiate at Nancy on August 19, 1879 and professed his perpetual vows at Lachine, Quebec, on September 24, 1880. He arrived at St. Albert in 1881, was appointed Coadjutor of St. Albert in 1897 and was ordained a bishop at St. Albert by Bishop Grandin on June 17, 1897. He was Vicar of Provincial Missions from 1897 to 1906.

In 1910, with the population of Calgary continuing to increase, Bishop Legal established St. Ann's Parish for Catholics living in East Calgary. During the same year, he established Sacred Heart Parish for Catholics living west of St. Mary's Church.



1910



The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish

Early History

In 1909, Bishop Legal instructed Father Alphonse Jan, OMI, the pastor at St. Mary's, to obtain a site for a church in the west end of the city where most of the new housing was located. Sixteen lots situated immediately west of 14th Street Southwest between 13th and 14th Avenues were secured in the name of the Diocese of St. Albert. The first payment was made on March 6, 1909, the final payment on May 27 with money sent by Legal, who donated four of the lots to the future parish.

John James O'Gara, an architect and parishioner, was asked to submit plans for a temporary church, a two-story frame building with a full basement and large attic. According to Father Ernest Nelz, OMI, the first pastor at Sacred Heart, the Oblates originally planned to have a church on the first floor and a school on the second floor. Revisions resulted in a building with rooms for a school on the first floor, a church on the second floor and sleeping quarters for the priests above the church.

Charles Rooney, a contractor and parishioner, excavated the location and installed a concrete foundation, charging only for materials. The building was located at 1515-13th Avenue Southwest facing north and was sufficiently completed to allow a simple blessing of The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Church by Bishop Legal on April 24, 1910.

On **June 26, 1910**, a Solemn High Mass to honour the Solemnity of the Feast of St. John the Baptist was offered in the beautifully decorated church for all French-speaking members of the parishes. Father Louis Simard, OMI, was the celebrant and delivered the sermon. It was the first recorded Mass in the church, following a request from the St. John-Baptiste Society.

Sacred Heart Church was opened for regular services on July 3, 1910. There was a Holy Communion Service at 8:00 a.m. and Mass at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays and Holy Days. First Communion for the children was held on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and a sermon took place intermittently on Sundays at 7:30 p.m. until 1911, when side-walks and street lights were installed in the district.

On February 12, 1911, Father Nelz moved into the attic rooms of the church and was installed as the resident pastor. Born in Dingelstadt in Germany on May 5, 1879, he studied at Saint-Charles Juniorate in Valkenburg in Holland before entering the Noviciate of Saint-Gerlach at Houthem in Holland on August 14, 1899. He made his profession on August 15, 1901, professed his perpetual vows at the Scholasticate at Huenfeld in Germany on August 15, 1901 and was ordained to the priesthood at Huenfeld on August 14, 1905. He arrived in Canada in 1906 and was assigned to Spring Lake, Alberta. In 1907, he was transferred to Pincher Creek, Alberta and regularly visited Twin Butte, where he preached to the congregation in German. In 1909, he was transferred to Calgary to serve at the west end mission.



Reverend Ernest
Nelz OMI

In 1911, there were seventy families registered in the parish at Easter and ninety at Pentecost. The first baptism recorded was that of Louis Joseph Edward Laurendeau, son of Phileas and Juliette Laurendeau, on May 13, 1911. The first death recorded was that of Gertrude Mary Yvonne Laurendeau, on February 2, 1911, at seven months of age. The first marriage recorded was that of Alfred Carrignan and Melvina Sevigny, on March 26, 1911.

Low Mass was offered at 8:30 a.m. and High Mass at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays and Holy Days. Holy Days included Circumcision of Our Lord January 1, Epiphany January 6, Ascension of Our Lord, All Saints Day November 1, Immaculate Conception December 8 and Nativity of Our Lord December 25.

Weekday Masses were at 8 o'clock every morning. Devotions to the Way of the Cross took place on Wednesday and Friday evenings during Lent. The church was left open all day for visiting. Stations of the Cross were erected and blessed on March 3, 1911.

In March 1911, a Ladies' Altar Society was formed, with a membership of fifteen, whose purpose was caring for altar linens and keeping the sanctuary presentable. Mrs. Bray and Mrs. O'Gara were officers.

On June 1, 1911, Sacred Heart Parish was canonically erected by Bishop Legal and entrusted to the Oblates. The boundaries were 8th Street on the East, the Bow River and Kensington Road on the North and to the city limits South and West, with care to the rural areas as far as Midnapore. The five councillors elected as advisors to the parish were Charles Rooney, J. J. O'Gara, V. Raby, E. Oliver and H. P. Laurendeau.

Bishop Legal assisted at High Mass on the Feast of the Sacred Heart on Friday June 23, 1911, preached and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation.

On July 1, 1911, Father Albert Naessens, OMI, was appointed pastor at Sacred Heart. He was born in Courtrai, Belgium, on November 28, 1864 and studied at the Jesuit Apostolic School at Tournhout in Belgium. In 1883, following a decision to volunteer for

the missions in Western Canada, he was in contact with Bishop Grandin, who requested that he accompany the first group of FCJs leaving from England to teach children in Brandon, Manitoba and Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

Albert Naessens studied at the Oblate Juniorate in Ottawa from 1883 to 1884, entered the noviciate in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, on July 15, 1884, and professed his perpetual vows at St. Joseph's Scholasticate in Ottawa on August 31, 1886. He was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Thomas Duhamel in Ottawa on June 15, 1889.



Reverend Albert
Naessens OMI

Photo Credit: OB3401
Missionary Oblates,
Grandin Archives at
the PAA

Following ordination, Father Naessens was appointed to Prince Albert for one year. He then served as the principal of Dunbow Industrial School near Calgary from 1890 to 1891, when he was sent back to Belgium to establish an Oblate Juniorate at Waregem. He returned to the Dunbow Industrial School in 1902, where he remained as principal until 1907, when he returned to Edmonton to become pastor and superior at St. Joachim's, until his appointment to Sacred Heart Church in Calgary.

Father Naessens' assistant was Father Nelz, who also ministered to parishioners at Beiseker, a mission of Sacred Heart Parish. Father Nelz was transferred to Leipzig in Saskatchewan in 1913. From 1913 to 1914, Father Joseph Tosquinet, OMI, was an assistant priest at Sacred Heart. He was replaced by Father P. Cozanet, OMI, who served from 1914 to 1915.

Following Father Naessens' arrival, the parish obtained \$2,200.00 through a bank loan to finance the building of a small frame house, known as "the cottage," on the church property on the north side of 14th Avenue, mid-way between 14th and 15th Streets, as living quarters for a housekeeper and where the priests took their meals. The housekeeper kept a few chickens and planted a flower and vegetable garden in a fenced-off area of the property.

In September 1911, a “jacket heater” was installed in the basement of the church, to provide hot-water heating to the parlour on the first floor, which was used for Mass on weekdays during the winter. In 1912, the coal burning “station agent” stoves were converted to gas. In 1912, a staircase in the northwest corner of the church was removed and a low platform built and railed off for the choir. There were 152 families in the parish, about 650 persons. There were 57 boys and 74 girls attending parochial schools.

In January 1912, **Sacred Heart School** was opened to children of the parish. The Separate School Board had purchased twenty lots for a school in 1909 on the east side of 15th Street between 13th and 14th Avenues. The four-room school was located at 1525-13th Avenue, west of the church and facing north. In 1911, Bishop Legal had invited the Ursulines de Jesus (OSU), a teaching order from Chavagne en Paillere in France, to settle in Calgary and take charge of the school. The sisters lived nearby at 1501-12th Avenue.

In April 1912, the church’s debt was reduced enough that the parish was able to purchase the remaining twelve lots held by the Diocese of St. Albert by securing a bank loan of \$3,200.00. With the population increasing and the economy flourishing, both the Oblates and parishioners began to entertain plans for a permanent church that would seat up to eight hundred people, possibly to be located west of 15th Street between 13th and 14th Avenues, across the street from what is today the front entrance of Sacred Heart School.

Four lots on 14th Avenue, at the northwest corner of 14th Avenue and 15th Street, had been held in trust by a member of the parish, Mr. Laurendeau, for a congregation willing to teach at Sacred Heart School. Following the arrival of the Ursulines de Chavagnes, the plan of the parish was to transfer the title of the four lots from Mr. Laurendeau to the sisters. The transfer took place and it was proposed to exchange these four lots owned by the sisters for the church building and the four lots on which it stood. The church building would be used as a convent for the sisters and would be handily adjacent to the school.

Bishop Legal approved of the proposed site for a church and rectory directly west of 15th Street. To this end, the parish purchased five lots on the south side of 13th Avenue directly west of 15th Street for \$8,500.00 in November 1912. In addition, Legal approved of an exchange of the four lots owned by the sisters for the four lots owned by the parish plus the church building. The exchange was registered on June 6, 1913.



On November 30, 1912, by decree of Pope Pius X, the Diocese of St. Albert was divided into the Diocese of Calgary and the Archdiocese of Edmonton. Reverend John McNally, pastor at St. Mary's in Almonte, Ontario, was chosen to lead the Diocese of Calgary, which extended from the Red Deer River southward to the American border and from the Saskatchewan border to that of British Columbia.

The first Irish bishop of the prairies, **Most Reverend John Thomas McNally** (1871-1952), was born in Hope River, Prince Edward Island and ordained to the priesthood in Rome on April 4, 1896, a candidate from the Diocese of Ottawa. He was ordained a bishop in Rome on June 1, 1913, in the chapel of the Canadian College.

Calgary, the seat of the new diocese, had enjoyed prosperity as a centre for ranching and livestock operations and had become predominately English-speaking as its population increased ten-fold, from 4,392 in 1901 to 43,704 by 1911. Catholics made up approximately one-tenth of the population, which was well over 50,000 in 1913.

Father Basil Clarkson, OSB, who resided at St. Mary's Rectory in 1913, described Calgary in a letter to a fellow Benedictine in Ampleforth, England: "You see a city in the making and the town planning is most up to date with every modern improvement; the streets and avenues are wide and beautifully smooth with asphalt. The houses are all built of wood but very artistic in most cases and

all separate from each other; only the big stores and public buildings are built of brick or stone.” A system of streetcars was in operation, a supply of electricity laid on in every street and avenue; telephones were in most of the homes. Everything was expensive, Clarkson noted, except the use of natural gas. Immigrants to Calgary – Chinese, Japanese, Polish, Lithuanians, Turkish, Ruthenians, Austrians, Germans, Italians, Portuguese and Dutch – lived in small houses and shacks on the northern outskirts of the town, in an area that was practically all prairie.

Bishop McNally’s arrival coincided with an economic decline, a faltering of the boom years in Calgary. Nonetheless, the sketch plans for a three-story rectory for Sacred Heart Parish that had been submitted by J. J. O’Gara were approved on March 7, 1913, by the parish councillors, consisting of Messrs. Rooney, O’Gara, Raby, Oliver and Eneas McCormick, who replaced H. P. Laurendeau in January 1913. The rectory was to cost approximately \$15,000.00. In September 1913, it was announced in church that rectory plans had been suspended but even more ambitious plans went ahead which included the building of a rectory and a basement church that was to cost approximately \$25,000.00 plus \$10,000.00 for equipment. Hoping to begin construction in April 1914, the councillors began negotiations in December 1913 for a loan from a company in Portland, Oregon, for \$50,000.00, both sides agreeing that the land held by Sacred Heart Parish was at least equal to that amount of money.

In January 1914, the Oblates abruptly abandoned the entire project following a meeting between the councillors and Father Arthur Hetherington, the Chancellor of the Diocese of Calgary. They were advised that it was not a diocesan policy to allow a parish to borrow more than a small proportion of the cost of a building.

Father Hetherington was a confidant and close associate of Bishop McNally, who openly spoke of Hetherington’s prudence and unfailing judgement in matters pertaining to the development of the diocese. These skills were called into play when Hetherington

inadvertently became involved in a series of events that led to the dismissal of the Oblates from Sacred Heart Parish.



The steadily increasing population, together with security afforded by the passing of the 1905 Alberta Act, had been beneficial to Calgary's Separate Schools. Although French-speaking families and English-speaking families were represented on the Separate School Board, English was the language of instruction by law and choice.

Bishop McNally spoke regularly from the pulpit about the importance of Catholic education. He feared that any promotion of the interests of French-speaking Catholics would place Catholic education in Alberta in jeopardy, as had happened in Manitoba in 1896. His experience with French-English relations had been honed while serving as a notary at the Plenary Council of Catholic Bishops in 1909 and from his pastoral service in the Diocese of Ottawa prior to coming to Calgary.

Bishop McNally was a regular attendant at School Board meetings and spent long hours in discussion with the trustees. He vowed that his schools would be efficient and on the same level as public schools or he would consider his work a failure. It was following his recommendation that the trustees appointed Father A. Bernard McDonald, D.D., as Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer of the Separate School Board on January 12, 1915. Dr. McDonald, as he was known, had been a friend and colleague of McNally since their student days in Rome and was the second diocesan priest recruited for the Diocese of Calgary.

Bishop McNally enlisted Dr. McDonald's support when he became openly involved in a disagreement over the dismissal of a teacher at Sacred Heart School in June 1915, a member of the Ursulines de Chavagne congregation. The dismissal caught the ratepayers of Sacred Heart Parish by surprise and provoked a spirited meeting, allegedly instigated by Father Jan, the pastor at Sacred

Heart, on July 22, 1915, at which it was resolved to ask for a reinstatement of the teacher. The trustees did not reverse the decision. After a series of allegations that included innuendo from both sides, it was arranged on Monday August 16 that the Oblates would leave Sacred Heart Parish by August 20. To avoid a scandal, the Oblates left quietly but were anxious to maintain a presence in Calgary and later petitioned for reinstatement, unsuccessfully.

The Ursulines de Chavagne left the parish for Edmonton in 1916, having withdrawn from Sacred Heart School in 1915, following the spring term. Bishop McNally arranged through a petition to the pope that the congregation enter into negotiations with the Diocese of Calgary in 1919 so that four lots and the church building that were exchanged in 1913 would be returned to the Diocese of Calgary. At the same time, the title of the four lots on the northwest corner of 14th Avenue and 15th Street was returned to the sisters. Pope Benedict XV had been elected on September 3, 1914, succeeding Pope Pius X, who died on August 20, 1914.

Father Alphonse Jan had been appointed pastor at Sacred Heart in August 1914, following Father Naessens' appointment to Edmonton as Provincial Bursar for the Oblate Province of Alberta-



Reverend
Alphonse Jan OMI

Photo Credit: OB3089
Missionary Oblates,
Grandin Archives at
the PAA

Saskatchewan. He was born in Brehan-Loudec, Morbihan in France, on September 23, 1874. He studied at Ploermel, then at the Seminary of Vannes from 1893 to 1894, before entering the Noviciate of Saint-Gerlach at Houthem in Holland on September 7, 1894. He professed his first vows on September 8, 1895 and continued studies at the Scholasticate of Liege, completing them at the Major Seminary of Frejus, where he professed his perpetual vows on March 19, 1897. He was ordained to the priesthood at Liege on July 10, 1898.

Sent to the Canadian West in 1898, Father Jan was a curate at St. Mary's in Calgary until 1899, when he was appointed to

St. Joachim's in Edmonton, serving parishioners in Strathcona and also serving the Ruthenians throughout Edmonton. In June 1902, he was sent overseas by Bishop Legal to recruit priests and sisters of the Eastern Rite for the Diocese of St. Albert.

Father Jan was appointed pastor at St. Joachim's from 1904 to 1906 and was pastor at St. Mary's in Calgary from 1906 to 1909, during which time he was Superior of the Southern Missions. Following several months in British Columbia in 1909, he served parishioners of Strathcona again from 1909 to 1911. He returned to British Columbia in 1911, serving for a few months at posts along the Fraser River while residing at Mission City. He was an assistant at St. Augustine Church and at Holy Rosary Cathedral in Vancouver from 1911 to 1914, when he returned to Alberta and was named to Sacred Heart Church in Calgary. In August 1915, he left the Diocese of Calgary for an appointment at St. Paul's Parish in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Father Hetherington was appointed to Sacred Heart Parish on August 20, 1915. His associate was Father Edward John Carew, an Irishman who was ordained by Bishop McNally on August 29, 1915, the first priest ordained in Calgary for the Diocese of Calgary. In solidarity with Bishop McNally, Father Hetherington represented the bishop's view publicly and in an early history of Sacred Heart Parish wrote that because Calgary had become an independent diocese "it was proper that the missionaries should be gradually released to devote themselves to their missionary labours, while diocesan clergy should assume the care of the parishes."

The Hetherington Years

Father Arthur Joseph Hetherington was born in London, England, on August 9, 1879 and was baptized at St. Mary of Angels Church, Bayswater Parish, on August 12, 1879. He received his education at Sion House, Bayswater and St. Charles College, Kensington. He graduated from London University with a Baccalaureate of Arts in 1899. His studies in theology and philosophy leading to the priesthood were at St. Mary's, Oscott College, in the Diocese of Birmingham. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Westminster on July 22, 1906, in the Cathedral Church of Westminster in London by Francis Cardinal Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster.



Monsignor Arthur
J. Hetherington

Following ordination, Father Hetherington remained on staff at the newly built Cathedral Church in London, which despite being opened in 1903, had an incomplete interior. He was involved in the provision of altars, chapels, mosaics and marbles that decorated the building and was appointed Master of Ceremonies with duties that included arranging the regular liturgical services. When Westminster Cathedral was consecrated in 1910, he supervised the elaborate ceremonies.

During these years, Westminster Cathedral was a centre of theological thought and an exciting place for a young cleric endowed with considerable gifts to begin a career. Father Hetherington was chosen by Cardinal Bourne to specialize in rubrics and quickly became an authority in matters concerning sacred liturgy. He compiled books on ceremonies for use in England – *Ritus Servandi* and *Ordo Administrandi* and *Notes on the New Rubrics*, concerning the Pope Pius X revision of the breviary. He was engaged in the 1913 publication of *Fortescue-O’Connell’s Ceremonies of the Roman Rite*, the standard ceremonial manual used by English-speaking priests from 1917 to the 1960s. As well, he contributed articles for editions of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and the *Catholic Encyclopaedia*.

Father Hetherington’s accomplishments did not escape the notice of Bishop McNally, who visited Cardinal Bourne in London on his way back to Canada following his ordination in Rome and was concerned about the ceremonies leading to his installation as Bishop of Calgary. Upon learning that Hetherington was considering a move because of a respiratory ailment, McNally managed to persuade him that Calgary would provide a drier climate than London, a climate that would be beneficial to him. With Bourne’s reluctant approval, Hetherington agreed to come to Calgary, forsaking what surely would have been a secure and intellectually stimulating lifestyle at Westminster for the questionable distinction of being the first secular priest in the Diocese of Calgary following its formation.

A tall and spare man, possessing the reserve and dignity of a gentleman, Father Hetherington arrived in Calgary on June 30, 1913, in time to direct the installation ceremonies at St. Mary’s Cathedral which followed the arrival of Bishop McNally on July 27, 1913. He was selected Vicar General, the bishop’s substitute and deputy, by McNally. In 1914, he was appointed pastor at St. Joseph’s, formerly called St. Benedict’s Parish but re-named following the withdrawal of the Benedictines from the diocese in 1914. After being granted an additional year in Calgary by Cardinal Bourne, he assumed responsibilities at St. Joseph’s and was granted

a transfer from Westminster to the Diocese of Calgary when he was appointed to Sacred Heart Parish.



Questions that were raised in 1915 about building a permanent church in the parish were handled by Monsignor Hetherington with ease; the economic downturn and the years of World War I forbade all notions of construction and a parish debt of \$8,000.00 from previous real estate transactions had to be settled. He was content with the existing church and managed to hire Giovanni Orler, an Italian fresco artist of note, who was engaged at St. Mary's Cathedral, to decorate some of the walls of the interior of the church.

Offerings were meagre and parish organizations for fundraising were non-existent. Aside from the regular Sunday Collection, parishioners were encouraged to contribute to a Monthly Collection, envelope pledges of payments that were listed on a wall in the vestibule of the church. Pews were rented – single seats for five and six dollars a year, payable in advance. Father Hetherington recruited women involved in the Ladies' Altar Society, which had ceased to function, to form the Ladies' Aid of the Sacred Heart and not only did they raise funds during the lean years, but promoted a spirit of friendliness and charity in the parish and fostered devotion to the Blessed Sacrament among members.

On June 19-20, 1918, the Ladies' Aid Society held a Grand Summer Festival at the McDonald Academy of Dancing and Fine Arts at 914-12th Avenue Southwest to help with the parish debt. The program was opened by Bishop McNally on the first evening and by Mayor Michael C. Costello on the second evening. Entertainment included "popular airs" by Marie McDonald, a clog dance featuring Michael Burns and performances by Vera Walker, Florence McHugh, Winnie Halliday, Leta Walker, Lione Saucier, Kathleen Campbell, Dorothy Linton and Anna Saucier. One of the prizes in a draw was a term of dancing lessons at McDonald's

Academy. Very popular was the Fish Pond, organized by Mrs. J. O'Donnell, Mrs. P. J. O'Byrne, Mrs. B. Venini, Mrs. A. MacPherson, Miss A. Nolan and Miss G. Savary.

On June 4-5, 1920, the Ladies' Aid held a Grand Summer Festival at the site of the New Allen Theatre at 215- 8th Avenue Southwest with proceeds devoted to payment of the city taxes on parish property, which amounted to approximately \$1,600.00. Mrs. E. McCormick, the president of the Ladies' Aid, was the chief convener. The musical program was under direction of Mrs. J. F. Trainor. There were draws for a lunch cloth, a hand painted china serving dish, a lady's knitted sweater, an embroidered linen tray set and tatted handkerchiefs. Raffle prizes included a suit case donated by Riley and McCormick Ltd., a grocery order valued at \$7.50 and donated by P. Burns and Co. and five dollars in cash donated by G. D. Venini.

Presiding in the tea-room were Mrs. J. Kavanaugh, Mrs. P. Choiniere, Mrs. L. O'Grady, Mrs. M. J. Sheedy, Mrs. J. F. Quigley, Mrs. A. G. O'Brien, Mrs. D. Scully, Mrs. B. Sinclair, Miss A. Kilbride, Miss I. Coonie, Miss M. Dalton, Miss A. Dalton, Miss H. Scully, Miss C. Smith, Miss M. McGuire and Miss M. Breen.

Young women in the parish – Miss C. Rooney, Miss O. McDonnell, Miss E. Lynch, Miss D. Turpin, Miss M. Shannon, Miss M. Dalton, Miss M. Gillespie and Miss L. Lee Smith – attended to the candy booth. Men of the parish looked after the cigar room. Among others involved in the event were Mrs. T. G. Moore, Mrs. P. Rooney, Mrs. A. McMillan, Mrs. E. W. Spencer, Mrs. C. Pettifer, Mrs. H. Chapman, Mrs. W. K. Thompson, Mrs. T. D. Cox, Mrs. C. W. Voss and Miss M. Hayes. At the festival, it was announced that the parish picnic would be held at Bowness Park on the weekend, with a special street car leaving the corner of 12th Avenue and 14th Street at 2:00 p.m. for the park.

Father Hetherington had gone overseas in August 1918 for twelve months to serve as a chaplain for the Canadian Forces. Father J. E. Dougan was acting pastor in the interval.

During the 1920s, regular Masses offered at Sacred Heart included a Low Mass and instruction at 8:00 a.m., a Children's Mass at 9:00 a.m., a Low Mass at 10:00 a.m. and a High Mass with a sermon at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays and Holy Days. Sunday school lessons were scheduled weekly at 2:30 p.m., followed by Benediction. Baptisms and Churching of Women, the blessing given to women following childbirth, were held at 3:15 p.m. on Sundays. Devotions, a sermon and Benediction were at 7:30 p.m. on Sundays. Weekday Masses were at 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. Devotions and Benediction were held on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. and at same hour on Holy Days, the First Friday of every month, every day of May, October and during the Novena in Honour of the Holy Ghost and the Triduum of Corpus Christi. Confessions were heard on Saturday evenings, the evening before Holy Days and Thursday before the First Friday of every month during afternoons and evenings.

The High Mass Choir that had been organized for the opening of the church had quickly gained a reputation in Calgary for the quality of its performances. It was of mixed voices and under the direction of Mr. Roach. Other directors were E. Atherton and E. Tardieu. W. Armstrong was in charge of the organists for the Masses – Miss G. McElroy, Mrs. Thookey, Mrs. Leppan, Mrs. McKenna, Frank MacDonald, Isobel MacDonald and Marie MacDonald. The High Mass Choir became a purely male voice choir in 1917, when J. J. MacDonald, a specialist in church music, took over its direction.

In 1921, Choir Director P. Talbot, introduced a six-piece orchestra to accompany the High Mass Male Choir at the Christmas and Easter Masses. The choir was featured in a broadcast of sacred music on the afternoon of Easter Sunday, 1924, over station CHCM, Riley and McCormick Ltd., in the first radio broadcast by a Catholic choir in Western Canada. Women returned to the choir in 1924, in time for a broadcast of Midnight Mass of Christmas, for the first time from Sacred Heart Church.

Other choir directors were P. Talbot, J. Walsh, J. B. Muise and Bernard (Barney) H. Joyce. Barney Joyce, who was a clarinetist in the local symphony orchestra, began his long tenure at Sacred Heart in

1924. Organists were Mary Prudhomme, Mrs. J. Walsh, J. B. Muise and P. Wilson.

The Children's Mass Choir was directed by the Ursuline Sisters, who were once again teaching at the school. The congregation established a community in Calgary in September 1921 following Bishop McNally's search for an English-speaking order that would be attached to the diocese. The community amalgamated with the Ursulines of Chatham in 1933.

Recalling the early years of the children's choir, a former member said that they had to sit crowded together on the floor of the choir platform during Masses. When they wiggled and whispered, Father Hetherington paused and silenced them instantly by peering over his glasses and saying, "Will you children please behave!"

Upon returning to the parish from service in the war, Father Hetherington had established a branch of the Holy Name Society, a fraternal organization dedicated to increasing faith in God and the Divinity of Jesus Christ. He had been impressed with a branch of the fraternity that had been organized in the Canadian Corps during the war. It had promoted respect for the Holy Name of God and of Our Lord and campaigned against blasphemy, perjury, profane and indecent language. L. P. Kirley was the first president of the society.

The Men's Association was formed in October 1920 for the purpose of improving the financial condition of the parish and helping the pastor in conducting the business affairs of the parish. Dillon Coste was elected chairperson. In December 1920, the Men's Association decided to inaugurate an envelope system of collecting weekly offerings at the church, intending to increase the trend of insufficient offerings from 1914 onward and subsequently to reduce the lingering parish debt.

In 1922, a group of men in the parish formed the 15th Calgary (Sacred Heart) Troop of Boy Scouts and the 15th Calgary (Sacred Heart) Pack of Wolf Cubs. F. Palmer, of the Army Medical Corps, was the first Scout Master and the first Cub Master. Boy Scouts regularly attended Camp Pearkes, located south of Seebee and near

confluence of the Bow and Kananaskis Rivers at Kananakis Falls. The Wolf Cub Summer Camp was held at the Lowery Gardens in Calgary. Scouts and Cubs took part in the local jamborees held in April 1923 and May 1925. The Cubs were traditionally “sent up” to the Scouts, but in the parish the Scouts dwindled in numbers whereas the Cubs thrived, with credit going to Cub Master Ervie Doran and Assistant Scout J. C. Hayes.

On February 6, 1922, Pope Pius XI succeeded Pope Benedict XV, who died on January 22, 1922. In 1924, Father Hetherington was named a domestic prelate (protonotary apostolic) by Pope Pius XI, an office designating him as an honorary member of the papal household. Thereafter, he was known as Monsignor Hetherington.

Monsignor Hetherington was elected Vicar Capitular, the administrator of the Diocese of Calgary, by the clergy in the interval between the transfer of Bishop McNally to the Diocese of Hamilton on August 12, 1924 and the installation of the second Bishop of Calgary, **Most Reverend John Thomas Kidd** (1868-1950) on May 13, 1925. Bishop Kidd was born at Athlone, Ontario and ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Toronto in Rome on February 16, 1902. He was President of St. Augustine’s Seminary in Toronto at the time of his appointment to Calgary on February 6, 1925. He was ordained a bishop in Toronto on May 6, 1925. He selected Monsignor Hetherington to be his Vicar General.

Although Monsignor Hetherington had been the bishop during these months in all but title, he bore the burden of diocesan administration in addition to his pastoral duties. During the 1920s, Children of Mary, a student organization dedicated to the observance of traditional devotions, met twice monthly. The Apostleship of Prayer, generally known as the League of the Sacred Heart, part of a world-wide association that aimed at making all Christians into “true apostles, full of zeal for the glory of God and salvation of souls” met on the First Friday of each month. Missions and Days of Recollection were regular events in parishes during the 1920s and 1930s. In March 1925, Fathers Hurley and Foran, of Springfield, Massachusetts, preached a Lenten Mission.

In May 1930, a mission was preached by a Passionist missionary, Father Hanley.

Sacred Heart Parish was free of debt in 1924, as if by magic, according to Monsignor Hetherington, who undoubtedly was impressed with the envelope system of collecting from parishioners. He noted that within months, the Men's Committee was considering the possibility of a new church and rectory, or at least a rectory. He would not hear of building a rectory without a church and was loath to attempt either with little money at hand.

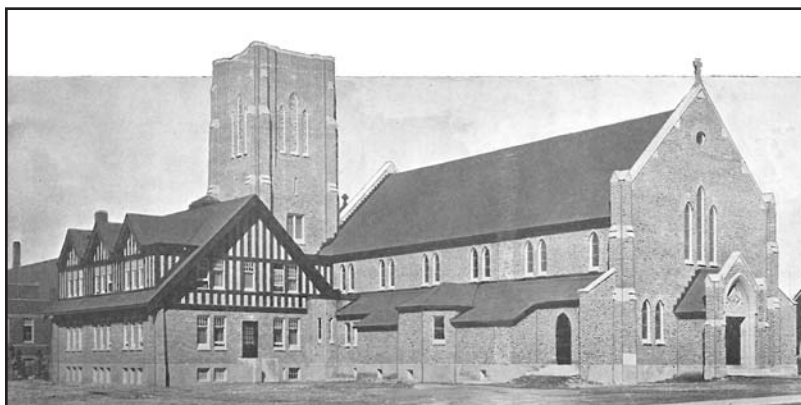
In October 1927, there were 171 families in the parish, a population of approximately 686 persons. Parishioners set about raising funds for their project, not content with a church that had been built to be a convent. The Men's Committee conducted a survey of the parish to inaugurate another envelope system of collections for a building fund. Within a year, they had accumulated \$7,000.00 and managed to double the amount the following year. In December 1929, the fund reached approximately \$45,000.00, notwithstanding the economic downfall in October of the same year. In May 1930, the Ladies' Aid Society held its annual two-day bazaar at the McDonald Academy and contributed the entire proceeds to the building fund.

Despite Monsignor Hetherington's hesitation and following much discussion, the Men's Association and parishioners forged ahead with building plans, having convinced him that the money needed was in place and that hoarding money would be detrimental to the general economic situation. And indeed, they found that contractors were available and talented mechanics, bricklayers and carpenters were looking to be hired. The first sod for the new church and rectory was turned privately by Hetherington on July 1, 1930. The corner stone was laid by Bishop Kidd on September 21, the Feast of St. Matthew. In mid-October the bell from the cupola of the old church was installed in the tower. Following a simple blessing of the church by Hetherington, the first service in the church was Midnight Mass of Christmas in 1930.

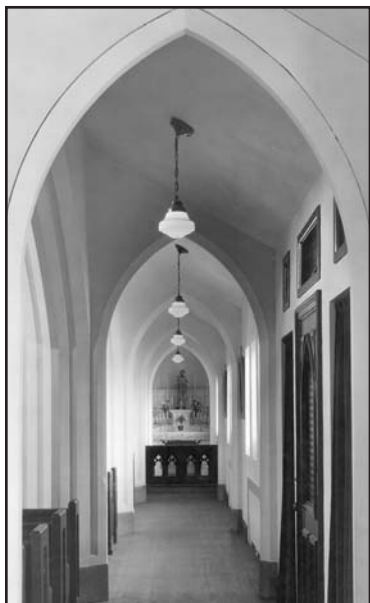
According to long time parishioners, the service followed a day of excitement and expectation. The pews, which were new, had been installed but the altars, organ, statues, stations and candelabra were all carried from the former church and arranged in place during the afternoon of Christmas Eve. A simple canopy of silvery pink fabric was draped over the main altar, providing the only colour in the small but architecturally beautiful structure. Parishioner Jack Fears, whose father Benjamin Fears worked as a finishing carpenter on the project, flushed with pride as he recalled being an usher and Monsignor Hetherington being forced to insist, "No one gets in without a ticket!" Students were allowed to attend Midnight Mass for the first time and all were thrilled to hear the magnificent voice of tenor Richard Moore singing "O Holy Night" before Mass commenced.

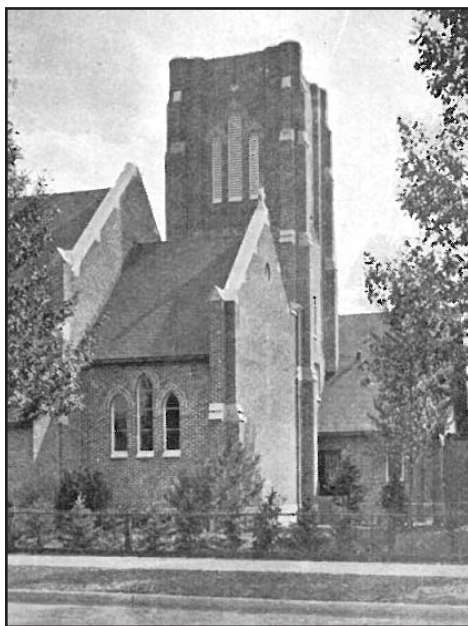
The new church was all that the pastor and parishioners had dreamed of as the architectural effect had been achieved through simplicity. In his history of the parish, Monsignor Hetherington pointed out that the style was "of the true gothic spirit" but the absence of mullioned tracery windows and the "austere severity" of design suggested Norman Transition influence. Monsignor Neville Anderson, who arrived in Calgary in 1925, recalled that the design was of Monsignor Hetherington's inspiration and direction and the buildings reflected his Westminster experience. Some of the ideas for the attractive grouping of buildings around a central tower came from Father Robert J. McGuinness, a priest, engineer and artist who had been educated by the Benedictines of Ampleforth and who served as a curate at Sacred Heart from 1930 to 1934. William Stanley Bates, another Englishman, was the architect.

The main structural parts of the building were made of reinforced concrete and corduroy tapestry brick, with cast-stone weather protectors to the buttresses, corbels and copings. Concrete was used for the main aisle arches, for the piers in the main body of the church and for the transverse arches over the side aisles, giving them a colonnade effect.



1930





1930



The church proper was 100 feet in length and 50 feet in width and built to accommodate approximately 500 persons. Over the main doorway in cast stone was placed the name of the church in Gothic lettering, along with the symbols of Christ, the Chi-Rho, flanked by Alpha and Omega. The front door opened to a vestibule leading to a narthex. The door of the narthex opened to the wide central aisle of the nave, leading to the steps of the High Altar, the focal point of the interior.

A series of gothic arches covered the side aisles of the church. The baptistery, confessionals and Shrine of the Little Flower were placed outside the main lines of the building to avoid obstructing a view of the altars at the end of each aisle. The altar on the gospel side of the church was dedicated to Our Lady. The altar on the epistle side of the church was dedicated to St. Joseph.

The ceiling of the nave was of wood stained dark, with hammer beam trusses. Lighting fixtures hung from the trusses. A stairway in the narthex, with a balustrade of carved oak, led to the organ loft and choir gallery. The gallery rail of carved oak matched the main altar rail.

The ground floor of the tower served as the sacristy, accessed through a door in the sanctuary. The boilers that supplied steam heating to the church were in the basement of the tower as were the boilers that supplied hot-water heating to the rectory. A ventilation system was installed in the roof space over the nave of the church and was operated by an electric fan in the façade. There was a dirt floor under the church proper.

The general contractor was J. McDiarmid Company, of Calgary and Winnipeg, represented by the Borgfords, father and son, during construction. The Trotter & Morton firm was awarded the contract for plumbing, heating and ventilation. Crane-Cassidy Electric installed the electric wiring. Globe Furniture Company of Waterloo, Ontario, provided the pews, altar rail, gallery rail and later, the baldachinin.

The rectory was connected to the church by the sacristy. On the main floor of the rectory, there were offices on either side of the front door. Behind the offices, there was a dining room, a kitchen and a pantry. Next to the steps leading to a back-porch was a bedroom suite and bathroom for the housekeeper. Upstairs were three bedrooms, two bathrooms, two rooms for study and a common room for priests. The floor in the basement had a concrete covering. The rectory was occupied by the resident priests on February 11, 1931, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

A Solemn Blessing of the church was performed on February 22, 1931, by Bishop Kidd, who returned on February 25 to bless the Stations of the Cross. At the same time, the former church was canonically reduced and became the parish hall.

Monsignor Hetherington officiated at the first marriage in the new church, that of James Henry Reive and Louise Barre on January 14, 1931. He recorded that the first child baptized in the new church was Dorothea Margaret MacDonald (Margaret Petty) on January 18, 1931, by Father McGuinness.

Monsignor Hetherington took pains to make the church grounds a place of beauty, so successfully that, in later years, when the decorative trees and shrubs were fully grown, the church and grounds became a photographer's delight, attracting bridal parties and visitors throughout the seasons. Among the trees was the first English oak planted in Calgary, a gift from the Canadian Pacific Railway farm at Strathmore, Alberta.

In 1932, there were approximately 929 parishioners in 206 families attending Sacred Heart Church regularly. There were three Low Masses offered on Sundays – at 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and a High Mass at 11:00 a.m. Benediction and a sermon were held at 7:30 on Sunday evenings. Sunday school and Benediction were on Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Baptisms and Churching of Women were at 3:15 p.m. on Sundays.

Masses were offered at 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. on weekdays. Devotions and Benediction were held every Thursday evening at

7:30 p.m. and at the same hour on Holy Days of Obligation, the First Friday of every month, every day of May and October to honour the Blessed Virgin, during the Novena in Honour of the Holy Spirit and during the Triduum of Corpus Christi. On Holy Days of Obligation, Masses were offered at 6:00 a.m., 7:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. On All Soul's Day, Masses were at 6:30 a.m., 7:00 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

Parishioners attended services on every day of Christmas and Easter Week. Christmas Eve was a period of fasting and abstinence. Confessions were heard during the afternoon of Christmas Eve from 3 to 6 o'clock and again from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m., when the church was closed for an hour as the clergy prepared for Midnight Mass. The following morning a Low Mass was offered at 8:30 a.m., a Children's Mass at 9:00 a.m., another Low Mass at 10:00 a.m. and a High Mass at 11:00 a.m., followed by Benediction.

During Holy Week, the Passion of Our Lord, according to St. Matthew was read at all Masses on Palm Sunday, with the blessing of palms taking place during High Mass. Parishioners attended weekday devotions and Masses, listening to the Passion according to St. Mark on Tuesday and according to St. Luke on Wednesday. On Maundy (Holy) Thursday, there was a morning service that included Holy Communion, followed by a procession to the Altar of Repose where consecrated hosts were reserved and "watched" throughout the day.

On Good Friday, parishioners attended an early Mass of the Pre-sanctified, with a reading of the Passion according to St. John, followed by an Unveiling of the Cross. They returned at 3 o'clock for Stations of the Cross and returned again during the evening for Benediction and a sermon. On Holy Saturday morning, they attended the Blessing of New Fire, Paschal Candle and Baptismal Water at 7:00 a.m. followed by Mass and Holy Communion at 8:00 a.m. Abstinence was in force on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday until noon. Easter Sunday was a day of General Communion.

In 1933, there were upwards of 1,000 persons attending weekend Masses regularly, with 46 of the 234 families in the parish on relief. The parish became even more of a social centre. During that year, a Lenten Mission was preached by Redemptorist Fathers Keogh and Cloran. In 1934, Father Keogh returned for a Renewal of Mission, assisted by Father McGreel, CSsR.

To serve the young women and girls of the parish, the 9th Calgary (Sacred Heart) Company of Girl Guides was formed in May 1930. It was the first Catholic Girl Guide Company organized in the city. Deborah Pashak and Leona McKinely were the first Guiders.

In September 1932, Bernice Chapman, formerly a student at Sacred Heart School, became Captain and proved to be so effective that there was not only a full complement of members, but a waiting list. The young women enjoyed summer camps at nearby Sarcee Reserve, Jumping Pound, Priddis and Ghost Lake. They participated in the Jamboree of 1935, the occasion of a visit by Chief Guide Lady Olave Baden-Powell and her husband, Lord Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Scouting movement. During Christmas season, the Sacred Heart Guides provided clothing, food and presents for the needy in Calgary.

A Brownie Pack was also formed in May 1930. Brownies were girls under the age of eleven who were preparing to be Girl Guides. Monsignor Hetherington commented, "Brownie rites are celebrated in Fairy Rings around the Toadstool and are incomprehensible to mere mortals."

In autumn of 1936, Bernice Chapman formed the Cadet Rangers, a branch of the Girl Guides which aimed to retain Guides of long standing with new programs as well as attract older girls and women into the movement. Any girl over sixteen years of age was welcome to receive training in citizenship, health, literature, camping and arts and crafts with a view to serving the Girl Guide Movement.

The contribution of the Ladies' Aid Society during the trying years of the Great Depression was beyond measure. Members organized all of the social activities in the parish and contributed to

the financial welfare of the parish. The institution of Circles in 1932 was a means of interesting many more women in the activities of the organization.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society, an international association of Catholic laymen engaged in serving the poor, was not officially constituted in the parish. Rather, the work was carried on in the parish by the St. Vincent de Paul Committee of the Men's Association, assisted by a women's auxiliary from the Ladies Aid Society.

The Knights of Columbus, a fraternal organization, was not established in the parish. Members from the parish met twice a month with men from other parishes at the Cathedral for meetings of the Calgary Council of the Knights.

Other organizations in the thriving parish included the Holy Name Society, the League of the Sacred Heart and the Sacred Heart Young People's Club, which promoted the spiritual, intellectual and social welfare of young women and men of the parish. The Young People's Club had a Senior Section for members over eighteen years of age and a Junior Section for high school members. The Patrician Club, a youth group organized at Sacred Heart on St. Patrick's Day in 1935, staged plays and events in the Parish Hall. Children of Mary met twice a month with Mother St. Louis, OSU, the principal of the Sacred Heart School, who acted as Supervisor and Instructress of Candidates. The Senior Section of the Young People's Club formed Religious Discussion Groups which proved to be popular at the time. In 1936, approximately 1,100 persons in 263 families attended services at Sacred Heart Church regularly.

In 1937, a red wool carpet for the sanctuary of the church was hand knotted by young women of the parish. In 1940, Monsignor Hetherington commissioned Hobbs Company of Toronto to craft stained glass windows for the sanctuary. For the central window, he chose a depiction of The Good Shepherd, which was dedicated to the memory of Mother St. Louis, OSU, by her students. Mother St. Louis (Margaret Bridget Coyne) was the popular principal of Sacred Heart School from 1925 to 1938. She died of a sudden

aneurysm while teaching on November 17, 1938. For the window on the left, Hetherington chose a representation of St. Peter, which was dedicated to the memory of James and Bridget Lowry. For the right side, he chose a representation of St. Jerome, dedicated to the memory of Hugh and Martha Hetherington.

In 1941, Monsignor Hetherington commissioned the Hobbs Company to make stained glass windows for the Shrine of the Little Flower. For the right side, he chose a depiction of St. Theresa of Lisieux dropping roses from heaven, with a likeness of the Sacred Heart's church-complex in a corner. For the left side, he chose a representation of the Nativity of the Lord. The windows were dedicated to the memory of Alex J. MacMillan and family.

In the Diocese: Bishop Kidd was transferred to the Diocese of London, Ontario, on July 3, 1931. **Most Reverend Peter Joseph Monahan** (1882-1947), formerly the pastor at St. Patrick's in Fort William, Ontario, was the third Bishop of Calgary, appointed on June 10 and installed on August 18, 1932. He was born at St. Lin, Quebec, ordained to the priesthood in Montreal in 1909 and ordained a bishop at North Bay, Ontario, on August 10, 1932.

Monsignor Hetherington served as Vicar Capitular of the Diocese in the interval between the transfer of Bishop Kidd and the arrival of Bishop Monahan on August 18, 1932. Bishop Monahan chose Hetherington as his Vicar General.

Bishop Monahan was transferred to the Archdiocese of Regina on June 22, 1935. **Most Reverend Francis Patrick Carroll** (1890-1967), Vicar General and President of St. Augustine's Seminary, was appointed the fourth Bishop of Calgary on December 19, 1935. He was born in Toronto, ordained to the priesthood in Toronto on June 2, 1917, ordained a bishop in Toronto on February 19, 1936 and installed at Calgary on March 25, 1936.

Monsignor Hetherington served as Vicar Capitular of the Diocese in the interval between the transfer of Bishop Monahan and the arrival of Bishop Carroll. In April 1936, Bishop Carroll appointed Hetherington a Diocesan Consultor and chose him as his Vicar General.

On November 30, 1937, the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, Bishop Carroll celebrated a Pontifical High Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral commemorating the 25th anniversary of the erection of the Diocese of Calgary by Pope Pius X on November 30, 1912. Monsignor Hetherington was the assistant priest. During the evening, Carroll officiated at the investiture of Hetherington as Prothonotary Apostolic at Sacred Heart Church. The dignity was conferred on him by Pope Pius XI in recognition of outstanding work in his parish and throughout the diocese.

On Sunday, September 11, 1938, the youth of Sacred Heart Parish joined together for a General Communion before attending a Eucharistic Day for Catholic Youth at St. Mary's Cathedral. Each parish supplied adorers for alternate half-hours during the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. In late afternoon, there was an open-air rally on the cathedral grounds at which Bishop Carroll addressed a gathering of upwards of three thousand young people.

While Bishop Carroll was in Rome for his first ad limina, Pope Pius XI died, on February 10, 1939. Bishop Carroll was present at the funeral services. Catholics welcomed Pope Pius XII, elected pontiff on March 2, 1939.

On August 20, 1939, more than eight hundred Catholics from Calgary and district were present when Bishop Carroll unveiled and blessed the Scollen-Doucet Cairn to mark the site of the first church in the diocese, the Chapel of Our Lady of Peace that was built for Father Lacombe by Alexis Cardinal in 1872. Monsignor Hetherington assisted Bishop Carroll during the ceremony. The cairn, with its base of chimney stones from the original building, was erected on a plot of land that was owned by Charles S. Mickle, who gave title of the land to the Diocese of Calgary.



In September 1939, Monsignor Hetherington cast about for an idea to do something for members of the armed forces, to make a “home away from home.” He broached the subject at a meeting of men of the parish, who formed the Parish Hall Committee, which appointed J. M. Dillon the chairperson. Other members were E. A. McCullough, R. A. Cannon, P. J. Moore, Frank Berke, P. E. Heather, T. L. Heney, A. Dahm, P. S. Carroll, J. H. Manes, J. S. Quigley, G. D. Venini, J. J. Kelly, J. J. Greenan and Frank Hussey.

With Bishop Carroll’s approval and good wishes and following meetings with parish and diocesan committees as well as with Brigadier G. R. Pearkes, General Officer Commanding Military District No. 13, it was agreed to offer space and recreation to soldiers from the new military encampment at Mewata Park, which was within walking distance of Sacred Heart Church. Committees of laymen throughout the city parishes raised funds by private subscription to make structural changes in the parish hall – taking out walls to make a large room and remodeling and equipping part of the building as a canteen.

A Finance Committee was formed, which appointed P. J. Moore the chairperson and P. S. Carroll the secretary. Other members were P. E. Heather, T. L. Heney, J. F. Quigley, Frank Berke, E. A. McCullough, Art McGuire, J. F. Dillon, Ralph Patterson, A. T. Kloefer and C. Thomas. Financial representatives were appointed in each parish to raise funds to maintain and repair the hall.

The diocesan unit of The Catholic Women’s League of Canada (CWL), a national organization of laywomen, agreed to furnish the hall and assist the clergy in the operation of the club. The principle burden fell on the Calgary Senior Subdivision of the CWL which, under the organizational talents of its president, Mrs. George Young, promptly raised the funds to start the operation through tag days, public banquets and raffles. Her assistants were Mrs. W. A. MacDonald, Mrs. Landry,

Mrs. A. Macmillan, Mrs. I. A. McGuinness, Mrs. Ralph (Margaret) Patterson, Mrs. T. J. Ranaghan, Maude Pryke, Mrs. H. (Marion) O'Connor, Mrs. A. C. Higgins and Mrs. Guy Franks.

The Catholic Soldiers' Club was heralded as the first of its kind in the Dominion and the finest in Western Canada when it was opened on December 4, 1939, by Bishop Carroll, who formally turned it over to the use of all members of His Majesty's Forces regardless of religious affiliations. It had spacious rooms completed with easy chairs, chesterfields, writing desks, reading sections, pianos, radios, games of all sorts and a dry canteen with hostesses on hand to serve members, operated on a purely non-profit basis. For entertainment, there were concerts, movies, dances and dinners to ensure a homelike atmosphere at all times. It was open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily.



1940

In the spring of 1940, the Knights of Columbus Canadian Army Huts Committee decided to take over the Soldiers' Club and it

became a unit of the Knights of Columbus Canadian Army Huts in Canada and the British Empire. A Ladies Auxiliary Hut Committee was formed, with Anna Marie Kane serving as the original chairperson, followed by Grace McKenna, Pat Blanchfield and Grace McKenna again until the club closed on March 24, 1946. Hostesses for dances, service at various activities and kitchen help were provided by the Business and Professional Unit of the CWL. Entertainment featured dancing, community singing, impromptu recitals and lyrical soprano solos – making for pleasant evenings for the soldiers. Among others, contributors were Sanna King, Isabelle Kennedy, Lorne Heeney, Bernard Kane, Pat Shanahan and Pat Carroll. Communion Breakfasts were held regularly and were well attended.

On July 23, 1941, Monsignor Hetherington was one of two priests appointed Chaplain to the Canadian Forces. He was named Senior Catholic Chaplain for Alberta Military District No. 13 with the rank of major and was attached to the headquarters in Calgary.

In the parish during the 1930s and 1940s: Barney Joyce continued to direct the High Mass Choir. Mary Joyce (Prudhomme), P. Wilson and Elizabeth Kane were the organists. The Ursuline Sisters directed and provided the music for the Children's Mass. Colleen Joyce was the organist for the Vesper Choir; the leading vocalists were Helen Kean, Betty Kean and Kathleen Moran. During the 1940s, summer camps for Brownies and Girl Guides were held in the Bragg Creek area, under the capable leadership of Guider Veronica Stiedoff. Elizabeth "Lizzie" McCormick, sister of Eneas McCormick, was the parish housekeeper for many years. In 1940, a Lenten Mission was preached by Fathers Barclay and Cassidy, CSsR. On May 18, 1940, Patrick Bernard O'Byrne, native son of the parish, was ordained to the priesthood at Sacred Heart Church by Bishop Carroll.

In 1945, there were approximately 1,625 persons regularly attending weekend Masses. On February 18, 1945, Bishop Carroll erected and blessed new Stations of the Cross in the church. Shortly thereafter, a marble baptism font was installed in the baptistery and was enclosed within an ironwork grille. On June 2, 1945, Bishop Carroll issued letters to install the Confraternity of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Sacred Heart Parish.



In 1948, Monsignor Hetherington introduced the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) to parishioners, which called for the formation of discussion groups at which participants focused on deepening their knowledge of Catholicism. He said that he considered CCD the chief lay organization not only of the diocese

but of the whole Church. He claimed, "Every Catholic has a duty to participate in the apostolic work of the hierarchy and they can most readily fulfill this obligation by membership in the CCD." Charter members were F. C. Colbourne, Ed O'Connor, J. J. Tighe, Ivan McManus, Paul Byrne, W. Scott, W. D. MacKay, S. H. O'Hara, K. Herman, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Gallivan, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Quigley, Mrs. J. K. Haughey, Mrs. M. J. Sheedy, Lenore Sheedy, V. C. Marshall, J. M. McKendry, F. Platt, Dr. Joseph Moriarty, J. P. Collins, H. J. Cardell, L. P. Kirley, Mary E. Kennedy, Mrs. L. H. Price, Catherine Pashak, Margaret Macdonald, G. D. Venini, Mrs. F. Sandgathe, Margaret Dooling, Mrs. C. Faddema, Mrs. J. Milne, Mrs. D. L. MacKenzie, Mrs. J. A. MacDonald, Mrs. G. Rice, M. Costello, Mrs. Irene de Barathy, Colin Macdonald, R. Sully, S. H. Poole, A. J. Gregg, Mrs. S. Venini, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Maunsell.

In 1949, Monsignor Hetherington organized a parish unit of the CWL, which proved to be an invaluable asset to the parish and to the community at large. The organization itself was re-structured in 1947, at the instigation of Bishop Carroll, with parochial units, autonomous diocesan and provincial units and a national unit that federated the organization. Many of the CWL's post-war resolutions dealt with reconstruction, including assistance to returning service personnel and their families, language training for the new wave of immigrants to Canada and response to an appeal from Pope Pius XII for assistance to war victims in Europe.

On January 26, 1949, a nominating committee was formed by Mrs. F. Colbourne to present the first slate of officers for Sacred Heart Parish Council of the CWL: President Mrs. George (Helen) Prieur, 1st Vice President Mrs. L. P. (Cecilia) Kirley, 2nd Vice President Mrs. W. O. (Beth) Kelly, 3rd Vice President Mrs. R. W. Wallace, Secretary Mrs. J. (Peggy) Venini, Treasurer Mrs. E. Crough, Councillors Mrs. J. M. Brett, Mrs. V. A. (Ruth) Cooney, Mrs. O. T. Dean, Mrs. A. J. Gregg, Mrs. E. Halstenson, Mrs. R. V. Moore, Mrs. C. J. McDermott, Mrs. Larry Price, Mrs. W. A. Stanford, Mrs. L. I. Brockway, Mrs. Paul (Bernice) Byrne, Mrs. D. Carswell, Mrs. G. A. Drew, Mrs. T. E. Haughey, Mrs. E. J. Maunsell,

Mrs. J. B. McGuire, Mrs. E. A. (Dorothea) McCullough, Mrs. George Rice, Mrs. G. Thalinaer and Mrs. J. Lovecchio.

Charter Members included Mrs. Prudomme, Mrs. Sharon, Mrs. Waters, Mrs. MacDonald, Mrs. May Shields, Mrs. Rowe, Mrs. A. D. Kettenbach, Mrs. T. L. Heeney, Mrs. F. N. (Marion) Fry, Mrs. M. S. Venini, Mrs. J. R. (Sarah) McNamee, Mrs. W. (Eileen) Duggan, Mrs. Verbunt, Mrs. A. (Bea) Munro and Mrs. L. Dodderidge.

The first committees set up were Membership, Welfare – apostolic works included hospital visiting, visiting the sick and visiting those confined to homes, Altar Society – which included looking after the votive candles, a sewing club to take care of priests' vestments and Mrs. E. O'Connor's expertise in ironing altar linens and altar boy surplices – and Education – which included a Teen-Age Club and a nursery committee to look after young children during Sunday Masses. The first guest speaker at a regular meeting held on March 21 was Mrs. H. (Isabella) Stevens, Past Provincial President of the CWL. There were 234 members in Sacred Heart's CWL in May 1949.

During the 1950s, the parish consisted of homeowners who usually remained in the district and raised a family. Members of the CWL covered every part of family and parish life: They collected gifts for children in the Children's Hospital during the Christmas season and made regular visits throughout the year. They assembled hampers for the needy of parish, planned receptions for newly ordained priests from the parish and promoted the Girl Guides and Brownies. In 1953, they successfully published a cookbook.

In 1954, CWL members joined with men of the parish to reactivate the floundering CCD discussion groups. Organizers were Isabelle McCormick, Bernice Byrne, E. McKay Mrs. S. MacKinnon, J. Stedman, F. C. Colbourne, Jack Fears, Mr. Stanford, Dan O'Byrne, Vince Cooney, Joe Moriarty and M. Henry.

Members donated funds to the Sisters of the Precious Blood and the Providence Creche (Providence Children's Centre.) They knitted crib cover sets for the children when the Creche was moved into a

new location. They raised funds through football pools and raffles – one notable winner received a neckpiece of squirrel fur donated by Charlebois Furs. They organized parties for residents of Lacombe Home, made sandwiches for the Welfare and Recreational Centre and supported foreign missions. They were active in the parent-councils of Sacred Heart School and of St. Patrick School, which opened to children of the parish at 1111-34th Avenue Southwest in 1958.

Some noteworthy projects in the city which originated from Sacred Heart Council: The Clothes Bank, which was later taken over by Catholic Charities, was operated by Marion Fry in the basement of the old Church Hall. The Oratorical Contest for Junior High Students in the Separate School System, which was later taken over by the Civic Action Committee of the Diocesan CWL, was instigated by Ellen Howard.



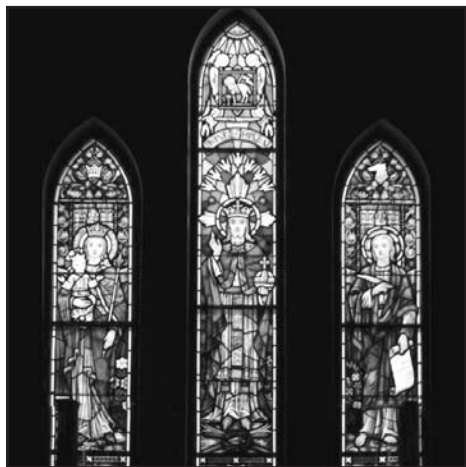
With the return of peaceful and prosperous times and with funds set aside, Monsignor Hetherington set about to decorate the church in a manner of his choosing. His early dealings were with William Meikle, Art Director of Meikle Stained Glass Studio, whom he conferred with when he visited Toronto in 1946 with sketches leading to the execution of several stained glass windows for the church.

The windows in the St. Joseph Chapel were replaced with stained glass depictions of St. Joseph with the Child Jesus and King David playing the Harp. They were completed by the Meikle Studio in 1947 and dedicated to the memory of Mary Rachel Hussey.

In 1948, Monsignor Hetherington ordered stained glass for the windows at the entrance of the church. Depictions of St. Christopher, the Patron of Travellers and Gardeners, of

St. Thomas More, the Lord Chancellor, of St. Cecilia, Patroness of Church Music and of Martyr Philip the Deacon asking “What does hinder me from being baptized?” were installed.

Monsignor Hetherington was not completely satisfied with the colour and quality of the glass used in some of the windows he had ordered and expressed a desire “for sparkle” in forthcoming designs for the baptistery even though it was situated on the north side of



King of Kings

the church. When William Meikle died unexpectedly in 1952 and his son, W. James Meikle, took over the firm, Hetherington continued to procrastinate and pressed for details that he thought should be embodied in the windows in order that they would be particular to “his” church. He finally ordered a triple window for the choir gallery that contained of depictions

of the King of Kings in the centre, the Queen of the Angels on the left and St. John on the right side.

The underlying thoughts of the triple window were coloured by St. John’s Book of Revelations. Above the Christ figure, he selected the emblem of the Eucharist supported by two angels. The words “King of Kings” appear on a ribbon below. Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit surround the head of Christ. At the feet of Christ are shown the crown of thorns and the scourges, to suggest by way of contrast, the humiliation of the trial.

The King of Kings window was dedicated in memory of Senator Patrick Burns. The others were dedicated in memory of his brother, Thomas Burns and Honora Burns, the wife of Thomas Burns. The

small figures of St. Patrick and St. Michael are the name saints of Patrick Burns and his son, Michael, who was also deceased. Patrick Burns had been made a Knight of the Order of St. Gregory by Pope Benedict XV on December 31, 1914, therefore the special cross and as a cattle rancher his brand was the shamrock, hence the decorative detail. A royal crown and a Tudor rose date the picture as Coronation Year 1953. According to Monsignor Hetherington, the theme of the picture fit in, by mere chance, with the theme of the year, hence the special old English crown from Winchester. The windows were installed in May 1954.

Monsignor Hetherington deliberated over designs but delayed ordering windows for the baptistery and nave of the church from the Meikle Studio. Before the war, he had been in contact with Nicholas Wagner, who was a New York based representative of Franz Mayer & Company Pontifical Institute of Christian Art in Munich, Germany, with regard to stained glass windows for the church but had not entered into a contract with the company. In January 1953, he had received a letter from Nicholas Wagner who was still representing the Franz Mayer firm and wondered if Monsignor had any interest in looking again at some of the designs. In January 1957, following a lengthy exchange of letters and designs, Hetherington ordered several sets of windows from Franz Mayer & Company.

For the gospel side of the nave, Monsignor Hetherington chose triple stained glass windows depicting the Annunciation, the Visitation of Elizabeth and Zachary, the husband of Elizabeth and the father of St. John the Baptist. The windows were dedicated to the memory of Paul Erich O'Byrne and his family.

For the epistle side of the nave, he chose representations of Pentecost, the Ascension of Our Lord and the Resurrection of Our Lord for the triple window. They were dedicated to the memory of the George J. Calhoun family.

For the windows to the left of the confessional on the north side of the church, he chose representations of the Last Supper, Jesus Teaching at the Synagogue at Capharnaum and Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes. For the baptistery, he chose depictions of

Nicodemus, Lamb of God, Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple and Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.

The windows were made in Western Germany and shipped from Munich in June 1957. They were installed in August 1957 by Roland C. Aldous, of Southampton, Ontario, a skilled tradesman who had studied under William Meikle and was in Calgary at the time to set the windows at the new St. Mary's Cathedral.

In March 1958, Monsignor Hetherington began negotiations with Nicholas Wagner with regard to the execution of stained glass for the clerestory windows. For the gospel side, he chose representations of St. Rose of Lima, St. Bernadette, St. Pius X, St. Gregory the Great, St. John (Jean de) Brebeuf, St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Benedict, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and St. Jude. For the epistle side, he chose representations of St. Teresa of Avila, St. Mother Cabrini, St. Ursula, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Basil, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Alphonsus Ligouri, St. Dominic, St. Augustine and St. Paul.

Monsignor Hetherington was receptive to Nicholas Wagner's suggestions regarding the traditional designs of saints but was determined once again to inspire reverence with unique stained glass in the windows. He asked for gold-pink rather than ivory tints in the robes of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, having in mind those of Mary, Queen of Heaven in the gallery window. Wagner held his ground, insisting that while artists allowed themselves great liberty in the coloration of the apostles, they dared not go away from accepted norms when depicting traditional saints. The representation of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque is shown in the colour of her habit. Wagner did allow the emblems of Christ's Passion in the design, including the cross in the flames above the heart, the crown of thorns and the wound due to the lance thrust. During the week of July 15, 1960, the clerestory windows were installed, again under the direction of Roland C. Aldous.

In 1950, Monsignor Hetherington commissioned Stevenson, Cawston & Dewar, Architects, of Calgary, to submit drawings and requirements for a marble altar to be installed in the sanctuary of the

church. He ordered a large quantity marble from Italy through La Maison Sebastiano Aiello in Montreal. It was shipped to Calgary in June 1953. During the mid-1950s, marble was applied to the sanctuary floor and to the lower walls of the interior of the church, including the Shrine of the Little Flower and the baptistery.

In the mid-1950s, a large mosaic of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was installed between the windows in the Little Flower Shrine. An altar completed the alcove, thereafter known as Our Lady of Perpetual Help Altar. Other purchases included sets of candlesticks to grace the altars and a large celtic cross, handcrafted by Gunnings Church Furnishings in Dublin, Ireland.

A gold-edged full length mosaic of St. Joseph was installed on the gospel side of the church, formerly called the Our Lady Chapel. A similar mosaic, of St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus, was installed on the wall behind the small altar on the epistle side of the church, in the St. Joseph Chapel. Mosaics of The Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude were installed in the south and north entrances to the church.



1955

In 1956, a steeple was added to the church tower. Alfred W. Hodges & Maxwell Bates Associated Architects drew up the plans, submitted in February 1955. John H. Read, of Read Jones Christoffersen Ltd., was awarded the contract for the addition, which completed the exterior of the church-complex. It was set up by Dominion Bridge Engineering.

An electric bell ringing system was installed on the tower bell in August 1957, at a cost of \$1,485.00. It was supplied by I. T. Verdin Company of Cincinnati, Ohio. The complete electrification of the bell, which is 28 inches in diameter, weighs 294 pounds and was made in Hillsboro, Ohio, required an unusual mechanism for automatically swinging the bell for Masses, for ringing for the Angelus and for tolling for funerals.



Monsignor Hetherington regretted that the church had not been planned on a larger scale but it had been more than ample at the time and he had not wanted to burden parishioners with a debt. In 1952, St. Charles School was opened for children in the parish at 23rd Avenue and 24th Street Southwest and was quickly used as a chapel-of-ease on Sundays for two Masses.

On July 3, 1954, Bishop Carroll erected the parish of the Holy Name of Jesus to the west of 24th Street. Father Leo Sullivan, the founding pastor, resided at Sacred Heart Rectory. In September 1948, Holy Name School, later called Holy Name Cottage, had been opened at 2802-21st Avenue Southwest for children of the parish.

Beginning in 1957, three Masses were offered on Sundays in St. Raymond School, which was opened in 1954 at 44th Avenue and 16th Street Southwest to accommodate those living in the southern

part of the parish. On July 2, 1961, parishioners were invited to an open-house at St. Raymond School to welcome Father Frank McKay, pastor of newly established St. James the Major Parish. St. James Parish consisted of Altadore, Lincoln Park and Lakeview subdivisions. The boundaries of the parish were 34th Avenue Southwest on the North, 14th Street on the East, the Elbow River on the South and 37th Street on the West.



During the 1950s, Masses were offered at 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Sundays and Holy Days. Baptisms were held on Sunday afternoons. Devotions and Benediction were held on Sunday evenings and on Wednesday evenings in honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, followed by confessions. Confessions were also heard on Saturday afternoons and evenings. In December 1959, the parish held an evening of appreciation for Barney Joyce, the choir director for close to forty years. His wife, Mary Joyce, was the organist during many of the years.

Organizations that continued to be active in the parish included the CWL, CCD Discussion Groups, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, Cubs and Brownies and Junior and Senior sections of a Young People's Club. The children of the parish attended Sacred Heart, St. Patrick, St. Charles and St. Raymond Elementary Schools. On April 16, 1956, Bishop Carroll blessed the new Sacred Heart Junior High School.

In July 1956, parishioners paid tribute to Monsignor Hetherington with Thanksgiving Services and a concert on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. His prominent place in the history of the diocese was the subject of Bishop Carroll's sermon as he spoke at length of his co-worker in governance and supervision of the diocese.

Associates during Monsignor Hetherington's pastorate:
1915-1918 Father E. J. Carew, 1916 Father J. L. Ryding, 1916-1918 Father J. J. Shea, 1919-1920 Father W. G. Gilman, 1920 Father

J. McLaughlin, 1920 Father L. S. Dempsey, 1920-1921 Father W. J. Holloway, 1921-1922 Father C. J. Smith, 1922-1924 Father M. McQuaid, 1924-1925 Father C. J. Smith, 1925-1928 Father R. F. Cragg, 1928-1930 Father R. F. Ritter, 1930-1934 Father Robert J. McGuinness, 1934-1937 Father Thomas P. Kiley, 1937-1938 Father Ignatius Leaver, 1938-1939 Father Bergin, OMI, supplied in fall of 1938, Father Burke supplied in late winter and spring of 1939, 1939-1942 Father James H. Smith, 1942-1943 Father Arthur I. Hamilton, 1943-1948 Father James McElgunn, 1948-1954 Father Gregory McLellan, 1948-1949 Father Louis Connolly, 1952-1956 Father Stanley Henke, 1956-1963 Father Gerald Gillis, 1956 -1962 Father Duncan T. Sullivan, 1962-1964 Father James Kelly.

Following several years of failing health, Monsignor Hetherington died on May 30, 1963, in his eighty-fourth year and fifty-seventh year of priesthood. On the evening of June 2, Pentecost Sunday, the Rosary and Prayers for the soul of Monsignor were conducted at Sacred Heart. A Guard of Parishioners remained with the body in the church throughout the night. On June 3, Pentecost Monday, a Requiem High Mass was offered by Father Gerald Gillis for the repose of Monsignor's soul at 8:30 a.m., requested by the Sacred Heart Home and School Association and attended by school children of the parish. At 10:30 a.m., Monsignor Anderson was celebrant of a second Solemn Requiem Mass for adult parishioners and friends, requested by the CWL. On June 4, following recitation of the Office of the Dead and a Pontifical Mass with a sermon by Bishop Carroll at St. Mary's Cathedral, internment took place at St. Mary's Cemetery with Monsignor J. S. Smith presiding. A Requiem High Mass was offered at Sacred Heart on June 7, completing a week of remembrance.



Monsignor Arthur
J. Hetherington

In a tribute, Bishop Carroll said that Monsignor Hetherington had a part far greater than most realized in the formation of parishes, the erection of church buildings, the establishment of institutions,

the introduction of religious communities, the diocesan financial administration and the provision of priests for the diocese.

Monsignor Anderson recalled that Monsignor Hetherington left an indelible mark on Sacred Heart Parish. For generations of Catholics, his name and that of the parish were synonymous terms. Parishioners knew him as a man of wisdom and integrity and as a priest of warmth and understanding, while children in the parish knew him simply as The Mons.



The Spirit of Vatican II

Reverend Reginald P. Sullivan

On January 25, 1959, Pope John XXIII made his surprise announcement that he intended to convoke a General Council of the Church. No such assembly had taken place since the First Vatican Council in 1870 and he intended to “open the windows to allow the Holy Spirit to blow afresh upon the Church.”

Pope Pius XII had died on October 9, 1958 and was succeeded by Pope John XXIII on October 28, 1958. The stirrings of renewal generated by the Second Vatican Council, opened on October 11, 1962, seemed to point to a deepening appropriation of spiritual life for all members of the Church.

The sessions of the Second Vatican Council were halted when Pope John XXIII died on June 3, 1963. Pope Paul VI was elected on June 21, 1963 and immediately announced that the Second Vatican Council would continue as planned. The Diocese of Calgary was represented by Bishop Carroll during the first session, until illness obliged him to return to Calgary. Father Joseph L. Wilhelm, the pastor at St. Peter and Paul's Parish in Hamilton, Ontario, was

appointed Auxiliary to Bishop Carroll in June 1963 and represented the diocese during the remaining sessions of the Council.

In Calgary, Bishop Carroll continued to conduct the affairs of the diocese. In June 1963, he appointed Father Aubrey Edward Tennant to Sacred Heart Parish. Father Tennant, who was pastor at St. Mary's in Beiseker, Alberta, died unexpectedly on June 29, 1963.

On July 12, 1963, Bishop Carroll appointed Father Reginald Patrick Sullivan the pastor at Sacred Heart. Father Sullivan was born in Calgary on July 29, 1915. Coincidentally, he was baptized on August 15, 1915, at St. Joseph's by Monsignor Hetherington in the latter's last official act before transferring to Sacred Heart.



Reverend
Reginald P. Sullivan

Father Sullivan received his education in Drumheller, Alberta and at St. Joseph's and St. Mary's Schools in Calgary. He attended St. Augustine's Seminary and was ordained to the priesthood on March 2, 1942, by Bishop Carroll at St. Mary's Cathedral. He served as associate pastor at St. Anthony's in Drumheller from 1942 to 1946 and at St. Joseph's in Calgary from 1946 to January 1949. He was appointed pastor at Sacred Heart in Raymond, Alberta, in 1949 and provided services at the Sterling, Magrath and Wrentham missions. In 1953, he was appointed pastor at St. Anthony's in Calgary, newly hived off from the Cathedral Parish, where he served until his appointment to Sacred Heart.

Father James C. Kelly, who had assumed most of the pastoral duties when Monsignor Hetherington was ill, remained at Sacred Heart as Father Sullivan's associate until he was appointed pastor at Sacred Heart in Raymond, in June 1964.

When Father Sullivan arrived, there were over 2,000 persons belonging to Sacred Heart Parish, most of whose lives were centred between church and family life. Catholics living within parish boundaries sent their children to assigned Catholic schools where they received a commendable education. Sacred Heart School

offered elementary and junior high programs after which students attended St. Mary's Girls' or St. Mary's Boys' Schools. St. Patrick, St. Charles and St. Raymond Schools served children in the newer districts of the parish. Parishioners served on the Separate School Board regularly, ensuring strong programs for the children of the parish.

The burgeoning population called for an increase in Sunday Masses – scheduled at 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. and others offered regularly on Sundays at St. Raymond and St. Charles Schools. Three Masses were offered on weekdays at the church at varying times. The Rosary was recited on Sunday evenings, followed by Benediction. Confessions were heard every weekday during Masses, on Wednesday evenings following the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions, on Thursday evenings following the Holy Hour and on Saturday afternoons and evenings.

Altar servers were called Knights of the Altar and were expected to attend Sacred Heart School Principal Mother Bernarda's classes in Latin in order to understand the responses used during Masses. Martin McDonald, the current Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Monsignor Doyle #1186 Council, was a Knight of the Altar, in charge of ensuring that the younger boys attended Latin classes.

Devotions such as Forty Hours of Adoration were a regular undertaking at Sacred Heart, as in the other parishes in Calgary. The Forty Hours held in October 1963 included a Mass of Exposition and a procession and was designed to include all parishioners. High Mass followed Benediction and a sermon each evening, with parishioners indicating on a sheet left in the vestibule when they would make a private visit to the church. Women of the parish came during the day, children dropped in after school and men covered the late evening and early morning hours. An indulgence of fifteen years was promised to those who visited the exposed Blessed Sacrament and prayed the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory five times for the intention of the Holy Father. A plenary indulgence was granted on each of the days of the exposition provided one had confessed and received Holy Communion.

The Sacrament of Baptism was conferred on Sunday afternoons and was a private rather than communal ceremony. Marriage Preparation Programs were offered through the diocesan offices. Father Sullivan initiated the Course of Instruction in the Faith in the parish, a new series of classes being offered to prospective converts throughout the diocese.

In 1963, Sacred Heart's CWL enjoyed a membership of 150 women and was an invaluable source of service within the parish. They organized turkey bingos and raffle tickets, baked for sales, were hostesses for annual teas and bazaars, held bridge parties, convened an annual dinner for members, promoted football pools, donated to the missions and provided drivers for retreats at Mount St. Francis in Cochrane, Alberta. They organized Days of Recollection for members and presented Spiritual Bouquets to pastors and parishioners on special occasions and during illnesses. In October 1963, they responded to Adoption Sunday, declared by the bishops of Alberta because of a serious shortage of Catholic homes for Catholic children, by handing out pamphlets and campaigning locally for homes. They distributed Christmas and Easter gifts, visited nursing homes, made layettes for children at the Providence Centre and provided oratorical scholarships for Sacred Heart Junior High School. They cleaned cassocks, laundered surplices and altar linens, replaced votive candles in the church and promoted the St. Anthony's Fund for the needy in the parish. Through the Civic Action Committee, they donated countless hours to the Don Bosco Home and the local Clothes Bank.

In August 1963, the Diocesan Council of the CWL convened the 43rd Annual National Convention of the CWL, held at the Palliser Hotel in Calgary. The National President was Isabella Stevens of Calgary. The Diocesan President was Ruth Cooney, a parishioner. The Convention Title was "Reverend Albert Lacombe, OMI, and Pioneer Missionary of the West." At the conclusion of the convention, Bishop Carroll said, "The Church in Canada is fortunate in its Catholic Women's League which has become through the zeal and charity of its members a vital medium of the lay apostolate in every field of Catholic life and national endeavor."

During the 1960s, the CWL sponsored parish units of the Girl Guide Movement. Bishop Carroll thought that the Guiding Program was beneficial for Catholic girls and had encouraged the parish units to take over from the business and professional units, which had sponsored guider programs since 1932. Grace Walla and Kay Moriarty served as conveners for the Guides and Brownies. Margaret Fedemma, Peggy Christie and Stephanie Hugo were among the leaders of the Brownies and Guides throughout the years.

For men of the parish and with Bishop Carroll's encouragement, Father Sullivan re-activated the Holy Name Society in the parish, the fraternal organization that was initially established by Monsignor Hetherington in 1919 for the spiritual betterment of Catholic men through a respect for the Holy Name of Jesus and frequent reception of the sacraments. In October 1963, a "smoker" was held in the rectory, an opportunity to become acquainted and plan for the society. Charter members were Frank Burke-Gaffney, A. Banasch, L. Barker, J. Berting, L. Biegun, H. Desilets, E. Brackenbury, J. Conelly, A. H. Corns, T. Cuthill, J. N. Derbyshire, T. Demarais, J. P. Dominas, T. J. Farell, C. H. Feldhaus, Leo Blanchfield, Joe Larkin, Tom McKenna and Jim Herring. Members met in the church monthly at 6:45 a.m. for a Holy Name Society Mass. During the Forty Hours of Adoration Devotions, a "Father and Son All Night Vigil" was encouraged by the Holy Name Society.

For the youth of the parish, the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides met regularly in the Parish Hall, as did their younger counterparts, the Cubs and Brownies. The Senior Young People's Group (Senior Patricians), met on Sunday evenings in the hall following devotions. The Junior Young People's Group (Junior Patricians), those in high school, met twice a month, overseen by "parent advisors." The Holy Childhood Association, a branch of the Pontifical Mission Society, encouraged the children of the parish schools to learn about, pray for and share with children in developing countries.

Father Sullivan was an energetic man, willing to roll up his own shirtsleeves and expected the same from others. He looked for

and recognized potential, gaining many and willing workers during his years at Sacred Heart. Bishop Carroll congratulated him for “the parish revival that you are accomplishing.” He was also delighted that Sullivan promoted Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Discussion Groups, which met regularly in the homes of parishioners.

In 1963, Mat Devolder, a member of the Secular Institute of Mary of the Annunciation, joined the parish staff as a parish worker. Hers was a new way of dedication whereby members combined a life of prayer with a professional and social life. Sacred Heart Parish was the first in Calgary to have such full-time assistance. Following the taking of a census by the men of the parish, she was engaged to visit every family in the parish area within a year.

By the mid-1960s, Calgary had increased in population from approximately 80,000 persons in 1940s to well over 300,000 persons. The area from the Bow River to 17th Avenue Southwest and from 4th Street to 18th Street Southwest was recipient of the most intensive population growth, which resulted in the development of numerous high-rise apartments. Effective on August 1, 1963, the area south of 34th Avenue Southwest from 8th Street to 14th Street was detached from Sacred Heart Parish and attached to St. James Parish.

Despite the revision, a continuing increase in parish population and its steadily changing social composition called for yet another increase in Sunday Masses – at 6:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., forcing Father Sullivan to decide between building a new church and adding to the existing edifice. He was fortunate to inherit a parish without a debt. In January 1964, Bishop Carroll allowed him to submit proposals to the Diocesan Building Committee regarding an extension to the church and changes in the rectory and hall. Because of property setbacks and the existing church-tower-rectory complex, the only possible extension of the church was at the west end. The initial proposal suggested that an extension would accommodate at least 200 people and would be a permanent part of the existing church with pews and a communion

rail and would not be used as a parish hall. The sanctuary ceiling would be raised to bring in natural light from windows high above the sanctuary where the church and the extension met. A drape would be drawn across the extension when it was not needed, although the addition by reason of its shape would form a background that would give depth and beauty to the sanctuary at all times. The tabernacle was to be replaced with a slightly lower one, constructed according to liturgical laws, thus giving greater clearance of view to those facing the priest.

Following months of consultation and revision, the architectural plans submitted by Joel Barrett, of J. Stevenson & Associates, were granted approval. His estimate of the costs of construction and renovation of the complex, demolition of the old hall and paving the parking lot was \$257,150.00, submitted on September 22, 1964. The general contractor for the project was McTavish, McKay & Co. Ltd., of Calgary.

Beginning in October 1964, the wall behind the main altar in the church was removed and a large apse area was constructed as part of the church but curtained off at times and used as a hall. Folding doors were installed to further divide the areas.

The hall led to a lower hall of the same size. Both halls were equipped with kitchen and restroom facilities and both were accessed by an entrance at the southwest end of the building. Terrazzo flooring was used in the main entrance, the upper and lower halls and entrances, and the restrooms. Access to the halls from the church interior called for the removal of the St. Joseph Altar and the mosaic of St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus behind the altar to make way for a hallway that allowed access to the north entrance of the church and the upper hall. The north door to the church was closed off. The mosaic of St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus was installed in the new hallway.

The front vestibule of the church was re-constructed to form part of the narthex with side doors as well as enlarged front doors installed to accommodate gatherings before weddings and funerals. The hand-carved railing on the stairway leading to the choir loft on

the north side of the narthex was removed. Stairs on the north and south sides of the narthex were used for access to the choir loft.

Changes in the interior of the church did not require relocation of the main altar in order that Masses could be celebrated by the priest facing the congregation, still a point of controversy at this time among theologians but nonetheless valid with the permission of the bishop of a diocese. Also, in keeping with liturgical requirements, the Blessed Sacrament was reserved in a tabernacle on the smaller St. Joseph Altar, which was re-set on a platform in May 1967 on the north side of the sanctuary. The baptism font was moved into the sanctuary and installed on the south side, where the presider's chair is now situated.

Two new pews were installed in the church; the others were repaired and refinished. Carpeting was installed, after which the walls of the church and sacristy were re-decorated. Appropriately designed windows and light fixtures were installed in the upper hall.

Stained glass windows that had been installed on both sides of the entrance in 1948, were used in the side entrances of the narthex. In the north entrance were depictions of Philip the Deacon and St. Cecilia. In the south entrance were depictions of St. Christopher and St. Thomas More.

Alterations to the rectory provided pastor's quarters on ground level where the housekeeper's suite had been located, with office and instruction rooms that were separated from the living quarters and yet remained as one unit. A courtyard on the sunrise side of the building was a practical measure that allowed for privacy yet added to the attractiveness to the buildings.

The kitchen was updated, as was the housekeeper's laundry and storage rooms in the basement. A large garage with a driveway and an entrance to the halls completed the west side of the buildings. Matching brick from the Medicine Hat Brick and Tile Company was used on the exterior of all walls. Father Sullivan negotiated with school trustees in order to use a portion of Sacred Heart School's playground for parking on Sunday mornings.

On August 15, 1965, Bishop Wilhelm blessed the new additions and consecrated the *mensae*, the table-tops, of the two altars. Relics were placed in the sepulchers of the altars. The main altar, entitled Sacred Heart Altar, received the relics of St. Regulus and



1960



1966

St. Gaudentia, martyrs and of St. Pius X, the pope who erected the Diocese of Calgary in 1912 and who was canonized in 1954. The side altar, entitled Our Lady of Perpetual Help Altar, received relics of St. Regulus, St. Gaudentia and St. William, an abbot.

For the most part, parishioners welcomed the changes, especially the new halls with facilities. The architect had rendered a creative blending of the old with the new. Difficult for many, was the relocation of the Blessed Sacrament. And, to this day there is a call to restore the mosaic of St. Therese of the Infant Jesus to the interior of the church.

Stained glass was set in the remaining windows of the narthex in June 1968. A representation of The Good Shepherd was installed in the north side and dedicated to the memory of the Edward J. Gallagher family. A representation of Christ and the Children was installed in the south side and dedicated to the memory of William and Thomas McKenna. At the same time, stained glass windows representing St. Aloysius Gonzaga and St. Agnes were installed on the north and south walls of the choir loft. The windows were ordered from Franz Mayer & Company in Munich, completing the series of clerestory windows.

Masses continued to be well attended at Sacred Heart, with the upper hall in constant use during weekend celebrations. On Sundays, they were held at 7:45 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Weekday Masses were at 6:45 a.m., noon and 5:30 p.m. Saturday Masses were at 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Devotions were held on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings. Confessions continued to be heard during weekday Masses, following Devotions on Wednesdays and twice on Saturdays. A Bible Service, followed by a Holy Hour and Mass, was held on Friday evenings.

The Second Vatican Council was undoubtedly a most significant event in the life of the parish. It formed a watershed in the flow of theological thought resulting in parishioners thereafter referring to the pre-Vatican II years and the post-Vatican II years. From the

onset of the Council, Father Sullivan eased into parish life the liturgical changes that had been approved by the Council and subsequently decided upon by Bishop Carroll.

Hymn books were made available for congregational singing at Devotions and Masses. In December 1964, a new law of fasting permitted parishioners to have food and liquids up to one hour before receiving Holy Communion. In January 1965, the formula for the Sacrament of Penance was outlined, to be administered in the vernacular. In December 1965, parishioners were to choose either December 23 or December 24 as a day of fasting. In January 1966, the new St. Joseph's Missal was approved for use in the diocese and recommended for use in parishes. In October 1966, following abrogation of the law of Friday abstinence, parishioners were encouraged to assume more individual responsibility with regard to fasting and abstention.

In March 1966, Father Sullivan initiated the establishment of a Parish Pastoral Council (Pastoral Council) at Sacred Heart, in compliance with the Vatican II directive, *The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, that asked pastors to recognize and promote the laity. The purpose of pastoral councils was to bring all elements of a parish together and to work jointly to build a parish as a living and vibrant community by identifying needs and gifts in the parish and bringing them together in various ministries. Clair Cote was named the chairperson of the Pastoral Council. The charter members were Joseph Badyk, Joseph Comessotti, Russ Hampton, Lois Burke-Gaffney, Margaret Chisholm, Ruth Cooney, Mrs. R. Davidson, Florence Miley, Emmie Klus, James Wilkie, Debbie Morrow and Frank Testin.

There was mixed reaction in the parish to the formation of a Pastoral Council. A large segment of parishioners welcomed the opportunity to accept a responsible role in the affairs of the Church. Others were apprehensive about any re-organization that would skim off membership in existing organizations. Father Sullivan walked a fine line, especially with regard to the CWL, which saw members caught up in first-wave feminism and opting out of the

traditional mode of parish service in their search for spiritual and social development.

Recognizing that change was the order of the day, CWL President Isabelle McCormick acknowledged that new-found ecumenism had encouraged members to look for “areas of agreement which we share with our fellow man.” Beginning in January 1966, members were encouraged to attend the “Vatican Two and You Series” on understanding renewal in the Church, held at St. Mary’s Hall. They participated in the Church Unity Octave from January 18 to 25, 1966, to promote unity through prayer and effort. During the same year, they attended the local United Nations Coffee Party, visited the Shaarey Tzedec Synagogue, heard an explanation of Judaism by Rabbi Eisenberg and volunteered for the Calgary Church Women’s Community Care (Meals on Wheels) Project, initiated by women of the United Church of Canada.

With the new halls opened for use in October 1965, the CWL expanded its programs and activities. The proceeds of the Autumn Tea and Bake Sale were used to sponsor a student at a mission school in a poor area of Peru and another project in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Members volunteered for the parish bingos and convened receptions for the clergy. Fundraising enabled contributions to the Sister Adorers of the Precious Blood, the Freedom from Hunger Campaign, the Apostolate of the Sick, Meals on Wheels and the Vanier Institute of the Family, an organization dedicated to the well-being of families.

To maintain the interest of members: In February 1965, Patricia O’Byrne led a discussion, Communication through Radio, Television and Films, that featured panelists Marjorie McKnight, Rieta Murray and Father F. Cahill, CSB. In March 1965 Father Jack Kirley, an associate at Sacred Heart and representative of the Canadian Association of Mental Health, led a discussion on issues pertaining to mental health. In December 1965, Father Pat O’Byrne led a lively discussion about Catholic Social Action. In 1968, Chairperson of Community Representation Leone O’Byrne and five members of the CWL attended courses on counselling at Catholic

Family Service and worked on cases in the parish with a social worker – listening, giving advice and referring for services.

In spring of 1969, the Education Committee Chairperson Elizabeth (Lil) Cooney moved the CWL into areas of Adult Education. A “Bride’s Course” was organized to deal with aspects of homemaking – budgeting, management, interior decorating, entertainment and preparation of meals. It was taught by instructors from the Home Economics Department of the Calgary Separate School System. Invitations were issued to women of other faiths. Its success was followed by sessions on “You and Your Home.” In fall of 1969, Elizabeth Cooney organized “Operation Understanding,” reflection groups that were set up to discuss topics such as “What it means to be a Catholic in the World Today” and “Changes Occurring in the Church.”

To increase numbers, CWL members divided the parish into zones and visited all women, a successful project that enabled them to set up discussion groups in different districts. Among others, the Monsignor Hetherington Group met in Scarboro homes and the Single Working Girls’ Group met in Connaught homes. Among those who were active in the membership at the time were Lois Burke-Gaffney, Alice Maughan, Ethel McKay, Eileen McKay, Wanda Theriault, Kay Moriarty, Ruth Cooney, Sarah Stotts, Mary Guichon, Marie Wilkie, Bea Munro, Helen Prieur, Grace Walla, Anastasia Robertson and Rosanna Scott.

To mark the opening of Canada’s 100th Birthday, all church bells in the city rang for five minutes on New Year’s Eve. Prayers were offered at Masses on Sunday January 1, 1967.

In the diocese: Bishop Carroll’s resignation was accepted by Pope Paul VI in December 1966. In failing health, he died on February 25, 1967. His successor was **Most Reverend Francis Joseph Klein** (1911-1968), Bishop of Saskatoon, who was appointed the fifth Bishop of Calgary on February 28, 1967. He was born at Sedley, Saskatchewan and ordained to the priesthood on September 2,

1934, at Sedley for the Archdiocese of Regina. He was ordained a bishop on April 30, 1952 and was installed as Bishop of Calgary on April 25, 1967.

Bishop Klein employed consultation in a spirit of collegiality. One of his first acts as Bishop of Calgary was to institute the Priests' Senate, a vehicle of communication between the bishop and priests, as recommended by the Second Vatican Council. Father Paul O'Byrne, the pastor at St. Joseph's in Calgary, was elected the first chairperson of the Senate. Following Bishop Klein's sudden death on February 3, 1968, O'Byrne was chosen Administrator of the Diocese of Calgary by the Diocesan Consultors until a new bishop was appointed.

Father Paul O'Byrne was appointed the sixth Bishop of Calgary on June 21, 1968. He was ordained a bishop and installed at St. Mary's Cathedral on August 22, 1968, by Apostolic Delegate Archbishop Emanuele Clarizio.

Bishop O'Byrne was born in Calgary on December 12, 1922, the youngest of five children in the family of Daniel Norman O'Byrne and Beebeanna (Costello) O'Byrne, who lived up the hill from Sacred Heart Church in the Scarboro district. He was baptized at Sacred Heart on December 17, 1922, by Father M. McQuaid and confirmed at Sacred Heart on May 14, 1933. He attended Sacred Heart School and St. Mary's Boys' School. He entered St. Joseph's Seminary in 1942 and was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Carroll at St. Mary's Cathedral on February 22, 1948.

Monsignor Anderson related that **Most Reverend Paul John O'Byrne** was said to be the first bishop in North America to be chosen according to the new formulas of Vatican II. Apostolic Delegate Archbishop Clarizio and Archbishop Louis Levesque of Rimouski, one of seven bishops chosen to advise the pope on the selection of bishops, travelled to Calgary and in Sacred Heart Hall held a meeting with the clergy, both diocesan and religious, giving

them an opportunity to explain the particular nature of the Diocese of Calgary and the type and quality of bishop they considered ideal for Calgary.

Once chosen, it fell to Bishop O'Byrne to shepherd the faithful through the reforms of Vatican II, a task he embraced with fervour. In many parishes, Sacred Heart included, experimentation had taken place before restructuring was solidly in place. During the Christmas celebrations in 1967, for example, the Midnight Mass held in the lower hall, was advertized as a "Happening Mass," for those looking for a "different" kind of liturgy.

Gradually, there were sound and permanent liturgical changes made in the parish. In 1969, Pope Paul VI gave local bishops the right to appoint Ministers of Communion in their dioceses. In January 1970, revisions in the Entrance Song and the Penitential Rite of the Mass were introduced. At the reading of the epistle, the lector added, "This is the Word of the Lord," to which the response was "Thanks be to God." The response to the Prayer of the Faithful was "Hear our Prayer, O Lord." Weekly booklets for following Masses were ordered and distributed at the church. The Communion Rail was removed from the church to ensure that Holy Communion was received in a standing position.

Masses were greatly attended at 7:45 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:45 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Sundays and three times a day on weekdays. In 1964, Margaret Berry was engaged as the organist and subsequently directed the Senior Choir and the Boys' Choir. Mother Bernarda's School Children's Choir joined with the regular choirs on festive occasions.

Noteworthy: Lois Burke-Gaffney (Kane), a member of the Senior Choir, was the soloist at the Midnight Mass of Christmas 1965. In 1969, Jim Howells, the present Director of Music, was a member of the Boys' Choir and began to play the Hammond Organ for the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays. He also formed a Folk Group

with guitarists Rick Berry and Mike Bruch for the 5 o'clock Mass on Sundays. In 1969, they played for the Christmas Mass in the lower hall.

During Father Reg Sullivan's pastorate, Rose Herard was the parish secretary. Mary Dadswell was the housekeeper. Doug Scholefield was the custodian of the church, beginning in 1966.

In the late 1960s, Bishop O'Byrne began to assign co-pastors in parishes throughout the diocese. In 1969, he appointed Father Reg Sullivan and Father Duncan Thomas Sullivan as co-pastors of Sacred Heart Church.

Reverend Duncan T. Sullivan

Father D. T. Sullivan was a familiar face to parishioners, having been an associate at Sacred Heart from 1954 to 1962. He was born in Grand Anse, New Brunswick, on August 24, 1910 and received his early education in Grand Anse. His studied at St. Thomas College in Chatham, New Brunswick and Holy Heart Seminary in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Edmonton at Edmunston, New Brunswick, on June 16, 1938, by Bishop Patrice Chiasson of the Diocese of Bathurst.



Reverend Duncan
T. Sullivan

Bishop Carroll arranged to have Father Sullivan transferred to the Diocese of Calgary where he became Episcopal Secretary and was appointed Chancellor in 1946. He was appointed pastor at St. Michael's in Bow Island, Alberta, from 1950 to 1954 when he was appointed associate pastor at Sacred Heart in Calgary. In 1962, he was appointed administrator of St. Patrick's in Midnapore and Chaplain of Lacombe Home, a long-term nursing facility, where he served until his appointment to the team ministry at Sacred Heart Parish.

In December 1970, parishioners celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the opening of the church. It was a joyous occasion, a time to recall former days and meet old friends. Peggy Venini and Ellen Howard convened the event. In 1970, there were approximately 2,300 persons regularly attending the weekend Masses at Sacred Heart.

Popular in the parish at this time was a young adults' group called The Hub. Members met in the rectory regularly and planned activities such as broomball and skating at South Calgary Park. In 1970, they staged a theatrical production, "Barefoot in the Park."

In April 1971, Father Reg Sullivan added a 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturdays following a diocesan directive authorizing Saturday evening Masses that fulfilled the Sunday obligation. He also initiated a Children's Mass, held in the lower hall once a month and featuring a special liturgy. In August 1971, Bruce Wheatcroft was engaged as Music Director.

During the early 1960s, Father Reg Sullivan served as chaplain for the Camp Cadicasu Association, a seasonal camp operation for Catholic children and youth in the Calgary area. He also served as chaplain for the Calysmen, an organization of young Catholic professionals and businessmen, beginning in 1971. Meetings of both associations were held at Sacred Heart Church.

New life was breathed into the floundering Pastoral Council in 1971 with the formation of a Pastoral Council Steering Committee. Joe Badyk and Dan O'Byrne were co-chairpersons. Marian Kanuka was the secretary. Joe Badyk was chairperson of the Finance-Administration Committee. Ruth Cooney and Jim O'Byrne were co-chairpersons of the Parish Life Committee. W. F. Hickey was chairperson of the Liturgical Committee. Fred Kanuka was chairperson of the Education Committee.

Father Reg Sullivan was an ex-officio member of all committees of the Pastoral Council. Sister Marilyn Matz, FCJ, who had been

engaged in February 1971 to oversee the religious education programs in the parish, was a member of the Council. Others who helped to re-structure and served on the Council were Florence Miley, Leone O'Byrne, Eileen Shannon, G. Fleuren, Jack Van Tighem, Ed Adolphe, Allen Cullen, Mary Skeen, Claire McKenna, Emily Hemstock, Eileen Nowicky, Beth Kelly, Bill Keeley, Tim Buehner, Mary Biner, John Groarke and Charlotte Groarke.

In the early 1970s, reflection groups continued to be popular in the parish. Organizers reached into the community for speakers, some of whom were parishioners as well as familiar names in Calgary. A panel discussion, "Drug Traffic," was chaired by Bill Major and featured Panel Members Edward McCormick and Dr. C. J. Labelle. A discussion, "Citizenship," was moderated by Vincent A. Cooney and featured Louis Lebel, Mother Bernarda and Nick Taylor. A discussion, "Is the Public Really Getting the News?" was chaired by Fred Kanuka and featured news men from the press, radio and television – Fred Kenny, Larry O'Hara and Henry Viney. Another evening of debate dwelt on social justice with Jack Van Tighem, Vincent Murphy and Bill Major in the role of panelists. The evenings brought out opinions of the panelists and questions from the audience on issues that called for Catholic Action, action by Catholics in order to influence society.

As some of the prominent members of the CWL were also serving as committee members of the Pastoral Council, there was a concerted effort, on the part of the CWL women, to be content with a smaller membership, re-organize somewhat and contribute their skills in the interest of the parish. Many of the original members faithfully continued with apostolic works that included volunteering at Roberts House for autistic children, serving coffee following Masses, singing for parish funerals, raising funds for the missions and campaigning for Catholic homes for children in foster and permanent care. They promoted Girl Guides and Brownies, sponsored a bingo for Christmas hampers, volunteered at the Thrift Shop and Clothes Bank, contributed to the Elizabeth Fry Society, drove for Meals on Wheels and convened birthday parties at nursing

homes. A Quilting Group was formed, women who met once a week to socialize and make quilts and afghans for the missions. The executive continued to hold get-acquainted coffee parties, a Christmas party and a pot-luck dinner for members.

In 1971, because of its inability to attract young women, executive members decided that the parish unit of the CWL would be inactive. From 1949 to 1971 Sacred Heart Council had fifteen presidents and two spiritual directors. Presidents: Mrs. G. (Helen) Prieur, Mrs. F. P. (Lil) Hussey, Mrs. L. P. (Cecilia) Kirley, Mrs. Patience Nicholson, Mrs. P. (Bernice) Byrne, Mrs. F. N. (Marion) Fry, Mrs. V. A. (Ruth) Cooney, Mrs. H. (Ruth) Howard, Mrs. J. (Louise) McMillan, Mrs. J. (Margaret) Chisolm, Mrs. E. (Isabelle) McCormick, Mrs. F. (Lois) Burke-Gaffney, Mrs. E. J. (Kay) Moriarity, Mrs. J. (Jean) Commessotti.

Monsignor Hetherington was the Spiritual Director (Advisor) of Sacred Heart Council of the CWL from 1949 to 1963. As a tribute, a portrait of Monsignor by Nicholas de Grandmaison was commissioned by the CWL, an oil painting on canvas that hangs in the church office. Father Reg Sullivan was the Spiritual Director of Sacred Heart Council from 1963 to 1971.

In June 1972, Father Reg Sullivan was appointed rector at St. Mary's Cathedral. Parishioners attended a gathering at the church on August 13 to express gratitude for his exemplary service and many kindnesses. He was well liked by parishioners and fellow priests and had made many friends during his years at Sacred Heart. They were heartened to learn that he would be nearby at St. Mary's.

Associate Clergy during Father Reg Sullivan's pastorate:
1962-1964 Father James C. Kelly, 1964 Father J. R. Fetherston, 1964-1968 Father John P. Kirley, 1964-1967 Father Lucien J. Robert, 1967-1968 Father Lawrence J. Bagnall, 1968 Father John A. Bastigal, 1969-1971 Father Lucien J. Robert, 1969-1973 Father Nicholas F. Horvath, 1971-1973 Father M. A. Philip Tessier.

Very Reverend John J. O'Brien

In 1972, the Diocese of Calgary was made up of approximately 113,000 Catholics, served by 160 priests and 198 sisters. The 60th Anniversary of the Diocese of Calgary was celebrated on November 30, the Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle. The faithful attended the Anniversary Mass concelebrated by Bishop O'Byrne, Bishop Neil N. Savaryn of the Ukrainian Diocese of Edmonton and Bishop Raymond Roy of the Diocese of St. Paul at the Jubilee Auditorium in Calgary.

During his episcopate, Bishop O'Byrne remained deeply convinced of the importance of renewal and innovation in the diocese. In June 1972, he had appointed Monsignor John (Jack) Joseph O'Brien and Father William Francis Stephenson to join with Father D. T. Sullivan, as co-pastors of Sacred Heart Parish.



Monsignor
John J. O'Brien

Monsignor O'Brien was born in Calgary on March 3, 1917, baptized at Sacred Heart by Monsignor Hetherington on March 18, 1917 and confirmed at Sacred Heart on June 3, 1928. He received his education at Sacred Heart School and St. Mary's School in Calgary before entering St. Augustine's Seminary. He completed his studies at St. Joseph's Seminary and was ordained to the priesthood at St. Mary's Cathedral on April 10, 1943, by Bishop Carroll.

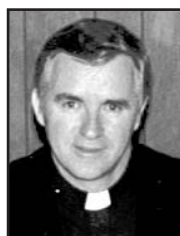
Father O'Brien served as an assistant at St. Anthony's in Drumheller from 1943 to 1948 before being transferred to Picture Butte, Alberta, where he was the pastor at St. Catherine's and its missions until 1955. He returned to Calgary in 1955 to direct the fundraising and building of the new cathedral. He was appointed pastor of newly erected St. Gerard Parish in Calgary in 1960, where he directed the building of St. Gerard's Church and served the parishioners until his appointment to Sacred Heart. He became a

Privy Papal Chamberlain to Pope John XXIII in 1960 and thereafter was known as Monsignor O'Brien.

Monsignor O'Brien served as Diocesan Director of Immigration in 1951 and Director of Catholic Immigration of Montreal in 1958. He was appointed Representative of the Alberta Bishops at the Catholic Hospital Conference in 1959. At the time of his appointment to Sacred Heart, he was Vicar General of the Diocese of Calgary.

Reverend William F. Stephenson

Father Stephenson was born in New Waterford, Nova Scotia, on December 3, 1936. He received his early education at St. Agnes School in New Waterford and completed post-secondary studies at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, before entering St. Augustine's Seminary. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Calgary at St. Ninian's Cathedral in Antigonish by Bishop William E. Power on May 27, 1961.



Reverend William
F. Stephenson

In Calgary, Father Stephenson served as Episcopal Secretary from 1961 to 1965 and Chancellor from 1965 to 1971. He was appointed pastor at St. Clement's in Calgary in 1968, while continuing with his duties as Chancellor. He was appointed Dean of the North Calgary Deanery in 1970 and was granted a sabbatical year in 1971 for studies at the Lumen Vita Centre in Brussels, Belgium.

During the early years of the co-pastorate, Masses continued to be celebrated at 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and at 7:45 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12:45 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. As there were additional priests residing at Sacred Heart, Masses were still held at 6:45 a.m., noon and 5:30 p.m. on weekdays and at

9:00 a.m. and noon on Saturdays. The Sacrament of Penance was available before and during all weekday Masses and on Saturdays afternoons and evenings. Following Pope Paul VI's directives of August 1972, the Ministry of Reading by laypersons was exercised at Masses.

Beginning in October 1972, a Folk Group sang at the 10:15 a.m. Mass on Sundays, during which there was a nursery for children in the lower hall. Coffee and juice were served by volunteers following the Mass. The Senior Choir performed at the High Mass at 11:30 on Sundays. Clayton Lee was engaged as Organist and Choir Director in September 1972, following the resignation of Bruce Wheatcroft. Father Nicholas Horvath, a priest in-residence, served as the organist for various Masses. Catholic Book of Worship hymn books were purchased for congregational participation in Masses.

When the Pastoral Council Steering Committee met in September 1972, Monsignor O'Brien and Father Stephenson requested that the committee remain in office until January 1973, when elections would be held. Inserts were placed in the weekly bulletin to educate parishioners about Pastoral Councils – that they were encouraged by Vatican II, that they were considered a means to inject new life into parishes, that they helped the laity to become involved in the “inner workings” of a parish, that they furnished a bridge for dialogue between priests and laity and that they fostered a spirit of mutual accountability between priests and laity.

In January 1973, Monsignor O'Brien and Father Stephenson provided the Pastoral Council Steering Committee with guidelines to function even more effectively. Monsignor O'Brien suggested that in order to create an interest in a Pastoral Council, parishioners should be fully informed before elections of the position of a Pastoral Council within the parish following reforms of Vatican II and of the necessity of parishioner involvement in the life of the parish. He stressed the need to nominate people who would represent the diverse areas within the parish.

The Pastoral Council Steering Committee decided that all registered parishioners would be given the opportunity to nominate

persons for election to the Pastoral Council provided that the persons were registered parishioners and were willing to stand for election. Parishioners received a ballot through the mail containing a list of candidates for the nine positions with an opportunity to vote for a preferred candidate.

Successful candidates were in charge of one of six committees – Finance, Maintenance, Liturgical, Education, Social and Parish Life. Every part of parish life was covered by members of the committees – youth, sports, thrift shop, community work, seniors, immigration, visits to hospitals and nursing homes as well as social life.

In the parish: Members of the Pastoral Council ensured that all newcomers to the parish were visited by dividing the parish into zones with a category for those living beyond parish boundaries. A Friendship Group, organized by Maureen Lawrence, met for evenings of non-organized entertainment in the halls, a time and place to meet people, join in sing-songs, dance and play cards. Parishioners continued to meet weekly at the church for bridge games and quilting and often joined in ecumenical activities with churches in the district. Although the CWL was nominally inactive, members held a Membership Tea every year, sending fees to the CWL National Office through Holy Name Church's CWL. The Parish Life and Social Committees offered counselling services to families. A Parish Bingo was held every year for the Christmas Hamper Project. In September 1974, Sister Leona Hartman, SP, was appointed Choir Director of the parish.

Pope Paul VI declared 1975 a Jubilee Year for the Renewal of Man. The year 1975 had special significance as it coincided with the tenth anniversary of the Closing of the Second Vatican Council. Some of the pre-Vatican II devotions had already returned at Sacred Heart Church, upon request. In November 1974, several parishioners began to meet before the early Sunday Mass to pray the

Rosary. In June 1975, the First Friday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament began following the noon Mass and closed with the Rosary, Benediction and Mass at 5:30 p.m. each month. By November of 1975, Catholics throughout the city were gathering at Sacred Heart for First Friday Exposition which began at 9:00 a.m. and concluded at 5:30 p.m. with the Rosary, Benediction and Mass.

In March 1975, Father D. T. Sullivan was appointed Chaplain of Father Lacombe Home. Throughout his appointments at Sacred Heart, he had preferred to work steadily in a background setting. He was appreciated for his wry sense of humour and was also known by the children of the parish to be a talented cartoonist.

In September 1975, Sister Joan Wigbers, SP, joined Sacred Heart's pastoral staff. Within months, she established the Caring Community in the parish, whose members worked with families on welfare and visited homes, nursing facilities and hospitals in the district.

The plight of seniors in the parish was outlined by Eileen Shannon in October 1975 during a meeting of the Pastoral Council. Rents were high and many had moved when they would have preferred to remain in the district. She asked the Council to initiate the construction of an apartment building to accommodate senior parishioners. Council Member Neil Ross was appointed in charge of a committee that was to consider land acquisition and government grants laws and obtain the views of Reverend Norman S. Thomas, pastor at nearby Scarboro United Church.

In January 1976, the committee reported that Alberta Housing Corporation funds were available provided that the organization that sponsored was willing to enter into an agreement for the operating and management of apartments, which were one-bedroom and equipped with kitchen facilities and appliances. In February 1976, the Pastoral Council agreed to provide the funds necessary for a survey of those interested in senior housing in the Sacred Heart Church and Scarboro United Church districts. On July 21, 1977, a joint application by Sacred Heart Church and Scarboro United Church for a Senior Citizen Residence in the area was submitted to

Alberta Housing Corporation and subsequently approved. Bankview House, at 1826-16A Street Southwest, was to be operated jointly by Sacred Heart Church and Scarboro United Church and managed by the Bankview House Senior Citizens Residence Society.

In 1976, approximately 1,300 persons regularly attended the weekend Masses celebrated in the parish. Due to the declining number of priests in residence, the 7:45 a.m. and 9:00 a. m. Sunday Masses were amalgamated. Masses were held at 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. Children's Mass, 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. On Wednesday mornings, Mass was celebrated at Central Park Lodge, a retirement home within the parish.

Noteworthy: In March 1976, Father Stephenson, Monsignor O'Brien and Sister Joan Wigbers directed parishioners in a program designed to broaden knowledge of the New Rite of Penance and provide the impetus for an effective renewal of the sacrament in the life of the Church. During the year, a group of parishioners began to gather once a week at the church to discuss the upcoming Sunday Readings. In 1976, Deacon Amadeo Malate began a year of assisting the priests, before moving to Forest Lawn with his family and assisting in the Forest Lawn district.

On January 16, 1977, a Baldwin Electronic Organ was installed in the church, purchased for approximately \$40,000.00. Following Monsignor O'Brien's suggestion, it was positioned in a pew space to the left of the main altar rather than in the choir loft. On June 17 Gerry Gerard, Baldwin's organ consultant, performed at the Organ Dedication Recital.

A Parish Retreat took place from May 6 to 12, 1977, following the Movement for a Better World Program. On June 20, 1977, teachers and students of Sacred Heart School held Harvey Pashak Appreciation Day. Parents and children gathered at the church for Mass at 7 p.m., followed by a reception at the school to express gratitude to Mr. Pashak for his many years as custodian of the

school. On June 26, 1977, the Ursuline Sisters and the Colton family – Anna Marie, Kay and Gertrude – welcomed Sister Anna Marie's former students, fellow workers and friends, who gathered at Sacred Heart Church for a Eucharistic Celebration and to congratulate Sister Anna Marie on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of her commitment to Christ as an Ursuline. Sister Anna Marie was the principal of Sacred Heart School for many years.

On June 29, 1977, parishioners bid farewell to Sister Joan Wigbers, who was elected to the Provincial Council of the Sisters of Providence of Western Canada and to Rose Herard, who served as the parish secretary for eleven years.

In late June 1977, parishioners gathered to bid farewell to Monsignor O'Brien, who was appointed pastor at St. Anthony's in Calgary. Although he was at Sacred Heart for a relatively short period of time, everyone seemed to know him, whether from his growing up in the area, from his friendly home visits or from his presence at the coffee-hour following Masses, greeting parishioners and always lending an air of good cheer.

Following Monsignor O'Brien's departure, Father Stephenson was pastor at Sacred Heart. Known in the parish as Father Bill, he had been in the forefront during the co-pastorate years and was well thought of as a pastor and administrator. Parishioners also enjoyed the successes and setbacks of his ongoing hockey career.

Father Maurice Rea, SJ, a priest who was visiting from South Africa, assisted Father Stephenson during the summer of 1977, pending the arrival of Associate Pastor Father Peter Luyckx, who was serving at Churchill, Manitoba. Father Luyckx arrived in November but was transferred to St. Mary's Parish in Bow Island, Alberta, effective on January 1, 1978.

In August 1977, Father Arthur Anderson, was appointed to Sacred Heart as an associate pastor. He was ordained for the Diocese of Calgary by Bishop Kidd at St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario, on August 28, 1932. He was transferred to St. Paul's Parish in Calgary in August 1978.

Father J. Timothy Boyle was appointed associate pastor at Sacred Heart in August 1978. He was ordained at St. Augustine's Church in Taber, Alberta, on October 12, 1974, by Bishop O'Byrne. He was transferred to St. Catherine's Parish in Picture Butte, Alberta, in August 1981.

Father Stanley Pietlock was appointed associate pastor at Sacred Heart in August 1981. He was ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral on September 7, 1979, by Bishop O'Byrne.

Pope Paul VI died on August 6, 1978. He was succeeded by Pope John Paul I on August 26, 1978.

Pope John Paul I died on September 28, 1978. He was succeeded by Pope John Paul II on October 16, 1978.

In the parish: Masses continued to be celebrated at 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and at 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays. Weekday Masses were held at noon and 5:30 p.m. and on Saturdays at noon. The Sacrament of Penance was available before weekday Masses and on Saturday afternoons and evenings. In 1977, because of the diminishing number of priests available, Pope Paul VI deemed it advisable to dispense the dioceses from the former discipline which stated that only priests and deacons could distribute Holy Communion.

In September 1978, Sister Kathleen Kelly, SSS, joined the parish staff.

On Sunday, February 18, 1979, Anointing of the Sick took place during the 11:30 a.m. Mass. Those who were sick or old were anointed if they were in weak condition even though no dangerous illness was present. In June 1980, Ethel McKay, Ruth Hughson and Ann Fitzsimmons were installed as Auxiliary Ministers of the Eucharist to the Sick.

In April 1979, a Parish Renewal Mission was directed by the Redemptorist Fathers Lemieux and McDonald, along with musician-missionaries Joan and Bob Williston. The mission consisted of a series of sermons that reviewed the teachings of the Church and applied them to modern living.

The 59th Annual National Convention of the CWL was held in Calgary at the Palliser Hotel from September 9 to 15, 1979. A Eucharistic Celebration and Installation of Officers Ceremony took place at Sacred Heart Church on September 15, followed by a breakfast in the halls. Ruth Cooney was the National President of The Catholic Women's League of Canada from 1978 to 1980.

Noteworthy: In 1979, Monsignor A. J. Hetherington School opened in northeast Calgary. Beginning in November 1979, the Pastoral Council sponsored a re-education course for adults called the Sacramental Series, presented in nine sessions by Father Rupert MacLellan.

In 1980: The new Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) was offered to those interested in Catholicism. Along with instruction from the pastor, candidates met regularly with members of the Ministry of Hospitality, a support group drawn from the parish that assisted candidates in their journey to the faith. During Lent, Mary Blott coordinated a Passover Seder Meal, the ritual Jewish feast that was held in the parish during Holy Week. In May, a Pre-Marriage Course was initiated in the parish. Couples were presented with "a vision of Christian Catholic Marriage" within the supportive setting of a faith community. The six-week course, organized by Leone and Jim O'Byrne, was held yearly in February, April and October.

Catechism classes for elementary and junior high students attending public schools were held on Sunday afternoons. D'Arcy McCloy, pro-Life representative for the Pastoral Council, represented the parish on a committee formed by Bishop O'Byrne to

address pro-life issues. Thirty young parishioners met weekly to study *The Journey*, a program endorsed by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and based on the Old and New Testaments.

In the parish: Sister Kathleen Kelly formed a committee to ascertain the need of other types of senior citizen housing in the parish. New Parishioners' Sunday was held three times a year with volunteers serving coffee to newcomers after Masses, followed by parish visits. Jane Oxenbury's Caring Community Ministry recruited parishioners to visit residents of Bankview House, Central Park Lodge, Colonel Belcher Hospital and the Children's Hospital. In December, Sister Nora Cummings was engaged to present an overview of the Bible in six morning sessions. Susan Markey and Mary Verbeek, members of the Liturgical Committee, coordinated an Advent Wreath Project.

On December 5, 1980, Archbishop Joseph MacNeil, of Edmonton, spoke to Calgary parishes at Sacred Heart Church regarding the Synod of Bishops, held in Rome in 1980. Over 200 bishops had met for the month of September to discuss regional and international problems affecting family life. Archbishop MacNeil discussed the context of the Synod, the part played by the Canadian bishops and the recommendations and final directions made by the Synod. In his own brief he had observed, "Families and couples are responding to the invitation to live lives of active love. One noteworthy sign is the movement to allow women to come to full dignity and recognition, personally and socially. We must try to bring this movement to full realization in the Church." A question and answer period followed. Pastoral Council President John Currie chaired the evening.

On January 23, 1981, the Board of Directors of Bankview House, the senior citizen's residence in the parish, held an "open house." The Board of Directors included Chairperson Jocelyn Burgener, Barry Warnick, Bob Bannerman, Emily Hemstock, Marilyn Perkins,

Ruth Zeller, Maureen Dobbin and Sister Kathleen Kelly. A four-story building, Bankview House consisted of fifty-four one-bedroom units, two of which were designed to meet the needs of the disabled and a communal lounge. The project manager was Perry Badyk, a parishioner.

The 50th Anniversary of the Building and Solemn Blessing of the Church Celebration took place on February 14-15, 1981, commemorating the blessing of the church by Bishop Kidd on February 22, 1931. The Pastoral Council invited parishioners, former parishioners and friends and relatives of parishioners to "come back and share with our present community in celebrating together." All former pastors, associates priests who were from the parish were invited to concelebrate the Anniversary Mass and joined in the festivities.

On Saturday February 14, a banquet was held in the ballroom of the Palliser Hotel, followed by an evening of dancing and socializing. Lois Burke-Gaffney was the Mistress of Ceremonies. Barbara McCullough provided background music on the piano. During the program, Father Stephenson paid tribute to Bishop O'Byrne and the priests who served as pastors at Sacred Heart. Bishop O'Byrne followed with a message and acknowledgements. Edward McCormick, a member of one of the first families in the parish, spoke at length of the history of the parish, using many personal memories.

Bishop O'Byrne presided at the Anniversary Mass at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday February 15. The pastors and former pastors were the principal celebrants and were joined by other priests who were present. Readings were taken from Masses of the Feast of The Sacred Heart of Jesus and of the Anniversary of the Dedication of a Church. Following the Mass, parishioners gathered with their families and friends in the halls for a coffee-hour while the pastors were hosts at a lunch for Bishop O'Byrne and the priests in the rectory. From 2:30 to 4:00 p.m., there was a Reception and Tea convened by Margaret Chisolm in the halls. Hostesses and Pourers were Maureen Lawrence, Leone O'Byrne, Kay Moriarty,

Lois Burke-Gaffney, Isobel McCormick, Ellen Howard, Mary Blott, Ethel McKay and Claire McKenna. Priests, religious, parishioners, former parishioners and friends returned for the afternoon in record numbers, making the celebration a truly significant event.

The 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee consisted of Chairperson Lois Burke-Gaffney, Margaret Spence, Wanda Theriault (McNamee), Jane Oxenbury, Barbara Saunders, Eileen Van Tighem, Margaret Chisholm, Peter Burgener, Jim O'Byrne and Clair Cote.

To commemorate the anniversary, the weekly bulletin was re-designed. It featured a drawing of the church on the front page by Nick Jongeling, a parishioner and artist. The back page was used for articles about upcoming events and reflections on various aspects of parish life. It was designed by Jane Oxenbury and Doneen Moran. Jocelyn Burgener edited the back page of the bulletin.

Father Stephenson sought to use the occasion of the anniversary of the building of the church to enhance the beauty of the edifice and at the same time make it more suitable for liturgical celebrations as required by the directives of Vatican II. There were many suggestions – installing a modern wooden altar in front of the marble altar and removing the baldachin, using the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Altar as the Altar of Reservation, building a chapel onto the side of the church to be used as a confessional room or a place for small weddings and other services – all of which were considered “rather drastic.”

Following months of discussion, Father Stephenson settled on rearranging the sanctuary. A Sanctuary Improvement Committee was established which, along with the Pastoral Council, agreed that changes should be liturgically sound, architecturally acceptable and financially possible. Robert Scott, an architect and parishioner, was chairperson of the committee.

In June 1980, Sister Joan Mormul, OSB, of the Liturgical Commission of the Diocese of Calgary, was invited to Sacred Heart

Church to speak about liturgical space. In November 1980, Liturgical Design Consultant Robert Rambusch was invited to meet with the Liturgical Committee of the Pastoral Council. Rambusch suggested that Father Stephenson and Father Boyle should view an example of his work at St. Mary's Church in Boise, Idaho. They visited Father Thomas Faucher, the pastor at St. Mary's in Boise, who subsequently was invited to Sacred Heart in April 1981 to address the Liturgical Committee.

In October 1981, Father Stephenson reported to the Sanctuary Improvement Committee that, according to Robert Rambusch and Father Faucher, the sanctuary presented "a pre-Vatican theology and liturgy." It was cluttered and did not allow for proper liturgical celebrations or processions. The altar was too far from the congregation. The chair of the presider was low and did not reflect that a priest truly presides over the sacred actions. The Altar of Reservation needed to be placed in a chapel distinct from the middle or central part of the church.

The Pastoral Council presented suggestions for changes in the sanctuary to parishioners through a series of meetings. A number of parishioners were not in agreement with the changes and firmly voiced their opinions. Apprehensive about moving forward with plans that were not in accordance with the desires of the congregation, the Sanctuary Improvement Committee began to work on revisions. Plans were suspended when Father Stephenson was transferred to St. Mary's Cathedral as rector in June 1982.

Father Stephenson was able to address the immediate needs of the church-complex during his pastorate. In 1979, the sound system in the church was upgraded. The parish offices were equipped with a Gestetner copier. In 1980, protective glass was placed over the stained-glass windows in the church. Carpeting was installed in the rectory. In 1981, the recreational room in the basement that was used for meetings was renovated. The folding doors in the church were repaired. A steel yolk was made for the bells. In 1982, a contract was awarded to Nick Jongeling for painting the interior of the church and halls, dusting the ceiling of the church and refinishing the pews.

From September 1972 to September 1974, Clayton Lee was engaged as Organist and Choir Director. Sister Leona Hartman was the Music Director from October 1974 to June 1979. Alan Francis-John was the Choir Director from June 1979 to June 1980. Andrew Muldoon was Choir Director from September 1980 to June 1981. Malcolm Edwards was engaged as the Music Director in September 1980. Monica Grainger was an organist for Masses from 1973 to 1978.

Jim Howells was an organist throughout the 1970s for various Masses, that is, when he was not working in his rock band, Lionheart, on weekends, along with his brother, Chris Howells, who played the drums. Among the leaders of the choirs and congregational singing during the Folk Masses at the 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Masses on Sundays were Maria Della Rochetta, Peter and Jocelyn Burgener, Cleto and Margaret Durado and Colleen Kawalilak. Lil Dooley led the singing at the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

In 1977, Rose Herard was replaced in the parish office by Patricia Cripps. Tina Andrenacci remained as housekeeper until November 1980, when she was replaced by Julia Ragot. Following Doug Scholefield's retirement in 1973, Margaret Scholefield assumed the janitorial duties.

In 1982, there were approximately 1,650 persons regularly attending weekend Masses at Sacred Heart Church.

Pastoral Council 1972-1973: Chairperson J. J. Comessotti, Father Stephenson, Monsignor O'Brien, Emmie Klus, Joe Badyk, W. F. Hickey, Ruth Cooney, Jim O'Byrne, Dan O'Byrne, Fred Kanuka, Eileen Nowicky.

1973-1974: Chairperson Jim O'Byrne, Father Stephenson, Monsignor O'Brien, Emmie Klus, Ruth Cooney, Eileen Finn, Ron Thompson, Ben Steblecki, Hugh Atkinson, Joe Badyk, Tim Buehner, Paul Harriman, Bill Major.

1974-1975: Chairperson Bill Major, Father Stephenson, Monsignor O'Brien, Ron Thompson, Ben Steblecki, Tim Buehner,

Bill McGuire, Jim O'Byrne, Jim Hughson, George Theriault, Maureen Lawrence, Rosalie Karpinka, George Fitzsimmons.

1975-1976: Chairperson Bill McGuire, Father Stephenson, Monsignor O'Brien, Sister Joan Wigbers, John Currie, Maureen Lawrence, Margaret Spence, Al Grainger, Rod Handfield, Margaret Petty, Bill Major, Eugene Collins, Neil Ross, George Fitzsimmons.

1976-1977: Chairperson Rod Handfield, Father Stephenson, Monsignor O'Brien, Sister Joan Wigbers, Norm Cornish, Bill Hunter, Neil Ross, Margaret Petty, Margaret Spence, Al Grainger, Karen Whyte.

1977-1978: Chairperson Karen Whyte, Father Stephenson, Father Anderson, Bill Hunter, Peter Burgener, Fleurette Collins, Nick Jongeling, Zita Fulawka, Ted Fitzgerald.

1978-1979: Chairperson Peter Burgener, Father Stephenson, Father Boyle, Sister Kathleen Kelly, Margaret Dourado, Robert Scott, Wanda Theriault, Fleurette Collins, Nick Jongeling, Zita Fulawka, Ted Fitzgerald.

1979-1980: Chairperson Peter Burgener, Father Stephenson, Father Boyle, Sister Kathleen Kelly, Diane Jongeling, Mary Verbeek, Robert Scott, Leone O'Byrne, Keith Germain, Jocelyn Burgener,

1980-1981: Chairperson John Currie, Father Stephenson, Father Boyle, Sister Kathleen Kelly, Robert Scott, Wanda Theriault, Lois Burke-Gaffney, Fleurette Collins, Peter Burgener, Mary Blott, Margaret Spence.

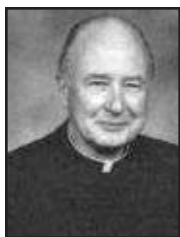
1981-1982: Chairperson Lois Burke-Gaffney, Father Stephenson, Father Pietlock, Sister Kathleen Kelly, Robert Scott, Jocelyn Burgener, Jean Auger-Growe, Yvan Bohez, Keith Germaine, D'Arcy McCloy, Jane Oxenbury, Judy Rose, Kevin Bond, Stephanie Chrumka, Helen Lendvay.

Lay persons had been involved in every aspect of parish life, giving the parish new vitality. Family and church went hand in hand for ten years. Father Stephenson has maintained a close friendship with many of his parishioners.

The Impact of Vatican II

Very Reverend Joseph E. LeFort

In September 1982, parishioners welcomed the new pastor, Monsignor Joseph Elmer LeFort, who was known to many as he had a long and respected history of service in the Diocese of Calgary. He was transferred to Sacred Heart Church from Canadian Martyrs Parish in Calgary.



Monsignor Joseph
E. LeFort

Monsignor LeFort was born on January 8, 1920, in Medicine Hat, Alberta, to Henry and Adelaide LeFort, who were parishioners at Sacred Heart at the time of his appointment to the parish. He was educated at St. Theresa's Academy in Medicine Hat and later studied at St. Joseph's Seminary and St. Augustine's Seminary. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Carroll at St. Patrick's Church in Medicine Hat on May 13, 1945.

Between August 1945 and June 1946, Father LeFort was an administrator of St. Joseph's Parish in Calgary due to an illness of the pastor, Father Fergus O'Brien. Later in 1946, he was appointed

Secretary to Bishop Carroll and from the Bishop's Residence served as an administrator of St. Mary's Parish in Cochrane, Alberta, from January 1947 to May 1949. During these years, he was also Diocesan Director of the Catholic Youth Federation, an organization that advocated for the role and needs of young Catholics in society, and Diocesan Director of Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. He served as chaplain for the Catholic Physicians' Guild from 1951 to 1959. He was the Chancellor of the Diocese of Calgary from 1950 to 1959 and was named a Papal Chamberlain by Pope Pius XII in 1957.

Thereafter known as Monsignor LeFort, he was in charge of St. Francis Parish in Calgary, an auxiliary chapel of St. Mary's, from January to May 1957. He honed his administrative skills at this time by helping parishioners establish and increase a building fund that led a new and serviceable church for the downtown area.

In 1959, Monsignor LeFort was appointed pastor at St. Ann's in southeast Calgary. While there, he directed the construction of St. Bernadette Church in the Ogden district, which opened as a chapel-of-ease of St. Ann's on May 5, 1963.

Bishop Klein appointed Monsignor LeFort the founding pastor of Canadian Martyrs Parish when it was established in September 1967 to serve families living near St. Francis and St. Margaret Schools in northwest Calgary. Bishop O'Byrne blessed Canadian Martyrs' church-rectory-hall complex on July 27, 1969.

In 1963, Monsignor LeFort was appointed Vicar for Communities of Women Religious. In 1971, he was appointed Vice Dean of North Calgary and in 1972, was named to the Board of Administration of the Diocese of Calgary. Active in civic and charitable organizations, he was a member of the Executive Board of the John Howard Society and served as its provincial and national chairperson. He was the Alberta President and a member of the National Board of the Canadian Mental Health Association and was a member of the Lion's Club, a community-minded organization of men and women.

Monsignor LeFort's associate pastor at Sacred Heart was Father Robert G. Devine, who arrived in September 1983, following Father Pietlock's transfer to Corpus Christi Parish in Calgary. A late vocation, he was from Ottawa and studied for the priesthood at the Canadian College and the Angelicum in Rome. He was ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral on May 28, 1982, by Bishop O'Byrne.

Father Devine left Sacred Heart in May 1984 to attend the University of Berkeley in California, furthering his interest in palliative care. Father Stefan Ganowicz, a native of Poland who had been serving at St. Agnes Parish in Carstairs, Alberta, was appointed temporarily to the parish, from May to August 1984.

In July 1984, Father Emmanuel C. Buttigieg, a native of Malta, took up residence at Sacred Heart and assisted in liturgies on weekends for a year while continuing with his duties at the Pastoral Centre.

In September 1984, Deacon Seamus Mackrell, a native of Scotland who had studied at Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon, was appointed to Sacred Heart as an assistant, until his ordination to the priesthood by Bishop O'Byrne on April 26, 1985, at St. Mary's Cathedral.

In September 1985, Father Aguinaldo H. Fermo was appointed an associate pastor at Sacred Heart. From the Philippines, he was ordained at Naga Cathedral, Naga City, on April 3, 1965. In 1989, he was transferred to St. Patrick's Parish in Medicine Hat.

In September 1989, Associate Pastor Father Anthony J. Hilling was welcomed to Sacred Heart. He was a native of Scotland, had emigrated in 1976 and completed studies for the priesthood at St. Paul's Seminary in Ottawa. He was ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral by Bishop O'Byrne on May 29, 1987.

Denise Watts joined the parish staff in May 1983 as bookkeeper-secretary.

Lois Burke-Gaffney was elected the president (chairperson) of the Pastoral Council 1982-1983. Council Members at varying times

during the year were Monsignor LeFort, Father Devine, Sister Kathleen Kelly, Karen Howells, Kevin Bond, Jocelyn Burgener, Stephanie Chromka, Cas Cullen, Joanne Englehardt, Keith Germaine, D'Arcy McCloy, Judy Rose, Barbara Saunders, Jim Thompson, Lynn Grisak and Joe Markey.

In March 1983, the Pastoral Council set up a constitutional reference for itself. It was drafted by the Amendment Committee, comprised of Monsignor LeFort, Chairperson Lois Burke-Gaffney, Pastoral Council Member Joe Markey and several representatives chosen from the parish.

The Amendment Committee recommended that the Pastoral Council should include the parish clergy, seven elected members who were nominated by parishioners and a delegate from each of the established church organizations in the parish. Candidates for the Council were to be approved by the clergy and were to be registered members of the parish. Members were to serve no more than two consecutive years on the Council.

The function of the Pastoral Council was to support and advise the parish clergy in dealing with the concerns of the parish. It was to promote activities that would foster Christian fellowship both within and without the parish, coordinate and guide the activities of six parish committees that reported to the Council and act on the recommendation of these committees – the Liturgical Committee, Finance Committee, Education Committee, Caring Committee, Building and Maintenance Committee and Social Committee.

The Amendment Committee recommended that seven parishioners should serve on each Parish Committee, with a maximum of three years of service on a committee, a move to encourage the flow of fresh ideas and activities. It also suggested that elected members of the Pastoral Council should be the Chairpersons of the Parish Committees with a two-year limit for each Council member. The recommendations were published in the parish bulletin, allowing for parishioner comment and finalized in June 1983. With change in mind, all committees were dissolved so as to have new faces on the Council in September 1983.

In mid-September, Richard Wilson, Chairperson of the Pastoral Council, was presented to the members of the Pastoral Council by the outgoing chairperson, Lois Burke-Gaffney. Together with Monsignor LeFort, the Pastoral Council charted a course that enriched the spiritual, educational and social lives of parishioners during the 1980s.

Pastoral Council 1983-1984: Chairperson Richard Wilson, Monsignor LeFort, Father Devine, Karen Howells, Joanne Engelhardt, Ethel McKay, Rita Henry, Joe Markey, David Lawrence, Lois Burke-Gaffney.

1984-1985: Chairperson Richard Wilson, Monsignor LeFort, Father Devine, Deacon Mackrell, Rita Henry, Ben Steblicki, Joe Markey, David Lawrence, Ethel McKay, Joanne Engelhardt.

1985-1986: Chairperson Greg Rodych, Monsignor LeFort, Father Fermo, Linda Deakins, Doreen Beaucage, Elizabeth Cooney, Harry Zuurbier, Jack Fears, Paul Robertson, Hugh MacKinnon, Michael McCormick, Richard Wilson.

1986-1987: Chairperson Greg Rodych, Monsignor LeFort, Father Fermo, Real McDuff, Harry Zuurbier, Elizabeth Jongeling, Hugh MacKinnon, Linda Deakins, Elizabeth Cooney, Jack Fears, Geraldine Fraser, Patrick Sali, Florence Ross.

1987-1988: Chairperson Hugh MacKinnon, Monsignor LeFort, Father Fermo, Florence Ross, Terry Allen, Patrick Sali, Nancy Rodych, Geraldine Fraser, Henry Sykes, Colin Chandler, Dennis Hickey, Joanne Rowe.

1988-1989: Chairperson Hugh MacKinnon, Monsignor LeFort, Father Fermo, Karen Howells, Colin Chandler, Dennis Hickey, Desmond Kenny, Joanne Rowe, Henry Sykes, Geraldine Fraser, Terry Allen.

1989-1990: Chairperson Karen Howells, Monsignor LeFort, Father Hilling, Colin Chandler, Dennis Hickey, Wayne Irvine, Desmond Kenny, Leslie Kiss, Lucille Martyn, Joanne Rowe, Henry Sykes.

1990-1991: Chairperson Henry Sykes, Monsignor LeFort, Father Hilling, Karen Howells, Michael Boyd, Paul Reynolds, Dennis Hickey, Wayne Irvine, Stephanie Hugo, Les Kiss, Lucille Martyn, Tim Ward.



Monsignor LeFort was a commanding presence in the parish, with a visible sureness about his own skills in the management of parochial affairs. His style of operation called for some changes and he quickly impressed the congregation with very satisfactory leadership in all areas of parish life. He was also a first-rate speaker and could carry off a joke as few others were able to do – for instance, telling members of the congregation from the pulpit on his first Sunday at Sacred Heart that he had asked a fellow priest how large Sacred Heart was and was told that it slept about 500.

Services at Sacred Heart continued as before: Masses were celebrated at 5:00 p. m. on Saturdays and at 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Sundays and Holy Days. A Children's Celebration was held during the 10:00 a. m. Sunday Mass. Weekday Masses were at noon and 5:00 p.m. and on Saturdays at noon. In September 1983, the 5:00 p.m. weekday Mass was discontinued. Girls and boys served on the altar. The Sacrament of Penance was available on Saturday afternoons, before all weekday Masses and by visiting the rectory. Penitential liturgies preceded the Christmas and Easter Seasons.

When the "World-Wide Year of Rosaries" was declared in 1983, a group of parishioners began to pray the Rosary each day before the noon Mass, a devotion encouraged by members of the Legion of Mary, an apostolate of prayer and action dedicated to deepening the spiritual life of the parish.

In 1984, the New Canadian Missal, containing the requirements of modern liturgical renewal, was available for parishioners. Devotions held at Sacred Heart included Exposition of the Blessed

Sacrament following the noon Mass on First Fridays until 4:45 p.m., then the Rosary, Benediction and Mass at 5:00 p.m. In November 1986, parishioners were asked to kneel at the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) of the Mass and remain kneeling until after the Consecration, rising at words "Let us proclaim the mystery of faith," an observance that varied from parish to parish.

When Monsignor LeFort arrived, the Marriage Preparation Course and Catechism Class for children attending public schools were already underway for the forthcoming year. The format for the Marriage Preparation Course had been established by Leone and Jim O'Byrne during Father Stephenson's pastorate and continued under the direction of Art and Mary Blott. It consisted of a series of presentations by professionals and couples in the parish three times a year, eventually taking place on three weekends early in each year.

Following the resignation of Sister Kathleen Kelly from the parish staff in October 1982, Karen Howells organized catechism classes. They were held on Saturday mornings, staffed by teachers and involved home study and parental participation.

Adults with an interest in Catholicism were referred to the Religious Education Department of the Diocese. In September 1984, candidates were able to receive instruction at Sacred Heart once again, in a newly formulated RCIA Program directed by Elaine LeFort with assistance from Laura MacKinnon, Hugh MacKinnon and Linda Deakins. In 1986, the program was directed by Hugh MacKinnon, assisted by Karen Howells and Bruce Bennett. In 1987, Karen Howells became the director, assisted by Hugh MacKinnon and Michael Boyle.

The effort and enthusiasm shown by the Young Adults Group at Sacred Heart was especially gratifying for Monsignor LeFort, whose promotion of leadership among Catholic youth harkened back to his involvement with the Canadian Youth Federation. In 1983, he recruited Terry Allen to lead the group. Members organized coffee-house evenings with entertainment provided by the Folk Group, participated in the local Terry Fox Run, provided entertainment for

seniors at Central Park Lodge, volleyball tournaments, Octoberfests, evenings of caroling, Christmas parties and retreats for younger members of the parish. Among others, Janet Allen, Elizabeth Jongeling, Francis Taman, Real McDuff and Susan Edwards led the organization and organized events. In 1987, when the group floundered due to lack of interest, Monsignor LeFort enlisted Terry Allen to once again inject energy into the organization.

To commemorate the visit of Pope John Paul II to Canada which included a stop in Edmonton on September 17 1984, floodlights were added to the steeple of the church, “a symbol of Christianity.” Credit was given to parishioner Jack Fears, who engineered the lights in such a way as to blend into the tower structure. Two busloads of parishioners left Sacred Heart Church in the early morning hours of the day of the papal visit to attend an outdoor Mass, celebrated by the pope at dawn in Edmonton.

Noteworthy: Various ministries covered all aspects of parish life. Volunteers served coffee and juice following the 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Sunday Masses. A selection of Catholic newspapers and journals was available for borrowing or browsing in the upper hall. Tim Buehner coordinated a lector’s workshop in November 1982, conducted by CBC Radio Commentator Betty Cooper. Emily Hemstock organized the Auxiliary Ministers of the Eucharist. Maureen Lawrence coordinated the training and organizing of altar servers. Members of the Caring Community – Jane Oxenbury, Joanne Englehardt, Rita Henry and Geraldine Fraser – recruited parishioners for visiting residents at Central Park Lodge, Colonel Belcher Hospital and the Children’s Hospital.

Sacred Heart School was a visible presence in the parish – Early Childhood Services (ECS) held regular bake sales at the church following weekend Masses. Members of the bridge club met on Mondays and those in the quilting club met on Tuesdays.

The Passover Seder Meal was coordinated yearly by Ann Wilson and Mary Blott, part of the Lenten journey in the parish. In June, seniors of the parish and formerly of the parish gathered yearly in the garden area for the Strawberry Tea. On October 3, 1983, parishioners celebrated the 100th birthday of Henry LeFort, father of Monsignor LeFort. Every December, the Pastoral Council held its annual Christmas party for the children in the parish and organized a Christmas Hamper Program.

Further afield, parishioners observed World Day of Prayer every year, sponsored by Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada and its national counterparts around the world. The Sacred Heart Immigration Committee, led by Margaret Patipatanakoon and Margaret Chisolm, who had been in charge of the Catholic Immigration Society, looked after the needs of the Thoun Hounghmany family whom the parish had sponsored in 1981. In 1983, the Board of Directors of Bankview House included Ethel McKay, Kay Moriarty and Emily Hemstock.

A desecration of the Blessed Sacrament occurred at Sacred Heart Church on November 6, 1984. A Holy Hour of Reparation followed by a Mass of Reparation was held at the church on four successive Fridays, beginning on November 16, 1984.

In December 1984, the parish expressed its appreciation to three women who had volunteered at the church for many years – to Mary Nolan and those others whom had cleaned and replenished the votive lights in the church, to Eileen Shannon, who retired after being in charge of the Altar Group for many years and to Bea Monro, who retired following thirty years of caring for the sanctuary. In 1984, Margaret Scholefield assumed the parish housekeeping duties, following the retirement of Julia Ragot. Len Maxwell was engaged as custodian of the church-complex.

Noteworthy: In January 1985, an attraction in the parish was a series of seven lectures on "The Value of Being Human," delivered by Father Buttigieg. In March 1985, parishioners congratulated John

Luykx, one of the faithful counters of the weekly collection, on being presented with the Resistance Memorial Cross in recognition of his outstanding service during World War II in a ceremony held at Ulvenhout, Holland. In August, the Sunalta Garden Award was presented to Sacred Heart for its multi-coloured flowers in numerous variations, green lawns and well trimmed hedges and trees. Kudos went to the artistry of the gardener, Bernie Lance!

In 1985, Masses were celebrated on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and on Sundays at 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was available before weekday Masses, on Saturday afternoons and upon request. Devotions on First Fridays included the Rosary, Angelus and Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 4:45 p.m. at which time parishioners and visitors prayed the Rosary followed by Benediction.

To mark the **75th Anniversary of Sacred Heart Parish**, a concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving was held at the church on Sunday June 23, 1985. Bishop O'Byrne was the principal celebrant and homilist. Concelebrants were Monsignor LeFort, Monsignor O'Brien and Father Stephenson, along with many priests who had served in the parish. The Senior Choir joined with some members of the Folk Choir to present a special program that included renditions on the violin by Eileen Atkinson, of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra.

The Anniversary Banquet followed on June 28 at the Palliser Hotel, with parishioners, former parishioners, pastors, former pastors and friends of Sacred Heart in attendance. Lois Burke-Gaffney was the Mistress of Ceremonies. Margaret Berry provided background music on the piano. Following the dinner, Monsignor Le Fort welcomed Bishop O'Byrne as a true native son who brought high honour to the parish and to the Church. Monsignor continued on, holding the audience spellbound as he reminisced with characteristic wit about the bishop and former pastors, most of whom were present and all of whom he had known personally. He

spoke of Sacred Heart School and of the Anniversary School Mass held that morning, recalling some poignant moments as the teachers traced a Sign of the Cross on the forehead of the children in their class and told them to “go forth into the days ahead, together with God’s help.”

Monsignor LeFort introduced the guest speaker, Monsignor Neville Anderson, a long time friend of the parish and contributor to the updating of the history of the parish. He spoke of the accomplishments of Monsignor Hetherington and his successors. Michael McCormick, whose parents were early members of the parish, presented a history of the parish along with anecdotes. Among those who ensured that the event was successful were Lois Burke-Gaffney, Elizabeth Cooney, Kay Moriarty, Ethel McKay, Paul Chrumka, Joe Comessetti, Greg Rodych, Clair Cote and Wayne Irvine.

On May 13, 1985, parishioners gathered for a Concelebrated Mass on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of Monsignor LeFort’s ordination to the priesthood and offered congratulations at a reception that followed.

In September 1985, there were district-wide gatherings of teachers, students, parents, alumni and the Catholic community at large, as the Calgary Catholic School Board celebrated its Centennial. On September 2 a Centennial Grand Finale paid tribute to those who had faithfully served Catholic education with a re-enactment of the arrival of the Oblate missionaries and FCJ teachers, followed by a Mass of Thanksgiving presided over by Bishop O’Byrne. Continuing the celebration in December, Sacred Heart’s Pastoral Council invited all senior members of the parish and senior former members to an Anniversary Mass, followed by a social gathering convened by Elizabeth Cooney.

In January 1986, Bishop O’Byrne requested that each parish in the diocese arrange twelve meetings for a diocesan program, The Role of Women in the Church. Using study kits approved by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, facilitators and

participants aimed at a deeper understanding of women of faith in the modern world. Parishioners were of two minds about the topic. Some were doubtful that the meetings would result in any significant change in the status of women in the Church. Others thought the project promoted a feminist agenda that was not in line with the teachings of the Church. The results of questionnaires were submitted to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in November 1986.

On the other hand, parishioners were notably enthusiastic about the Christian Festival, a series of ecumenical gatherings held in Calgary in May 1986. It was an opportunity for Christians to be together at a community level, to pray together and to listen to speakers, both Catholic and from other Christian churches, from many parts of the world – including Archbishop Helder Camara, Bishop Antoine Hacault, Bishop Remi De Roo, Father Ron Rolheiser, Father Michael Czerny, SJ, and Father Robert Ogle. Leone O’Byrne and Fleurette Collins recruited parishioners to assist in greeting and driving, setting up booths and staffing the information centres. Memorable were the Scripture Study Sessions delivered by Father Michael Duggan.

Noteworthy: Parishioners gathered in the upper hall on Saturday mornings once a month to prepare sandwiches for the Drop-in Centre. The initial volunteers were Fran Eby, Val Cloarec, Mary Comella, Sheila Ross and Mary Blott. In April 1986, the women of the parish were invited to attend a One-Day Retreat directed by Father Joseph Soria, a member of Opus Dei, a prelature within the Church. In December 1986, a Parish Mission was led by Father Jack Hennessy, OMI. In May 1987, parishioners were sponsors for Monsignor LeFort, who hiked to raise funds for the Pro-Life organization’s teacher-resource person. Quilting sessions led by Sarah Stotts and bridge games organized by Ruth Cooney continued to attract parishioners to the church on a weekly basis. In September 1987, the Pastoral Council endorsed Monsignor’s proposal to donate

up to \$5,000.00 from the Parish Welfare Fund to a Native Support Group for the purchase of post-hole diggers for outdoor contracts such as fencing and landscaping. Parishioners continued to meet in homes for a Scripture Study Course, organized by Ann Wilson. In September 1987, Tony Trinh, a young parishioner and student, joined the parish staff as the night clerk.

In November 1987, the Diocesan Stewardship Program, a giving of time, talent and treasure through a series of pledges, was implemented in every parish in the diocese. Greg Rodych was the Chairperson of Sacred Heart's Stewardship Committee. The program stemmed from "give and it shall be given to you" (Luke 6:38) and the recognition that men and women are not the absolute masters of themselves or their possessions. Rather, they are stewards of gifts that must be used responsibly. Following a homily on stewardship by Monsignor LeFort, cards were distributed, giving parishioners an opportunity to indicate the areas in which they chose to give time and talent. An open meeting was held in the upper hall, where members of the clergy and the Pastoral Council were on hand to discuss and respond to questions.

On Sunday January 31, 1988, parishioners attended the Celebration of Olympic Values at the Stampede Corral, a service that brought faith communities together to reflect on the values that the Olympic Games were to promote for youth. On Saturday February 14 the bells of Sacred Heart Church rang at 1:00 p.m. for the opening of the Olympics. Calgary Olympics '88 Religion Committee provided up-to-date religious information to visitors at City Hall, near the Olympic Plaza, daily from February 12 to 28, staffed by members of the downtown churches, including Sacred Heart.

Noteworthy: Sacred Heart parishioners Eileen Finn and Margaret Berry were recipients of 75th Anniversary of the Diocese of Calgary medals. In February 1988, Sister Alice Sheridan led a series of

“Open Door” retreats in preparation for the Easter Season. In May 1988, the Pastoral Council held a Parish Appreciation Night, paying tribute to volunteers at a dinner organized by Elizabeth Cooney, followed by a sing-along coordinated by Margaret Berry and dancing to the melodious strains of Jack Friedenberg’s musicians. In August 1988, Sacred Heart Church won yet another award from the City of Calgary for its summer gardens. In November 1988, the possibility of re-activating the CWL in the parish was explored by Nancy Rodych, but without success as no one was available to assume a role of leadership in the organization.

In 1989: During the Lenten season, Sister Darlene Madore, FCJ, led parishioners through the Passion and Resurrection sections of the Gospel of Mark. In September, Bishop O’Byrne informed Catholics that the diocese would no longer be supporting the United Way’s annual campaign to raise funds for community programs because of its funding of an organization that was not in accordance with the Church’s teachings regarding the sanctity of life. Monsignor LeFort spoke publicly of the pronouncement, agreeing wholeheartedly with the bishop’s decision. The diocese re-activated Catholic Charities, which assumed responsibility for funding agencies deemed worthy by the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities.

Throughout the 1980s, a Senior Choir and two Folk Groups enhanced the liturgies. Margaret Berry was appointed the Choir Director in September 1983 following Malcolm Edward’s resignation in June 1983. Jim Howells was engaged as the Organist. Karen Howells was appointed Choir Director in January 1984 following Margaret Berry’s resignation. Music for the Folk Masses was organized by volunteers – including Tim Ward, Barbara Holodinsky, Elaine LeFort, Laura and Terry Bachynski, Suzanne Theriault, Alda Daniele and Jacque Llanos. In 1988, Carmen Tellier began several years as soloist and leader of chant at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, accompanied by Jim Howells on the organ.

During Monsignor LeFort's pastorate both the interior and exterior of the buildings were updated, always in keeping with the original design of the church-complex. In 1983, he addressed the re-arrangement of the sanctuary of the church as directed by the guidelines of Vatican II. The platform for the Altar of Reservation (Repose) of the Blessed Sacrament was removed and placed in the south side of the sanctuary to provide a raised position for the Presiding Chair. The lectern (pulpit), which was not in keeping with the sanctuary furnishings, was replaced with one that included marble that Monsignor Hetherington had ordered earlier for the church, designed by parishioner Jack Fears. The lectern was placed on the north side of the sanctuary, enabling room for a Gospel procession to the lectern. The baptism font was returned to the baptistery. The organ was moved to the choir gallery, where it had previously been located.

In 1982, the entire roof in the office area was replaced, at a cost of approximately \$15,000.00. During the same year, the interior of the rectory was completely painted.

The church continued to be modernized, with a fire-proof covering installed beneath the floor during the early months of 1984 and re-finishing of the main doors when warmer weather appeared. The wooden areas of the exterior of the rectory and offices were re-constructed and capped with aluminum siding. Carpeting was replaced in the church and rectory, reducing maintenance and renewing the general appearance of the church. The pews were repaired and re-constructed as needed. A burglar alarm was installed due to break-ins at the church and rectory.

During the summer of 1986 both the church and the rectory were re-roofed with tile at a cost of approximately \$63,000.00. In 1988, additions to the public address system and air circulation system eliminated related problems in the nave of the church. The Young Adults Group tackled the clean-up of the basement of the church as a stewardship project, after which a concrete floor was poured. The hot-water heating system was over-hauled resulting in renewal of

pipes, valves, motors and pumps where corrosion had occurred in the church, hall and rectory.

In 1989, a stained glass window depiction of The Sacred Heart of Jesus was installed in the office-hallway. It was composed by Karl W. Lengauer of Avanti Art & Glass Co. Ltd. in Calgary and dedicated to the memory of Ervie Doran. In 1990, the church ceiling was cleaned for the first time in sixty years. During the same year, Monsignor LeFort had in mind to but did not return the mosaic of St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus from the hallway into the church, in place of the unused doorway on the north side.

During the 1980s, Sacred Heart Parish increasingly functioned as a downtown parish, having a population base and frequented by those who worked in the area. In an interview with the Western Catholic Reporter in July 1985, Monsignor LeFort called Sacred Heart a “very devotional parish,” one that drew from 30 to 100 persons for weekday Masses.

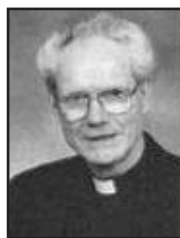
Concerns about parking space for parishioners and visitors came to the forefront in 1989 when plans were developed to refurbish the grounds of Sacred Heart School. The original school building had been demolished in 1988 despite a concerted effort on the part of the Sacred Heart School Council and Sunalta Community Association. Proposals for the larger grounds included a grass soccer field and a baseball diamond in place of the asphalt yard behind the church that had for years been used for weekend parking. During the dispute that resulted, even Monsignor allowed that he had met his match when he locked horns with the mothers of students attending Sacred Heart School who wanted green grass covering the grounds of the playground. A compromise was reached.

On May 4, 1990, Monsignor LeFort and the Pastoral Council paid tribute to volunteers at a Parish Appreciation Evening. Parishioners would have agreed that the parish was in fine condition – Bernie Lance had returned from retirement and was tending the gardens, Dave Howells the lawns and grounds. Len Maxwell was the custodian and Margaret Scholefield the housekeeper. Denise Watts was the parish secretary and Tony Trinh the night clerk.

On September 9, 1990, Monsignor LeFort's departure from pastoral ministry was announced by Bishop O'Byrne. Parishioners gathered at the church on September 29 to express their appreciation for his service. He left a host of friends as he had generously given of his talents to the faithful at Sacred Heart and to the maintenance of the church and the facilities of the parish.

Reverend Eugene J. Cooney

In September 1990, Father Eugene Jerome Cooney was appointed pastor at Sacred Heart Church. Father Cooney was born in Medicine Hat on December 10, 1931 and received his education at St. Louis School and St. Theresa's Academy in Medicine Hat. He studied at St. Joseph's Seminary and was ordained to the priesthood at St. Mary's Cathedral on June 4, 1960, by Bishop Carroll. He served as an associate pastor at Christ the King in Claresholm, Alberta, from 1960 to 1963 and at St. Anthony's Church in Calgary from 1963 to 1967, when he was appointed pastor at St. Mary's in Banff, Alberta.



Reverend Eugene
J. Cooney

From 1968 to 1973, Father Cooney was Director of the Religious Education Centre of the Diocese of Calgary. During these years he obtained a Master of Religious Education degree from Fort Wright College in Spokane, Washington and taught summer courses in catechesis for the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary at the college. His examination of a program of religious instruction, *A Murmur within Me: Theological Themes of Come to the Father*, was published in 1973. He was granted a Master of Theology degree from the University of Toronto in 1988.

Returning to parish ministry, Father Cooney was the founding pastor at St. Mark's in northeast Calgary in 1973 and was still the

pastor when Bishop O'Byrne blessed St. Mark's Church on November 20, 1977. He was appointed Rector of St. Joseph's Seminary in 1985, a position he held until 1990.

Father Hilling was Father Cooney's associate until he was transferred to St. Anthony's in Drumheller in June 1991.

Father Myles J. Gaffney was appointed associate pastor at Sacred Heart in June 1991. A native of Calgary, he was ordained by Bishop O'Byrne on May 24, 1991, at St. Mary's Cathedral. In June 1994, he was transferred to St. Joseph's in Vauxhall, Alberta.

Father Domingo S. Cedo was appointed associate pastor at Sacred Heart, effective in August 1994. From the Philippines in 1984, he was ordained at Naga Cathedral, Naga City, on March 28, 1977. He returned to the Philippines in 1995.

Father Eulogio S. Estaris was appointed associate pastor at Sacred Heart in April 1995. From the Philippines in 1992, he was ordained on April 14, 1977, in Patnongon, Antique Philippines. He was transferred to St. Patrick's in Lethbridge, Alberta, in August 1996.

Pastoral Council 1990-1991: Chairperson Henry Sykes, Father Cooney, Father Hilling, Wayne Irvine, Leoncio (Chito) Jaraiz, Les Kiss, Lucille Martyn, Dennis Hickey, Stephanie Hugo, Michael Boyle, Paul Reynolds.

1991-1992: Chairperson Michael Boyle, Father Cooney, Father Gaffney, Sister Florence Arsenault, Janet Allen, Herb Cullen, Stephanie Hugo, Chito Jaraiz, Paul Reynolds, Peter Tapuska, Eileen Van Tighem, Mary Verbeek, Tim Ward.

1992-1993: Chairperson Michael Boyle, Father Cooney, Father Gaffney, Sheila Ross, Janet Allen, Herb Cullen, Wendy Porter, Peter Tapuska, Eileen Van Tighem, Chito Jaraiz, Mary Verbeek, Tim Ward.

1993-1994: Chairperson Michael Boyle, Father Cooney, Father Gaffney, Sheila Ross, Mary Verbeek, Eileen Van Tighem, Wendy Porter, Janet Allen, Kelly Grebenc, Chito Jaraiz.

1994-1995: Chairperson Kelly Grebenc, Father Cooney, Father Cedo, Sheila Ross, Michael Boyle, Janet Allen, Barbara O'Connor, Chito Jaraiz, Katalin Kiss, Les Kiss, Karen Howells.

1995-1996: Chairperson Kelly Grebenc, Father Cooney, Father Estaris, Sheila Ross, James Byttynen, Mario Toneguzzi, Barbara O'Connor, Chito Jaraiz, Katalin Kiss, Nan Douglas.

Shortly after arriving at Sacred Heart, Father Cooney began his "Reflections on Today's Readings" on the back page of the bulletin, a thoughtful series about his understanding of Holy Scripture and its relevance to the community of believers. Parishioners looked forward to his opinions, which appeared in print without fail every week throughout the year. His return to parish ministry gave him a wide audience, as former parishioners and those who had followed his academic endeavors for years began to attend Masses at Sacred Heart Church on a weekly basis to gain from his spirited homilies, eventually resulting in a marked increase in parish border crossing.

Services and sacramental programs continued at Sacred Heart as before: Mass was celebrated at 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and at 8:30 p.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Sundays and Holy Days and at noon on weekdays. The Sacrament of Penance was available on Saturday afternoons, before all weekday Masses and by visiting the rectory. Penitential liturgies preceded the Christmas and Easter Seasons. In 1990, there were upwards of 1,400 people regularly attending weekend Masses at Sacred Heart Church.

Jim Howells continued as the Director of Music. Karen Howells conducted the Senior Choir. In 1992, members were outfitted in choir robes, setting off the choir as a significant component in the celebration of liturgies. Carmen Tellier led the congregational singing at the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass, accompanied by Jim Howells. Leaders and musicians for the 5 o'clock Sunday Folk Choir included Tim Ward, Lynn Luft and Peter Ranaghan. Adrian Devroom played the organ for 5 p.m. Saturday Masses and Grace Cuzzani, at times accompanying her musically gifted children, played the organ for many of the 1:00 p.m. Masses.

During Father Cooney's tenure the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament took place on Fridays following the noon Mass, ending at 5:00 p.m. with Benediction and Mass. The Legion of Mary began to meet once a week to pray the Rosary, receive spiritual guidance and report on acts of service, which included visiting residents of Central Park Lodge. The Rosary and Angelus were prayed regularly before the noon Mass on weekdays.

During Lenten Season parishioners were devoted to the Way of the Cross both communally and privately. In May, attention turned to regular Marian Devotions that involved praying the Rosary, a homily and Benediction. In June, on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, parishioners renewed their devotion to their patron yearly by gathering for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which followed the noon Mass and closed with Benediction in late afternoon. An evening Mass and reception in the hall followed.

On June 29, 1991, Patrick Chisholm, son of Jim and Margaret Chisholm, was ordained to the priesthood at Holy Rosary Cathedral in Vancouver by Bishop Peter Mallon of Nelson. Father Chisholm celebrated his first Mass on Sunday, July 7 at Sacred Heart Church.

In August 1991, Bishop O'Byrne issued a document entitled *Reconsideration of Postures for the Laity at the Eucharist*, in which he proposed that pastors implement the position of standing during the whole of the Eucharistic Prayer during Mass. Father Cooney decided, after consulting with Bishop O'Byrne, that a gradual carrying out of the directive was the preferred course of action in the parish.

Sister Florence Arsenault, SP, joined the parish staff in December 1991 as a part-time pastoral assistant. Her ministry focused on visiting the sick, bereaved and aged.

In 1992, several parishioners began to meet at the church mornings and evenings to meditate and pray the Liturgy of the Hours. Beginning in Advent 1992, scriptural readings taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (NRSV) were used at Sunday Masses. Completed in 1992, the NRSV translation

offered parishioners an even more accurate translation of both Old and New Testaments than the Revised Standard Version of the Bible (1952), due to the discoveries of the Dead Sea Scrolls in the 1940s and several early Greek manuscripts of the New Testament which had become available in recent years.

In February 1993, the Church's newly established World Day of the Sick gave parishioners who suffered from illness, physical or emotional and those experiencing weakness due to age, an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, an anointing during Mass to strengthen a person primarily against the spiritual dangers arising from illness.

Changes in the sacramental programs included implementation of catechetical instruction to prepare school-age children for First Holy Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation. As the reception of the sacraments began to depend on the commitment of parents as well as the commitment of Catholic schools, parents accepted an active role in the religious education of children by attending sessions and volunteering as catechists. Among others, Jane Durnie (Van Tighem) and Morna Brown (Moriarty) organized classes for pre-school and school-aged children on Sunday mornings. For the Sacrament of Baptism, parents met with one of the priests for sacramental preparation. For the Sacrament of Marriage, couples attended the Marriage Preparation Course which was offered three weekends a year, coordinated by Les and Katalin Kiss and a team of presenters from the parish. RCIA was directed by Karen Howells and Michael Boyle, often drawing upwards of twenty-five people at the weekly sessions.

In the parish, volunteers enthusiastically responded to requests for assistance in the social ministries. Parishioners regularly served coffee, juice and doughnuts following the 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Masses on Sundays. The Active Adult Group served coffee on Sundays following the 5 o'clock Mass. Volunteers brought together the seniors of the parish for the Strawberry Tea, held every year on the lawns of the church in June. Parishioners gathered with their families for parish picnics and barbecues when the weather was

agreeable. They assembled Christmas hampers every December and turned out for the Christmas and Easter activities that were sponsored by the Pastoral Council. In turn, the Pastoral Council held an annual Parish Appreciation Evening.

Participants in the Little Rock Scripture Series began to meet weekly at the church rather than in homes to examine the Old and New Testaments. In 1991, Father Hilling led the Young Adult Club members in Scripture Study Sessions on Sunday evenings following the 5 o'clock Mass. In 1992, Father Gaffney began Sessions on Monday evenings at the church. In December 1992, a weekend seminar directed by Father Erik Riechers, SAC, was held at Sacred Heart. The topics discussed included issues facing the Church in a modern world – polarization, loss of youth and renewal of commitment to the Christian community. Sheila Ross, who joined the parish staff in May 1992 following Sister Florence Arsenault's resignation, organized a group of parishioners who met on Wednesday afternoons to study the papal encyclicals. In 1994, members of the study group – Elizabeth Cooney, Marie Morris, Ruth Cooney, Aileen Kent, Florence Ross, Judith McRae, Nancy French, Lois Gajecki and others – began to examine the Old and New Testaments using The Journey Series that was recommended by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

In April 1995, Sister Rose-Anne Engel, OSU, Coordinator of Adult Education for the Diocese, delivered a well-attended lecture on gaining a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In early October 1995, she returned to speak on the Eucharist following a noon Mass. Later in the month, she directed a workshop on The Gospel of Life (*Evangelium Vitae*), Pope John Paul II's encyclical of March 23, 1995, on the value and inviolability of human life. During the winter months of 1995, those drawn to the study of Holy Scripture gathered to examine St. Luke's Gospel on Wednesday afternoons and St. John's Gospel on Thursday evenings.

Education was a priority for Father Cooney. In 1996, he gave talks on the new Catechism of the Catholic Church every Saturday

morning during Lent. The Catechism was published in 1992, the second official explanation of the teachings of the Church, the first being the Roman Catechism, published in 1566, following the Council of Trent. In May 1996, Father Myles Gaffney was welcomed back to Sacred Heart for another presentation on The Gospel of Life.

In the field of social action: In March 1991 Father Cooney installed the St. Vincent de Paul Society, an organization dedicated to serving the needy, in the parish. Within a month, members were distributing food to local residents, under the capable direction of Stan and Barbara Paskevich.

In February 1992, Doug Elder, Grand Knight of Monsignor Doyle #1186 Council, presented a plan to the Pastoral Council, indicating that the Knights of Columbus desired to be associated with the parish. Not strictly a parish organization, the Knights held meetings at Sacred Heart when Father Leo Sullivan resided at the church in 1954, but had not been installed in the parish. The Knights were warmly welcomed by Father Cooney and the Council.

In the parish: In 1992, the parish sponsored a Guatemalan family through the efforts of Ann Wilson and Antoinette Godbout, of the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society. Following settlement, the parish agreed to sponsor a family of three from former Yugoslavia. In December 1993, hymns from Breaking Bread were introduced for congregational singing. Volunteers continued to meet once a month to make sandwiches for the Drop-in Centre. Peter Tapuska was in charge of the Caring Committee, which concentrated on visiting the hospitals and care facilities in the area.

The gardens were filled with colourful displays of flowers every year, thanks to Theresa Kommes and her family. In February 1994, the Active Adult Group held a successful day-long seminar on Communicating in Relationships. On June 26, 1994, members of Opus Dei held a Mass at Sacred Heart in honour of Blessed

Josemaria Escriva. A mural, *The Boundary*, was executed by Dale Fehr in 1994 and graced the walls of the lower hall, thanks to the duplicate bridge club that Monsignor installed when he arrived at Sacred Heart. In September 1994, students at Sacred Heart School began to wear uniforms. In December 1994, Margaret Feddema, a faithful volunteer in the parish for forty years, received the Diocesan Award of Merit. In May 1995, parishioners joined Father Cooney in the annual Hike for Life, a fundraiser to support the Respect for Life Program in the schools. In June 1995, parishioners supported and volunteered for the Feed the Hungry Program, a community dinner program for those in need, held at St. Mary's Cathedral Hall on Sundays.

On June 5, 1995, parishioners gathered for Mass on the occasion of the 35th Anniversary of Father Cooney's ordination to the priesthood. Congratulations were extended at a reception that followed.

On January 17, 1996, Frank Aboussafy, parishioner and father of Louise Aboussafy, celebrated his 100th birthday. In March 1996, the Knights of Columbus were hosts at the St. Patrick's Day dinner, a successful evening that became a yearly event.

In the diocese: On December 11, 1990, Bishop O'Byrne convoked the first Diocesan Synod. Parishioners were invited to join with other parishes in a celebration of the Eucharist, during which he conveyed that Catholics would be entering a period of prayer, reflection and study in order that they could more clearly minister to one another in the future. Representatives from the parish were called forward to receive a Proclamation of the Synod from the bishop, which they took back to the church. Parishioners celebrated the adoption of the Proclamation Scroll, which was displayed prominently in the church, on Sunday December 16. Prayers were said at all Masses held that day for the success of the synod and continued to be said during the time of the synod.

Frank Burke-Gaffney was the Synod Coordinator for Sacred Heart Parish. Parishioners met regularly to discuss topics that ranged from the Role of the Church in a Rapidly Changing Society to Diocesan Administration and the Role of the Laity in Light of the Documents of Vatican II. The formal Diocesan Synod took place at St. Francis High School in Calgary from April 6 to 9, 1994. Delegates from throughout the diocese voted on resolutions formulated according to the interests and concerns of those they represented. There were 108 resolutions adopted by delegates to the Formal Synod. The Synod Implementation Committee assisted parishes and agencies in the diocese in activating the resolutions. Reports indicated that the synod had been an opportunity for the faithful to discuss religious beliefs and practices as never before with pastors and with one another. In turn, the faithful were challenged to fulfill the obligations of truly being the people of God.

The Diocesan Synod reports noted that in 1994, there were 304,757 Catholics in the Diocese of Calgary. There were 44,105 students attending Catholic schools in the diocese. There were 148 priests – 93 were diocesan and 55 belonged to religious congregations. Of these priests, 25 were retired, ill or absent. There were two permanent deacons, nine seminarians, 12 brothers and 137 sisters. There were 46 missions throughout the diocese.

In 1992, Bishop O'Byrne addressed a major concern frequently expressed by faithful – the care of older and retired priests. The former Bishop's Residence at 910-7A Street Northwest had been used as residence for retired priests and priests in special ministries but had been sold as the building proved to be impractical as a retirement home. The Council of Priests, through its Lifestyle Committee, decided that the needs of such a residence would best be met with the purchase of condominiums in Dorchester Square, a building within Sacred Heart Parish district. Monsignor LeFort was influential in planning for the residence during his tenure at Sacred Heart.

Clergy, religious and the laity were invited to attend a celebration of Bishop O'Byrne's 25th Anniversary as Bishop of Calgary at the

Round-Up Centre on Sunday August 22, 1993. Children in the parish schools observed the anniversary by supporting the Holy Childhood, an association that aided children in developing countries. Their names were signed onto a scroll that was presented to Bishop O'Byrne.

Elsewhere: In January 1994, St. Mary's College, an independent Catholic liberal arts college, began offering courses in a space at the University of Calgary for those studying in the Faculty of Education and for others interested in increasing their knowledge and appreciation of theology and Sacred Scripture. Father Cooney was a member of the Board of Governors of St. Mary's College.

During the 1990s parishioners responded generously to the Annual Bishop's Appeal (ABA), to the Share Lent Program that enabled Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (Development and Peace) to assist a country-wide coalition of farmers, fishermen and city workers in the Philippines in 1992 and to the Canadian Bishops' appeal for emergency aid to Rwanda in 1994.

There were no major changes in the fabric of the church during Father Cooney's years at Sacred Heart, although some thought was given by members of the Pastoral Council to enlarging the baptistery and using the north-side confessional as an open confessional. Father Cooney settled for installing a mosaic of St. Marguerite d'Youville (1701-1771), Canada's first Canadian-born saint, in place of the unused door on the north side of the church. St. Marguerite was a mother and widow who founded the Sisters of Charity of Montreal in 1737. She was declared blessed in 1959 and canonized by Pope John Paul II on December 6, 1990.

Sacred Heart parishioners knew of St. Marguerite through the Sisters of Charity in Calgary, who had operated the Holy Cross Hospital in Calgary from 1891 to 1969. The Pastoral Council commissioned Conrad Schmitt Studios Inc., of New Berlin, Wisconsin, to design a full size likeness of St. Marguerite. The mosaic was installed in April 1992. The formal blessing of the

mosaic was held on Sunday May 24, 1992, at the 1:00 p.m. Mass with members of the Sisters of Charity community attending.

The buildings and grounds of the church-complex were well maintained during the early 1990s. The sacristy was decorated and south door of the church was refurbished. A new fan was installed to move, dampen and cool the air in the church. Repairs were made to the baptistery. Lights were installed on the outer walls of the church and storage space for the choirs was constructed on the northwest side of the upper hall. Father Cooney also mused about but did not bring the mosaic of St. Theresa and the Infant Jesus back into the interior of the church.

During these years, church parking was an issue of constant concern. The parish had twenty-five less parking spaces for Sunday Masses following the greening of Sacred Heart School's yard. Even so, areas were designated as handicap-parking zones and a wheelchair accessible entrance was provided.

Two wheelchairs were purchased for use by parishioners during Masses. A new dishwasher was installed in the kitchen in the upper hall. A telephone was placed in the hallway leading to the upper hall for the convenience of parishioners. The parish office was modernized – a photocopier, computers and computer training were provided for Denise Watts and Dory Reyes, who joined the parish staff in 1995.

The Pastoral Council was reorganized in 1996 to improve communication between the Council and parishioners. Following presentations by sub-committees, all agreed to adopt a “circle format” in order for a better flow of information and planning within the parish, which had approximately 1,700 persons attending services on a weekly basis. Each council member would have a direct link to an advisory committee responsible for a particular working group. Implementation of the plans was delayed when, in April, news was received that Father Cooney had been appointed to the bishopric of Nelson.

The community gathered in the halls on May 5 to bid farewell to Father Cooney. He was ordained a bishop at St. Mary's Cathedral in

Calgary on June 11, 1996. Interviewed at the time by the Western Catholic Reporter, he said, "It's a time in the season of the Church's life that we need courageous hope in the good news of what God has accomplished for us and for all people. The final word is not chaos and disorder and division and perplexity, but triumph." Parishioners felt that they were better for having known him.

Reverend Edward B. Flanagan

Father Edward Bernard Flanagan was appointed pastor at Sacred Heart on May 1, 1996. He was born on May 27, 1929, in Medicine Hat and attended St. Theresa's Academy in Medicine Hat before entering St. Augustine's Seminary. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Carroll at St. Mary's Cathedral on April 3, 1954. He served as an assistant at the Cathedral from 1954 to 1961, when he was appointed pastor at Infant Jesus (Nativity) in Empress, Alberta. In 1963, he became Director of the Catholic Information Centre in Calgary. In 1968, he was appointed pastor at Sacred Heart in Strathmore, Alberta, in 1969, a co-pastor at Corpus Christi in Calgary, in 1970, the pastor at St. James in Calgary, in 1977, the pastor at St. Basil's in Lethbridge, in 1984, the pastor at St. Gerard's in Calgary and in 1994, the pastor at St. John the Evangelist in Calgary. He served several terms as Officialis and Chairperson of the Diocesan Tribunal.



Reverend Edward
B. Flanagan

During summer of 1996, Father Jesus R. Timajo was appointed associate pastor at Sacred Heart. From the Philippines in 1995, he was ordained in the Diocese of Daet, Camarines Norte, on March 9, 1986. He returned temporarily to the Philippines in 1998.

Father Vincent Tuan Ha was appointed associate pastor at Sacred Heart, effective on August 1, 1998. He was born in Saigon, Vietnam, attended St. Joseph's Seminary and was ordained on

June 6, 1997, by Bishop O'Byrne at St. Mary's Cathedral. In 2000, he was transferred to Sacred Heart Parish in Oyen, Alberta.

Father Flanagan was a familiar face to many of the parishioners, from his previous appointments or through his large and extended family. A man of deep principles, he was approachable and attentive and could deftly inject his fine sense of humour into matters of a serious nature.

Masses continued to be celebrated at 5 p.m. on Saturdays and at 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays and Holy Days. Jim Howells was Music Director. Karen Howells led the Senior Choir. Carmen Tellier directed the congregational singing at the 10 a.m. Mass, assisted by Jim Howells. Leaders and musicians for the 5 p. m. Sunday Folk Choir included Tim Ward, Jacquie Brezovski (Llanos), Lynn Luft and Teresa Storwick.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament took place weekly, beginning after the noon Mass on Fridays and ending with Benediction at 5:00 p.m., followed by an evening Mass. The Rosary and Angelus were prayed before the noon Mass on weekdays. Lenten Devotions involved the Way of the Cross, both communally and privately. Parishioners met regularly on Wednesday afternoons to study Sacred Scripture using *The Journey*, as a guide. Mass was celebrated on Wednesdays for residents of Mount Royal Care Centre (Central Park Lodge.)

The Baptism Preparation Course was developed in 1996 by Sheila Ross and Dorothy Badry. Karen Howells and Michael Boyle directed the RCIA Program. The Marriage Preparation Course was offered three weekends a year, coordinated by Les and Katalin Kiss and a team of presenters.

Pastoral Council 1996-1997: Chairperson Barbara O'Connor, Father Flanagan, Father Timajo, Sheila Ross, Nan Douglas, Les Kiss, Randy Blott, Chito Jaraiz.

1997-1998: Chairperson Barbara Ferrao (O'Connor), Father Flanagan, Father Timajo, Sheila Ross, Nan Douglas, Tita Jose, Les Kiss, Chito Jaraiz, Randy Blott, Bill Reinwart, Dorothy Badry.

1998-1999: Chairperson Bill Reinwart, Father Flanagan, Father Ha, Sheila Ross, Randy Blott, Tita Jose, Chito Jaraiz, Dorothy Badry, Les Kiss, David Whitty.

1999-2000: Chairperson Bill Reinwart, Father Flanagan, Father Ha, Christine Wheeler, Randy Blott, Chito Jaraiz, Les Kiss, David Whitty, Shirley Teasdale.

When the Pastoral Council met in September 1996, the first item on the agenda was an upcoming ecumenical event, the signing of a **Roman Catholic/Anglican/Lutheran Covenant**. Bishop O'Byrne, Archbishop J. Barry Curtis of the Anglican Church of Canada Bishop Stephen P. Kristenson of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories had issued a letter on June 20, 1996, in which they stated that they had been holding regularly scheduled meetings to support each other in Christian endeavours. They recognized that there was a feeling within their parishes that the church community at large would like to do more to recognize one another in the spirit of unity.

The bishops had invited a small team of clergy and lay people to search for ways for the communities to reach out to one another resulting in a document that contained ideas and areas of commitment which parishes or individuals could use to develop cross-denominational relationships. Parish Council Chairperson Barbara O'Connor indicated the willingness of Sacred Heart Parish to become involved in the program at the official signing ceremony, held at Holy Spirit Church in Calgary on October 4, 1996.

The bishops published a letter on September 14, 1997, stating their concerns about developments in Canadian society. They called on Christians to address issues of poverty and abuse and to assist people of every age in learning appropriate ways of expressing anger and frustration. In particular, they encouraged participation in Fire in the Rose, an ecumenical, educational program for congregations that wanted to build healthier families and communities.

In the parish: Programs involving social action were a priority for the Pastoral Council. The St. Vincent de Paul Society remained

active in the parish, distributing food and necessities to the needy in the district. Stan and Barb Paskevich were assisted by Marguerite Fleming in organizing the distributions. Parishioners assisted residents of Mount Royal Care Centre in moving to and from their rooms for Mass every Wednesday morning. On the first Saturday of each month, volunteers prepared sandwiches for the Drop-in Centre – Sheila Ross, Pauline Miller, Val Cloarec, Nell Chernichen, Wendy Coutu, Mary Comella, Fran Eby, Marie Chudleigh, Cindy Baguio, Anne Prystupa and Sandra Hawkes.

In 1997: A Mothers' Group met regularly on Tuesday mornings for fellowship and to study Christian virtues in order to strengthen family ties. Father Gaffney was invited back to the parish for a Lenten Presentation. The Knights of Columbus sponsored the annual St. Patrick's Day Evening. In May, roses were presented to mothers on Mother's Day and supporters rallied for those entered in the annual Hike for Life. Sacred Heart School held the Family Spring Tea at the church with a craft table, white elephant sale, fish pond and raffle. In June, the Pastoral Council was host at a Strawberry Tea for seniors. Included in the Christmas hampers for the first time were chickens and boxes of rice, an acknowledgement that many newcomers in the district had preferences and traditions that varied from country to country. The church grounds and buildings throughout the seasons were featured on post cards that were for sale in the parish office.

The ongoing problem of shortness of diocesan clergy and overlapping of Mass times in churches in the city was addressed at Sacred Heart with changes in times of Masses and devotions, beginning on June 29, 1997. Masses were celebrated at 5 p.m. on Saturdays and at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed the noon Mass on Fridays and ended at 3:30 p.m. with Benediction.

In September 1997, Father Flanagan was granted a three-month sabbatical leave from the diocese to attend a renewal program at the Vatican II Institute in Menlo Park, California. Father Timajo

was appointed acting pastor, assisted by Father Ermias Ghobregziabiher, OFM, who was residing at Sacred Heart, having come from Eritrea to minister to Ethiopian Catholics. Following the departure of Dory Reyes and Denise Watts, Katie Fisher joined the office staff in September 1997 as parish secretary and bookkeeper.

Father Timajo encouraged members of the congregation to “bring forward the gifts” during the Offertory at Sunday Masses. A catechism class was organized for pre-school children during the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass, with intentions to extend it to school-age children as recruits came forward.

In 1997, the Diocese of Calgary began to prepare for the **Great Jubilee of 2000**. Pope John Paul II had outlined three years of preparation for the event in his apostolic letter, *Tertio Millennio Adveniente*, issued in 1994. The first year, 1997, was dedicated to the person of Jesus Christ, Lord and Savior. Catholics were invited to reflect on Christ, the Word of God, in a spirit of reconciliation. The second year, 1998, was devoted to the sanctifying presence of the Holy Spirit, the Sacrament of Confirmation and the virtue of hope. The third year, 1999, emphasized God the Father and was an occasion for celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and the virtue of charity. Each year was marked by a prayer of entrustment to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Bishop O’Byrne asked the faithful to nurture love, understanding and forgiveness of one another during these years, thereby serving to build unity within the diocese. In the spirit of Jubilee 2000, Sacred Heart’s Pastoral Council searched for ways to reach out to new parishioners so that they would feel welcome and participate in the affairs of the parish. The weekly bulletin, a regular means to broaden communication with parishioners, was given a face-lift with seasonal and colourful photographs of the church adorning the cover page.

During the second year of preparation for Jubilee 2000, the Liturgical Commission of the Central Committee of Jubilee 2000 announced that the invocation “Come Holy Spirit” should resonate in the hearts of the faithful. Mary, the Mother of God, was held up

as a model. At Sacred Heart, the community reflected on the presence of the Holy Spirit and the variety of gifts provided by the Holy Spirit for ministry in the Church.

Following Father Flanagan's return from his sabbatical in January 1998, parishioners received a letter regarding stewardship, the giving of time, talent and treasure through a series of pledges, a program that had been introduced by Monsignor LeFort ten years earlier. Noting that building and maintenance of a church has always and will always begin with a willingness to participate in the ministries of the church, Father Flanagan asked for donations of time to add diversity to the parish and allow those already serving to expand their interests. The Pastoral Council held a Volunteer Sunday to explain the needs of the parish and receive pledges of time from parishioners.

Active in the **Stewardship Program** were Ann Cavanaugh, Claire Rodrigues, Barbara Bittman, Josie Estoque, Joan Devost, Maureen Rapier-Ross, Andrea Benoit, Fiona Mackintosh, Linda Guerin, Marilynne Marshall, Teresa Coutu, Beatrice Walsh, Nancy Robertson, Faye LaPaz, Brenda Williamson, Patrick and Rita Randall, Maaik Seaward, Colleen Krueger, Cathy Prentiss, Christina Krueger, Ginette and Daniel Roth, Anita Swiderski, Louise Aboussafy, Sandra Hawkes, Wendy Irvine and Clarence Quillen.

In the diocese: On March 9, 1998, Bishop O'Byrne retired, having submitted his resignation following his seventy-fifth birthday, on December 12, 1997. Of special interest to parishioners was a retirement banquet for Bishop O'Byrne, held on June 29, 1998, at the Westin Hotel in Calgary.

Most Reverend Frederick Bernard Henry, Bishop of Thunder Bay, was appointed the seventh Bishop of Calgary. He was born in London, Ontario, on April 11, 1943, ordained to the priesthood at St. Peter's Cathedral in London for the Diocese of London on

May 25, 1968 and ordained a bishop at St. Peter's on June 24, 1986. After a short time as a pastor and years as the rector of St. Peter's Seminary in London, he was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of London from 1986 to 1995, when he was appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Thunder Bay. He was installed as Bishop of Calgary at St. Mary's Cathedral on March 19, 1998.

Within a few months, Bishop Henry was a familiar face to parishioners. He took a public and concerned stance about widespread installation of video-lottery terminals in the province, outlining both sides of the debate in a pastoral letter and concluded that the negative social consequences of gambling clearly outweighed any potential economic benefits; the end did not justify the means. At Sacred Heart, as in the whole of the diocese, petitions were signed indicating strong support for the bishop's statements.

In the parish: Following a four-week training course for facilitators in January 1998, plans proceeded regarding implementation of the Little Rock Scripture Series in the parish on two evenings and one afternoon a week in Lent, beginning with *Acts of the Apostles*. In February, the World Day of the Sick was celebrated on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes with Mass, the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and a social event in the hall. During Lent a group of parishioners met at the church for quiet personal prayer, followed by Liturgy of the Hours. In June, seniors gathered for the annual Strawberry Tea and Social. The gardens were filled with displays of flowers, thanks to Theresa Kommes and her family.

During the summer of 1998, the noon Mass on Saturdays was discontinued. Rather, the Sacrament of Reconciliation was celebrated on Saturdays, beginning at 11:30 a.m. with communal preparation for the sacrament, followed by individual confessions. Seminarian Tito Ranola spent July and August at Sacred Heart, undertaking parish tasks.

Beginning in September 1998, the pre-school and elementary school children met Sunday mornings during the 10:30 a.m. Mass for God Time, a program coordinated by Molly Naber-Sykes that was based on the day's gospel reading but presented in a manner that the children could relate to and understand. The children joined the teachers following the Opening Hymn and returned for the Prayer of the Faithful. Weekly sacramental programs prepared students for First Holy Communion (grade 2), First Reconciliation (grade 3) and Confirmation (grade 6.)

In the parish, a Scripture Study Group met weekly to study chapters of the Old Testament. Bridge players enjoyed weekly sessions in the lower hall. In November 1998, the parish community and members of the 5 p.m. Sunday Folk Choir acknowledged Tim Ward, who stepped down after coordinating the music program for twelve years.

Members of the Pastoral Council agreed that a strong commitment to the **Little Rock Scripture Series** would be Sacred Heart's primary emphasis during the year leading to Jubilee 2000, to provide an opportunity for parishioners to become more familiar with the Word of God. The afternoon and evening sessions, which began in Lent with Luke's *Acts of the Apostles*, were designed for those with little or no experience of the Bible. Following the Lenten season, parishioners studied Paul's *Letters to the Ephesians* followed by the *Letters of James, Peter and Jude*.

In the spring of 1999, the members of the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission expressed concern about the progress of an ecumenical spirit in the diocese in light of the Lutheran, Anglican and Roman Catholic Covenant. Bill Reinwart, who represented Sacred Heart on the Ecumenical Commission, reported that Catholics were encouraged to follow the words and example of Pope John Paul II in striving for the visible unity of all Christians through prayers for unity, common services, Bible studies, retreats and missions.

In response, Sacred Heart parishioners reached out into the wider community – volunteering their services at Grace Presbyterian

Church's Inn from the Cold Program, assisting members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in their deliveries of food and other needs to local residents and sponsoring a Feed the Hungry Dinner at St. Mary's Hall. Every year, they supported the Annual Bishop's Appeal, which supported initiatives and ministries in the diocese.

In 1997, parishioners responded quickly to requests from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops for aid to the citizens of southern Manitoba who were experiencing hardship because of the Red River floods. In 1999, the parish agreed to support a refugee family of seven. At the year's end, the family had adjusted to life in Calgary and the children were doing well in school. Several parishioners volunteered for the ministry – in particular, David Whitty and family who at moment's notice transported donations of furniture and goods to the family's residence and Lise Handfield who gave endless hours to helping the family adjust to the Canadian way of life. In 1999, parishioners contributed generously to a reconstruction program in the wake of Hurricane Mitch, to victims in the war-torn area of Kosovo and to people affected by flooding in Mexico.

In preparation for Jubilee 2000, a Tri-Parish (Sacred Heart and St. Peter's in Calgary and St. Francis de Sales in High River) Pilgrimage to the Seminary of Christ the King at Mission, British Columbia, took place November 11 to 15 1999. In Rome, Pope John Paul II inaugurated the Holy Year at Midnight Mass on December 24, 1999.

Anno Domini 2000: Year of the Great Jubilee. According to the Book of Leviticus (25: 8-17), a Jubilee was to be celebrated every fifty years and was observed by five commands: let the earth lie uncultivated, forgive debts, free the captives, do justice and celebrate.

On January 25 parishioners attended a service at St. Mary's Cathedral to mark the Week of Prayer for Unity among Christians. Celebrated continuously since 1884, it encouraged all denominations to meet and participate in liturgical and community activities and to pray together that all may be one in Christ.

Representatives from Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian and United Church denominations, along with members of Pentecostal and Mennonite communities, participated in the service as readers, musicians and leaders of worship.

Noteworthy: On March 1, 2000, Sacred Heart Church joined churches throughout Calgary at 11:00 a.m. by ringing its bells for two minutes. On hearing, parishioners were asked to remember landmine victims and survivors around the world. In the parish volunteers participated in Dinners for Ronald McDonald House, a project to provide nutritious meals for the out-of-town families of young cancer patients who stay at the home, often for several months at a time. The Mothers in Faith (Mothers' Group) that was led by Molly Naber-Sykes and Teresa Storwick held meetings twice a month for fellowship, prayer and study of Holy Scripture and parenting issues.

In June 2000, Father Erik Riechers returned to Sacred Heart to preach a Jubilee Mission entitled, "Open Wide the Doors: Biblical Encounter with Christ." Artist Faye Muscoby created a beautiful banner for the mission from vestments that dated back to the first days of the church, which she donated for future missions.

In 2000, there were approximately 1,350 persons attending the Masses celebrated at Sacred Heart on Sundays and Holy Days. During Father Flanagan's pastorate, computers and a photocopier were purchased in order to standardize the offices and increase efficiency. In 1996, the parking lot fence was replaced and the groundwork finished the following spring. In 1997, a lay-by was added on the north side of the church to allow for improved handicapped access and safer parking for funeral vehicles. The main floor restrooms were upgraded and made accessible for handicapped parishioners. Drapes were ordered to complete the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Altar area. In 1998, following a street accident that damaged the front steps of the church, parishioner Jack Fears

designed a circular set of steps that improved access for handicapped parishioners.

In March 1998, Margaret Scholefield retired and Lyn Gourlay took over her housekeeping duties during the same month. In September 1999, Christine Wheeler joined the staff as the pastoral assistant, following the resignation of Sheila Ross. In March 2000, Julianne Smith replaced Katie Fisher as parish secretary.

In June 2000, Father Flanagan retired from active ministry following forty-six years of service in the diocese. Parishioners gathered in the church halls on September 6 to wish him “multos annos” and to express their appreciation for his years in the parish.

Reverend Patrick E. Cramer

Father Patrick Emile J. Cramer was appointed pastor at Sacred Heart in June 2000. Father Cramer was born on October 10, 1926, in Drumheller. He was educated in Drumheller and attended St.



Reverend Patrick
E. Cramer

Anthony's, a Franciscan directed college in Edmonton, before entering St. Joseph's Seminary. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Carroll at St. Anthony's in Drumheller on May 21, 1950. He served as an assistant at St. Mary's Cathedral in Calgary from 1950 to 1952 and was an assistant at Christ the King in Claresholm, Alberta, from 1952 to 1955. He was appointed administrator of Warner and New Dayton missions in 1955 and was the pastor at Warner when Bishop Wilhelm blessed Our Lady

of Lourdes Church there on July 2, 1964. He was appointed pastor at St. Francis de Sales in High River, Alberta, in 1964 and pastor at St. Joseph's in Calgary from 1968 to 1974, when he was granted a sabbatical before becoming pastor at St. Luke's in Calgary from 1975 to 1986.

In 1986, Father Cramer was appointed temporary pastor at St. Mary's in Brooks, Alberta. In 1987, he assisted Monsignor J. J. O'Brien at St. Anthony's in Calgary and was appointed pastor at St. Anthony's from 1988 to 1995. He worked in the Chancery Office from 1995 to 1998, when he became the founding pastor of St. Albert the Great Parish in Calgary and continued as pastor until the appointment to Sacred Heart Parish.

In August 2000, Father Joseph Phi Nguyen, OP, was appointed associate pastor at Sacred Heart. He was ordained in Saigon, Vietnam, on October 28, 2003.

Masses continued to be celebrated at 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays and at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Sundays and Holy Days. Mass was celebrated every weekday at noon. Approximately 1,100 persons attended Masses regularly on weekends. Lenten Devotions included the Way of the Cross, both communally and privately. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was celebrated on Saturdays, beginning at 11:30 a.m. with a communal service and followed by individual confessions. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament took place weekly, beginning after the noon Mass on Fridays and ending with Benediction at 3:30 p.m.

Jim Howells continued as the Music Director. Karen Howells directed the Senior Choir. Jacquie Brezovski led the Folk Group during the 5 p.m. Mass on Sundays.

The Pastoral Council 2000-2001 consisted of Chairpersons Bill Reinwart and Chito Jaraiz, Father Cramer, Father Nguyen, Christine Wheeler, Randy Blott, Tita Jose, Les Kiss and Shirley Teasdale.

In September 2000, Father Cramer met with members of the Pastoral Council to present a plan to have the Council act as a "brain-storming" centre and a "clearing house," initially to gather ideas and then to develop strategies that were to be activated in the parish through a mission statement. He asked members to focus on fundamental issues such as: What are the spiritual needs of our parish members? What are the needs of others that Sacred Heart

Church might serve? What are the means to serve the various needs? He called for a meeting of all parish committees in order to have all programs coordinated through the Pastoral Council. The meetings took place on January 30 and February 13, 2001, followed by an Evening Retreat on March 13. Chito Jaraiz organized the meetings and became acting chairperson of the Pastoral Council following the resignation of Bill Reinwart in February 1991.

A Mission Statement was fashioned: “A welcoming and caring community, witnessing to the presence of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, hoping to touch the life of everyone we come across by our dedication and steadfastness, striving towards a deeper understanding of who God calls us to be.”

In the parish: Liturgy of the Word for Children, formerly called God Time, took place each Sunday with the children leaving the 10:30 a.m. Mass following the opening hymn to receive instruction and returning at the Prayer of the Faithful. Mothers in Faith alternated on Tuesday mornings with Familia, a program directed by Karen Driscoll that offered parents of young children an opportunity to grow in faith through reflection on the gospels, catechesis and the teachings of Pope John Paul II.

The Baptism Preparation Course was directed by Christine Wheeler, who enlisted volunteers for presentations – Karen and Rob Driscoll, Teresa Storwick and Kelly and John Arraf, among others. The Marriage Preparation Course was directed by Les and Kaitlin Kiss. Christine Wheeler organized the preparation classes for Holy Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation, held in succession throughout the year.

On October 4, 2000, parishioners celebrated World Rosary Day, an event that was first organized in 1996, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Pope John Paul II's priestly ordination. The Holy Father led the praying of the Rosary with the five decades televised from Fatima in Portugal, Lourdes in France, Czestochowa in

Poland, Our Lady of Guadalupe Basilica in Mexico City and the Vatican. The following day the Pope dedicated the new millennium to the Blessed Virgin Mary. At Sacred Heart, parishioners renewed their devotion to the Rosary by praying the Rosary and Angelus before the noon Mass on weekdays.

In November, an enrichment workshop designed for those facilitating the Little Rock Scripture Studies Program was held at Sacred Heart and led by Catherine Upchurch of Little Rock, Arkansas, a director of the Little Rock Scripture Study Series. In the parish members of the Little Rock Scripture Study Group met regularly at the church to study and discuss sections of the Old and New Testaments.

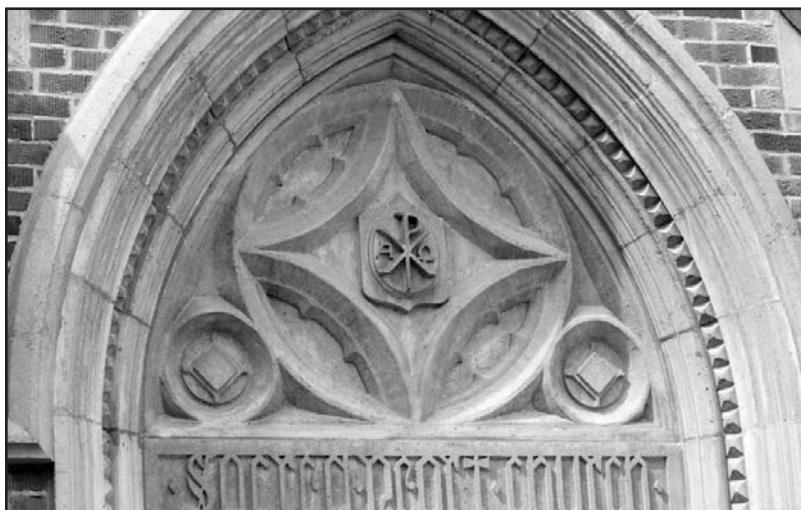
In December, the Pastoral Council organized Christmas festivities and the Christmas Hamper Program. During 2000 parishioners responded favourably to diocesan appeals and to requests from Afghan Relief and Development and Peace for projects in El Salvador and India.

Pope John Paul II brought the Jubilee Year to a close in Rome on January 6, 2001, The Solemnity of the Epiphany.

In January, a group of parishioners attended the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service 2001 at St. Mary's Cathedral, written by women in Samoa. Representatives from Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran and Presbyterian Churches, along with members of Pentecostal and Mennonite communities, participated in the program as readers, musicians and choir members. In February, parishioners were hosts at a dinner for Ronald McDonald House.

In the parish: During the summer months Teresa Kommes and family tended the flower gardens. Dave Howells cared for the trees and grounds. Julianne Smith assumed secretarial duties in March 2000. Margaret Scholefield was the housekeeper, Len Maxwell the custodian. There were no alterations undertaken in the church-complex during Father Cramer's pastorate.

In June 2001, Father Cramer was appointed the pastor at St. George's in Hanna, Alberta. Although he was at Sacred Heart for barely a year, he was known as thoughtful priest who often spoke with affection of his rural roots. He was always about and willing to join in the activities, whether a meeting of young mothers, a Scripture Study session or a cup of coffee following Mass. Parishioners gathered on June 17 following the noon Sunday Mass to express their gratitude for his many acts of service.



The Catholic Experience in the 21st Century

Reverend Edmund F. Vargas

On August 12, 2001, Bishop Henry preached at the Installation Mass of Father Edmundo Francisco Vargas at Sacred Heart Parish.



Reverend
Edmund F. Vargas

Known to parishioners as Father Edmund, he is younger than most of the previous pastors, has an eye to the future and is a fitting representative of the changing face of Catholicism in a changed and changing country.

In previous years, an appointment to a long-standing and relatively affluent parish such as Sacred Heart had been a reward that followed long years of industry and service in the diocese. Father Vargas arrived in Calgary in 1996, from the Philippines. He was assistant pastor at Holy Spirit in Calgary from 1996 to 1999, when he was appointed pastor at Sacred Heart in Strathmore, Alberta, until 2001.

Father Vargas was born on December 2, 1955, in Virac, Catanduanes, Philippines. He received his primary education at Immaculate Conception Academy in Virac and secondary education at St. Gregory the Great Minor Seminary in Tabaco, Albay. He completed his seminary studies at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila and was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Jose C. Sorra at Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Virac on April 28, 1979. His years as a priest in the Diocese of Virac included pastoral service and appointments as Diocesan Chancellor and Principal of Immaculate Conception Seminary-Academy in Virac.

In Calgary, Father Vargas was appointed a trustee of the Latour Foundation, Inc. (Native Pastoral Centre) Program on Family Violence and Healing in 1996. He was designated Spiritual Advisor of the diocesan unit of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in 2001. He was named a member of St. Mary's College Community Advisory Council in 2003.

Father Vargas quickly became known to parishioners through a column, *Metaphors from a Priest*, in the weekly bulletin. It remains a reflection on his Sunday homily, which is always a well crafted and thoughtful discussion about the relevance of the readings from Sacred Scripture to every-day life. Both his column and general leanings have been toward social action and social justice, perhaps a throw-back to his years of service as the Chancellor-Secretary and Director of the Social Action Office in the Diocese of Virac, where he was a regular columnist for the weekly *Catanduanes Tribune*.

The shortage of priests in the diocese has resulted in Father Vargas ministering to parishioners for extended periods of time without an assistant priest. Father Britto Furtado was appointed associate pastor at Sacred Heart in September 2001 but returned to Goa in India in October 2001.

Father Peter Doherty, OMI, became part-time associate pastor at Sacred Heart in October 2001. He was ordained at St. Albert Church in St. Albert on October 10, 1985. At the time of his appointment, he was also employed as a psychologist for Catholic

Family Services and was a part-time professor at St. Mary's College, now St. Mary's University College. He left his position at Sacred Heart to assume more teaching responsibilities at the college in June 2004.

Father Jesus Gueco, OFMCap, was an associate pastor at Sacred Heart during the summer months of 2003. He returned to the Philippines in 2003.

Father Tomy Manjaly was appointed associate pastor at Sacred Heart in June 2005. He was ordained on April 9, 1994, in Imphal, Maripur in India and arrived in Canada in September 2003. He was transferred to St. Patrick's in Medicine Hat in January 2006.

Father Antonio Joao Newton Rodrigues was appointed associate pastor at Sacred Heart in August 2006. He was ordained on January 30, 1986, at St. Jose de Areal in Goa and arrived in Canada in 2006. He was transferred to St. Bernadette's in Calgary in June 2008.

Father Fernando Genogaling was appointed associate pastor at Sacred Heart, effective on August 1, 2008 but was transferred within a month to St. Martha's Parish in Lethbridge.

Father Eulogio Estaris, an associate pastor at Sacred Heart from 1995 to 1996, was appointed Dominical Vicar in September 2008. Due to failing health, he was replaced in December 2008 by Father Lawrence Bagnall.

Father Bagnall had served at Sacred Heart for a year following his ordination in 1967. He served as Dominical Vicar until June 2009.

Father Benedicto Alberto Tugano IV was appointed associate pastor at Sacred Heart in August 2009. He was ordained on June 29, 1995, at Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Virac, Catanduanes and arrived in Calgary in November 2009.

In July 2003, Paul Kennedy was engaged as an administrative assistant. On January 24, 2004, he became a candidate for the permanent diaconate. On June 14, 2004, he was ordained to the permanent diaconate by Bishop Henry at St. Mary's Cathedral and

assumed the role of Deacon/Administrative Consultant at Sacred Heart. In addition to administrative responsibilities, he has been authorized to preach at weekend Masses, solemnize marriages, administer baptisms and preside at funeral services and prayers.

Pastoral Council 2001-2002: Chairperson Chito Jaraiz, Father Vargas, Tom Shannon, Debra Miko, Randy Blott, Hany Farag.

2002-2003: Chairperson Randy Blott, Father Vargas, Lois Burke-Gaffney, Tom Shannon, Debra Miko, Hany Farag.

2003-2004: Chairperson Lois Burke-Gaffney, Father Vargas, Tara O'Sullivan, Paul Kennedy, Tom Shannon, Debra Miko, Hany Farag, Art Blott, Johnson Fong, Brenda Monge, Karen Howells, Bert Podruzny.

2004-2005: Chairperson Lois Burke-Gaffney, Father Vargas, Deacon Paul Kennedy, Christine Wheeler, Tom Shannon, Debra Miko, Johnson Fong, Karen Howells, Bert Podruzny, Melanie Smerek, Tara O'Sullivan.

2005-2006: Chairperson Karen Howells, Father Vargas, Deacon Paul Kennedy, Tom Shannon, Debra Miko, Terry Allen, Michael Boyle, Lois Burke-Gaffney, Elmer Goetz, Johnson Fong, Karen Howells, Stephanie Hugo, David Lefebvre, Mabel Lo, Rosalie McDonell, Bert Podruzny, Moza Tosku.

2006-2007: Chairperson Karen Howells, Father Vargas, Deacon Paul Kennedy, Tom Shannon, Debra Miko, Rosalie McDonell, Theodora Lo, David Lefebvre, Stephanie Hugo, Hany Farag, Elmer Goetz, Lois Burke-Gaffney, Stephanie Hugo.

2007-2008: Chairperson Debra Miko, Father Vargas, Deacon Paul Kennedy, Tom Shannon, Verness O'Brien, Rosalie McDonell, Theodora Lo, Lois Burke-Gaffney, Hany Farag, Karen Howells, Stephanie Hugo, Les Kiss, David Lefebvre.

2008-2009: Chairperson Theodora Lo, Father Vargas, Deacon Paul Kennedy, Tom Shannon, Debra Miko, Lois Burke-Gaffney, Maria Gartner, Lorne Gartner, Karen Howells, David Lefebvre, Sherwood Young.

2009-2010: Chairperson Theodora Lo, Father Vargas, Deacon Paul Kennedy, Tom Shannon, Debra Miko, Lois Burke-Gaffney, Maria Gartner, Lorne Gartner, Karen Howells, Brian Humphrys, David Lefebvre, Sherwood Young.

Following the arrival of Father Vargas, Masses continued to be celebrated at 5 p.m. on Saturdays and at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays and Holy Days. The Sacrament of Reconciliation was celebrated on Saturdays at 11:30 a.m., beginning with a communal service and ending with individual confessions. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed the noon Mass on Fridays until 3:30 p.m., when Benediction was held. Jim Howells continued as the Music Director. Karen Howells directed the Senior Choir. Jacquie Brezovski led the Folk Group during the 5 p.m. Mass on Sundays.

Within a few months, Father Vargas began to place his own stamp on parish routine. In Advent, the liturgical year began with a new schedule for Sunday Masses – at 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., noon and 5:00 p.m. Baptisms were held during Sunday Masses to highlight the communitarian aspect of the sacrament.

Children were formally dismissed during the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass to participate in the Liturgy of the Word, coordinated by Anna Marinelli. The RCIA Program was directed by Karen Howells. The Marriage Preparation Course weekends were organized by Jim Howells. Distribution of food hampers for the St. Vincent de Paul Society was arranged for by Noel Llanos and Marguerite Fleming. The parish representative for Development and Peace was Chito Jaraiz.

Father Vargas met with the Pastoral Council for a Pastoral Planning Session, at which questions were raised about helping to build the faith community in the new millennium. Some questions were – What are the positive and negative qualities of our parish? What are the concerns of parishioners? Are there components in need of renewal in the parish?

Father Vargas intended that members of the Pastoral Council would raise concerns solicited from parishioners and strive to present new approaches in a common effort to fulfill the Mission Statement. The committees activated were the Annual Bishop's Appeal Committee, Social Justice Committee, Education Committee, Communications Committee, Building and Maintenance Committee and Liturgical Committee.

In December 2001, Father Vargas sparked an interest in social justice by initiating an orientation meeting for those interested in forming a committee that would campaign for awareness of abuse and healing through the **Fire in the Rose Program**. The program had been endorsed by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and was initiated in Calgary in 1997, by the Ecumenical Task Force for the Prevention of Family Violence. In June 2002, a Mass was celebrated by Father Vargas for those suffering abuse and a homily was preached about abuse, including sexual abuse.

The Fire in the Rose Committee, directed by Jane Oxenbury, began to hold a yearly lament at the church in remembrance of all women who had experienced fear and violence. Also remembered were fourteen women killed at Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal on December 6, 1989, for whom a Day of National Remembrance was established in 1991.

In January 2003, the Lunch Bag Program was launched in the parish, in conjunction with the Native Pastoral Centre, to address the needs of individuals who were frequenting the grounds of the church during hours of worship. On weekdays, a mobile facility offered food and referrals to interested persons. The program provided parishioners with a first-hand education about inner city poverty issues as well as an opportunity to serve the disadvantaged.

In February 2003, the Pastoral Council approved implementation of the Inn from the Cold Program. Parishioners had been enthusiastic about such a project since 1999, when several volunteered their services for Inn from the Cold at nearby Grace Presbyterian Church. Volunteers undertook to provide overnight accommodation once a month at the church for fifteen homeless

people, including children. Guests were welcomed on the first and for a time the first and the third Monday of each month with a dinner. They were entertained during the evening, greeted the next morning with a hot breakfast and left the church with a bag lunch. The project was initiated by Laureen Swann and Mary Milaney.

Social action also included transporting residents of Mount Royal Care Centre to the morning Mass that was held weekly at the residence. On or about February 11, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, volunteers observed World Day of the Sick by transporting the sick and elderly of the parish to a Healing Mass, held especially for those unable to attend Sunday Mass regularly. Beginning in September 2004, the Sacred Heart School Grandparent Reading Program welcomed volunteers – Danuta Walsh, Wanda Theriault, Lise Handfield and Liz Hall were among those who enhanced the literacy of children. In February 2005, parishioners joined in the Battle for Marriage Rally with Bishop Henry at Full Gospel Church in Calgary. They were attentive and supportive of his admonishments as he battled public opinion in upholding the traditional definition of marriage.



Attention to parish organizations and parish devotions over the years is an aspect of Father Vargas's pastorate that deserves comment. In March 2002, Father Robert McDougall, a musician and composer from the Archdiocese of St. Boniface, directed a Lenten Retreat.

The Rosary continued to be prayed by parishioners and Catholics from throughout the city before the noon Mass on weekdays. In October 2002, Pope John Paul II issued an Apostolic Letter entitled The Rosary of the Virgin Mary, in which he proclaimed the year from October 2002 to October 2003 to be the Year of the Rosary. Among the highlights of the Apostolic Letter was the addition of five mysteries to the recitation of the Rosary, referred to as the Mysteries of Light.

On Friday March 2, 2003, Sacred Heart Parish was host for a World Day of Prayer service, which reflected the theme, “Holy Spirit, Fill Us,” written by women of Lebanon. Representatives from St. Mary’s Cathedral, St. Stephens’s Anglican Church, First Baptist Church, Grace Presbyterian Church, Wesley United Church, Scarboro United Church, St. John’s Anglican Church, Cathedral Church of the Redeemer and Calvin Hungarian Presbyterian Church attended. World Day of Prayer 2003 had roots in an ecumenical day of prayer organized by women of Canada and United States in 1920, an event that became International World Day of Prayer in 1922, when Christians around the world began celebrating it on the first Friday in March.

On June 27, 2003, parishioners renewed their devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus by attending Mass on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, celebrated by Bishop Henry and followed by a reception.

On the **Feast of the Divine Mercy**, declared by Pope John Paul II in 2004 to be held on the Sunday subsequent to Easter, a group of parishioners and visitors gather to pray the Chaplet of Mercy. The prayers bring to mind a revelation to Sister Mary Faustina Kawalska of the Congregation of Sisters of Mercy in Cracow, Poland, that called the faithful to prayer and acts of mercy to others and to a deeper understanding of the unlimited love of God. Sister Faustina was canonized on April 30, 2000, by Pope John Paul II.

In June 2004, and in June of subsequent years, Bishop Cooney has been invited back to the parish to celebrate Mass on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

In December 2004, the Simbang Gabi Mass, a Filipino pre-Christmas tradition, began to be celebrated yearly at Sacred Heart Church.

Pope John Paul II, who taught courage in weakness, died on April 2, 2005. He was succeeded by Pope Benedict XVI on April 19, 2005.

In 2006, an Ecumenical Mission, Gospel Call: Experiencing Afresh Our Unity in Christ, was held from March 12 to 15, co-sponsored by Sacred Heart Church and Christ Church in nearby Elbow Park. Organized by Pastoral Assistant Christine Wheeler and Christ Church's Kathy Chapman, participants were invited to explore the shared areas of people of faith. Father Tom Ryan, CSP, the director of Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations for the Paulist Fathers, along with Reverend Diane Kessler, the executive director of Massachusetts Council of Churches responsible for overseeing the relationship between the World Council of Churches and the Vatican, guided participants through events involving worship and spiritual enhancement.

Sacred Heart's choir participated in an Anglican liturgy during the mission and, in turn, Christ Church's choir sang during a Mass held at Sacred Heart Church. Father Vargas preached at Christ Church during the weekend services and Reverend Ansley Tucker, the rector at Christ Church, reciprocated by preaching at Sacred Heart following the weekend Masses. Subsequent to the mission, Ecumenical Bible Studies were held weekly at the churches.

Father Vargas and the Pastoral Council have put forth a concerted effort to engage the youth of the parish. On November 25, 2001, young parishioners gathered at St. Mary's Cathedral to observe the World Youth Pilgrim Cross being officially handed over to Bishop Henry by Archbishop Thomas Collins, of Edmonton, during a ceremony in front the cathedral. The Cross was a symbol of World Youth Day to be held in Toronto in 2002. Parishioners and parish organizations contributed to sending parishioners Patricia Anghelescu, Ivan Gourlay and Jean-Noel Melotte to Toronto for World Youth Day festivities, held from July 23 to July 28, 2002.

In 2003, the Sacred Heart Youth Group was organized and met on Friday evenings at the church, a gathering that was for junior and high school students, from the parish or otherwise. In 2004, Pastoral Council Member Debra Miko organized the Challenge Girls Club, later called the Holy Mary Girls' Club, a division of Catholic Youth World Network. She extended an invitation to girls in Grades 5

and 6 to meet weekly for leisure activities, to develop friendships and for volunteer work to learn the virtues of Catholicism. One of the girls' "missions" was babysitting at Elizabeth House, a nearby residence for pregnant women and single mothers.

Organizations and parish activities were identified in a published booklet and on the parish website. In May 2003, the Legion of Mary began to once again meet every week to pray the Rosary and the Tessaera, to receive spiritual guidance and to report on acts of service and home visitation. Members sponsored the Home Visitation of the Pilgrim Virgin. Flora Malig organized the apostolate and assumed the presidency of Mary Immaculate Conception Praesidium of Sacred Heart Parish.

Mothers in Faith continued to meet weekly with Pastoral Assistant Christine Wheeler to share a morning of faith and community while volunteers provided a child-care service. Members of the Little Rock Scripture Study studied sections of the Old and New Testaments. Beyond Transitions, a support group for widowed, separated and divorced Catholics organized by the Life and Family Resource Centre of the Diocese met twice a month in the lower hall.

Noteworthy: In April 2004, parishioners gathered for a Mass of Thanksgiving on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Father Vargas's ordination to the priesthood. Congratulations were extended at a reception that followed.

The Diocese of Calgary mourned the loss of Bishop Paul O'Byrne, who died in Calgary on September 2, 2004. Following his retirement in 1998, Bishop O'Byrne often concelebrated the weekday Mass held in the church of his childhood and was a loving and familiar face to parishioners.

In September 2004, there were several changes made in the presentation and operation of parish programs. Journey of Faith for Teens and Young Adults was a home study program offered on

Sunday mornings to those who had not yet received one or more of the Sacraments of Initiation. The Liturgy of the Word for Children served those who had not yet received their First Eucharist. Parishioners were invited to attend regular meetings of a Catholic Charismatic Group in the lower hall on Sunday afternoons.

In September 2006, Jennifer Miko, Sean Miko, Kaitlin Cotter and Julia Kryzan received the Serra Club Award. The altar servers received the honours from Bishop Henry at St. Mary's Cathedral.

At a meeting of the Pastoral Council during the early months of 2006, members agreed to plan a major event to renew parishioner involvement as expressed in the Mission Statement. The Parish Review took place on October 24-25, 2006. The evenings began with a light meal followed by sessions directed by Linda Lathrop, a professional facilitator. Discussions led to opportunities for informal conversation and friendship. On the first evening, participants considered what the parish had been doing as a faith community to bring to life the Mission Statement. On the second evening, they looked to the future: What needs to be done in months and years ahead to witness to the Sacred Heart of Jesus? The consensus reached was that broad participation from lay ministry leaders, volunteers and parishioners in general was needed.

The Pastoral Council reported that strong themes had emerged from the evenings of discussion – including support for strengthening a volunteer base, for initiating programs for seniors and for outreach into the community. Members decided to work on developing strategies to bring about changes and improvements that would be of benefit to parishioners in the future. There was agreement that the principles outlined in the Mission Statement were relevant but a re-working of it would be beneficial. The revised Mission Statement: “We are a welcoming and caring community dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, helping each other discover who God is calling us to be.”



Father Vargas was granted a sabbatical during the early months of 2007 to study at the Institute for Continuing Theological Education in Rome. During his absence, Father Rodriguez was the acting pastor and along with Deacon Paul Kennedy was responsible for parish affairs.

In April 2007, a Lenten Mission was directed by Father Jack Hunthausen, SJ, of St. Louis, Missouri. The theme was “Awareness of God’s Unconditional Love for Us.”

In 2007, there was a noticeable return to traditional devotional practices at Sacred Heart, as in other parishes in the city, in response to Pope Benedict XVI’s reversal of some of the innovations of his predecessors. Sacred Heart’s choirs began to use the Greek wording in singing the *Kyrie* and Latin during the *Sanctus* and *Agnus Dei* parts of the Mass. Holy Communion was regularly offered under both species. Married couples received an Anniversary Blessing following weekend Masses. A small group of parishioners met for Morning Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours during Advent and Lent before weekday Masses.

In the parish: Mary Verbeek retired from coordinating literature and booklets in the church, following twenty years of service. Fleurette Collins coordinated the environment committee, which began to use natural materials for seasonal celebrations. The programs to prepare children for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation were directed by volunteers from the parish. “Hospitality” was added to the ministries of the parish, part of an effort to become more and more a welcoming and caring community.

In September 2007, the charismatic group held its third anniversary of meeting at Sacred Heart with a weekend of worship and fellowship that included talks by Father Vargas and Father Studden, of St. Michael’s Church in Calgary. In May 2008,

parishioners joined Father Vargas in the Annual Hike for Life to support pro-life programs in the city schools.

In the diocese: On June 5, 2007, the Ark of the New Covenant, the symbolic object that travelled the country to prepare the way for the 49th International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City, was in Calgary. It was taken to St. Bonaventure and St. Anthony Churches before the journey to St. Mary's Cathedral where Sacred Heart parishioners were invited to attend the receiving ceremony, presided over by Bishop Henry. The Eucharistic Congress was held in Quebec City from June 15 to June 22, 2008.

The City of Calgary invited Sacred Heart Church to participate in a "ringing of the bells" on July 3, 2008, to celebrate Quebec City's 400th Anniversary. Calgary and Quebec City have been sister cities since 1956.

Beginning in Advent 2008, the Sunday Morning Masses were amalgamated and scheduled at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The Liturgy of the Hours was prayed regularly before the early Mass. The Liturgy of the Word for Children's dismissal and the RCIA dismissal took place during the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Adrienne Bellehumeur organized the Liturgy of the Word for Children. Mark Kennedy organized altar servers. Eric Milner directed RCIA, assisted by Sherwood Young and Sheila Ross.

In January 2009, the parish held an Alpha Course, ten evenings designed to enrich and deepen the faith of the participants. The course had gained popularity within the Church of England in the early 1990s as a means of reaching out to lapsed members and quickly spread to other denominations and countries. At Sacred Heart, the course targeted those interested in learning more about Catholicism, whether they were Catholic or otherwise. Each weekly session began with dinner at the church, followed by group discussions and opportunities for questions and explanations. A Day of Recollection and Retreat completed the program.

On January 24, 2009, Father Vargas and Pastoral Council Member Les Kiss attended a diocesan workshop on homelessness at St. Cecilia's Church, organized by the Diocesan Homeless and Affordable Housing Committee, at which they heard presentations by representatives from Neighbor Link and the Calgary Homeless Foundation.

On February 23, Sacred Heart Parish held an information meeting regarding the All Roads Lead Home – Adopt a Homeless Family Program in the wake of a pastoral statement by Bishop Henry: "Given the current economic climate, as disciples of Jesus we are going to be called upon to provide extra support socially and economically to our brothers and sisters in need." The goal was to have parishes "adopt" a family and provide some level of support or involvement. On March 14, an "Adopt a Family" meeting was held in the upper hall. Jason and Andrea Sawchuk volunteered to oversee the settling in of the first family, newcomers from Vietnam.

In June, Pope Benedict XVI announced that the entire Church would be celebrating a jubilee year for priests beginning with the Solemnity of The Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 19, 2009. On that day, Bishop Eugene Cooney presided at a concelebrated Mass at Sacred Heart to celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

In December 2009, an Advent Parish Mission was held from November 29 to December 2, directed by Father Michael Semana of Cincinnati, Ohio. He chose the theme: "Christ will come again. Are you ready?"

In the parish office: Barbara Nelson replaced Maureen Ross as secretary in November 2004. Nancy Murphy joined the staff in March 2005, sharing secretarial duties with Barbara Nelson. In 2004, John Nemanic, a seminarian from St. Augustine's Seminary, joined the staff for the summer months. In April 2007, Christine Wheeler resigned as the pastoral assistant. In July 2007, Mark Kennedy joined the staff, assisting Len Maxwell with maintenance projects and caring for the church gardens. Lyn Gourlay continued as housekeeper. In November 2009,

parishioners welcomed Outreach Coordinator Janice Fraser. In December 2009, Andrea Falacinski joined the staff, replacing Nancy Murphy in the parish office.



The Knights of Columbus Monsignor Doyle #1186 Council has continued to be a presence in the parish. The Knights have sponsored events such as faith-related movies, Mardi Gras dinners, Oktoberfests, garage sales and served pancake breakfasts to parishioners following the Sunday Masses. In June 2006, they organized volunteers to help with the installation of Sacred Heart School's new playground complex. On January 7, 2007, they commemorated the 100th anniversary of the granting of a charter to the council with a Centenary Mass at Sacred Heart, followed by a reception. In May 2008, they sold roses on Mother's Day and organized a Marian Hour, followed by a reception. Martin McDonald succeeded Elmer Goetz as Grand Knight on July 1, 2008.

The Sacred Heart Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada was re-activated in November 2005. Anna Marinelli organized the initial meeting and accepted the presidency along with the role of promoting the organization. Charter members were Anna Marinelli, Glenna Anthony, Cynthia Arons, Mary Blott, Douglas Chapman, Margaret Feddema, Marie Guidi, Cait McGlynn, Madonna Marcotte, Judith McRae, Anne Nazareth-Gracias, Mary Jane Pawelek, Hertha Rose, Wanda Theriault, Rita Salt and Stella Rogowski.

The CWL sponsored the Spring Strawberry Shortcake Tea in 2006, an Early Bird Christmas Craft Sale in November 2007 and a Spring Tea in support of Sacred Heart School in 2008. Education Sunday is promoted every November by providing receptions following Masses so that parishioners are able to view artwork accomplished by the students.

In April 2009, members held a Bake Sale, Raffle and Spring Tea in support of the parish school, with the proceeds going toward purchasing a Smartboard, a computer interactive teaching tool. The school has used creative ways to raise funds for extra-curricular activities following Bishop Henry's statement in 2006, concerning problematic fundraising ventures.

On July 5, 2009, Bennie Panaro celebrated her 100th birthday. CWL members and parishioners offered greetings at a reception following Sunday Mass. On December 20, 2009, Salena Maxwell, daughter of Len and Sarom Maxwell, was presented with the first Annual Sacred Heart Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada Bursary. Following the ceremony, which took place after the 11 a.m. Mass, members and parishioners held a reception to honour a favorite daughter of the parish.

Father Vargas is the Spiritual Advisor of the diocesan and parish units of the CWL. In December of 2007 and 2009, the Diocesan CWL held its Advent Retreat at Sacred Heart Church. Bishop Henry was guest speaker at the events.

The CWL and the Knights of Columbus join with the Pastoral Council in hosting the annual Strawberry Social, Parish Family Picnic, Volunteer Appreciation Evenings, RCIA receptions, Christmas and Easter festivities and the Christmas Hamper Program – organized in recent years by Randy Blott, Les Smith, Carmen Tellier, Lorne and Maria Gartner.



In 2010, Mass is celebrated at 5 p.m. on Saturdays and at 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays. The Liturgy of the Hours is recited at 8:30 a.m. on Sundays. Approximately 1,400 persons attend weekend Masses regularly. On weekdays, the Rosary and Angelus are prayed before the noon Mass. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament follows the noon Mass on Fridays, with Adoration for Vocations at 1:30 p.m. and Benediction at 2:45 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated on Saturdays at 4:00 p.m. and at times

arranged by request. Penitential Services are held during Advent and Lent.

Parishioners have responded with generosity to appeals from the diocese and the wider community. In 2002, they began to collect mittens and hats in support of the annual Christmas Party at a ranch near Bragg Creek for needy children, sponsored by the No Ka Oi (Ranch) Foundation.

Beginning in 2004, on or near the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12 “loonies” have been collected for the Mission Mexico Day Fund. Mission Mexico is a diocesan outreach program that raises funds for projects in remote mountain villages in Mexico – such as constructing a laboratory in a high school, literacy programs for children and adults, bursaries for university students and training programs for pastoral workers.

In 2008, parishioners supported a Special Myanmar (Burma) Collection that was mandated by Bishop Henry following a devastating typhoon. In 2009, they responded to requests for donations to Caritas Philippines for victims of flooding.

The church-complex has been well maintained during Father Vargas’s pastorate. In 2002, several ongoing projects were completed. Areas of the rectory and hallways were painted, hardwood was installed and the entire flat roofing of the office-rectory was replaced. Alterations in the office and church foyer were followed by installation of a camera surveillance system and an upgrading of the computer system. In the choir loft, the screen in the railing was replaced with oak stripping that match the original design. Additional microphones were installed in the loft area.

In 2004, the Building and Maintenance Committee of the Pastoral Council addressed a variety of needs in the church proper. Double glaze panes were installed on the stained glass windows for protection and to further insulate the building. The frames of several of the lower stained glass windows and the edges of the mosaic dedicated to Our Lady of Perpetual Help were repaired. The Stations of the Cross were cleaned, repaired, re-lettered and re-coated by Scott Kelly, a local artist who was at the time caring

for the flower and garden areas of the church. Two of the boilers in the hot-water heating system were replaced. The parking lot was re-surfaced.

In March 2005, a stained glass window executed by a local artist, Jody Martin, was installed in the upper window of the parish office. A rendition of the window was displayed on the cover of the weekly bulletin along with the Mission Statement.

In 2005, a number of outside cameras were installed to improve the security of the buildings. Tempered glass was added to the top of the choir loft railing to comply with building code requirements. Repairs to the steeple of the church went ahead under the direction of Building Committee Chairperson Terry Allen.

During the summer months of 2006, the interior of the church, including the sanctuary, was painted. The carpet and curtain were replaced in colours that further enhanced the natural tones in the marble on the floors and lower walls. The chairs in the sanctuary were re-covered and side-aisle lighting was adjusted so that the Stations of the Cross would be more visible within the church. As well, structural problems in the bell tower were addressed.

Throughout 2007, repairs to the steeple were undertaken and rebuilding of the chimney was accomplished. In addition, amplifiers and speakers in the sound-system were replaced and a stained glass window was repaired, following an incident of vandalism.

In 2008, the remaining steeple repairs were completed. The tower bricks were re-pointed, the old chimney replaced and the bells in the tower lowered for accessibility and easier maintenance. A sound system was installed in the church, with additional speakers in the upper hall. An updated audio-video system was installed with ten security cameras in and around the buildings to record images for retrieval in cases of security violations.

In 2009, the appearance of the chimney was improved by adding a skirting to cover the stainless steel. The sacristy, basement of the rectory and walls in the stairways of the upper and lower halls were painted.

In April 2010, a hybrid organ (electronic plus pipes) was installed in the church by Alberta Church Organs Ltd., of Edmonton, under the supervision of Bert Van Essen. It was purchased from Allen Organ Company, located in Macungie, Pennsylvania. Warren Mack, of Edmonton, built the pipe cases. The expense for the organ, approximately \$130,000.00, was covered by an organ fund which had received substantial donations. The organ is named in memory of Joe and Irene Drouin.



As Sacred Heart Parish enters its Centennial Year, Father Vargas has invited parishioners to participate in celebrating an important milestone in the life of the church community. As far back as January 2005, he began to speculate about the centennial, which was to be a major event. Suggestions for memorial projects were considered by the Pastoral Council – stained glass windows in the upper hall, an updated history of the parish, a hospice within parish boundaries and a columbarium within the parish buildings. Council Member Lois Burke-Gaffney accepted the position of Chairperson of the Centennial Committee.

In early discussions with the Pastoral Council, the Centennial Committee explored the feasibility of a Catholic hospice in the area of Sacred Heart Parish, in conjunction with neighboring parishes that had in former years been part of the parish – Holy Name Parish, St. Michael Parish, St. James Parish and St. Elizabeth Parish. Initially a suggestion for the centennial and later a consideration apart, the matter was thoroughly investigated in 2006 by Parish Council Member Les Kiss, who met with representatives of the parishes several times. When the City of Calgary indicated that another hospice in the southwest area of Calgary was not a priority, Council members decided not to pursue the matter further.

The Centennial Committee also considered the possibility of taking on a property to be offered as a step-up for a needy family, but, as with the plan for a Catholic hospice, it would have been a

duplication of services in the district at the time. Discussions settled on some changes in the architecture of the church – as a project for the centennial and as a way of to meet the future needs of the parish and the community.

In September 2007, Father Vargas presented an outline of proposed changes in the church buildings to the Pastoral Council, having been given permission by the diocese to proceed with preliminary architectural plans. Ron Boruk, of Ron Boruk Architecture Ltd., was commissioned to submit initial plans for a new narthex and a storage area in the upper hall of the church. Other plans – a columbarium in the basement and lower hall, a new hall with kitchen facilities in the new lower level and a new façade on the front exterior – were awaiting approval. The proposals were endorsed by members of the Pastoral Council. In October 2008, there was a presentation regarding the expansion plans, followed by an informal hour of conversation at which members of the Pastoral Council and Ron Baruk responded to comments, suggestions and inquiries.

In the weekly bulletin, Father Vargas quoted Bishop Henry who wrote to him concerning the future of Sacred Heart Parish, using the words of Pope John Paul II: “It is necessary that in the light of faith, all rediscover the true meaning of the parish, that is, the place where the very ‘mystery’ of church is present and at work even if at times it might be scattered over vast territories or almost not to be founded in crowded and chaotic modern sections of cities. The parish is not principally a structure, a territory or a building, but rather, ‘the family of God,’ ‘a fellowship afire with a unifying spirit’, ‘a familial and welcoming home,’ ‘the community of the faithful’. Plainly and simply, the parish is founded on a theological reality because it is a Eucharistic community.”

Father Vargas added, “As we embark on building the structures that will help enhance our sense of community, let us transform our efforts into wonderful opportunities to relate with one another in a personal way, to encounter one another on behalf of Christ who works in our midst and to strengthen the bonds that tie us together as one people, sharing the one bread in Eucharist and worshipping the one Lord of all.”

The new narthex will provide a gathering area for welcoming people as they enter the church. It will have restrooms and a coffee counter with tables and chairs for the comfort and relaxation of those interested in conversation before or following the liturgies. It will be large enough to accommodate the commencement of large weddings, funerals and gatherings. It will provide an entrance to a columbarium in the lower hall and under the church.

There will be a new entrance – through the area that currently houses the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Altar. The mosaic of Our Lady of Perpetual Help will be transferred to the north side of the church, in place of the confessional. The stained glass windows on either side of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Altar will be transferred to the new narthex along with the mosaic of The Sacred Heart of Jesus which is currently in the southeast entrance of the church.

The narthex will have a series of stained glass windows and a hall beneath its entire floor area. The hall will have a fully-equipped kitchen along with an area for workshops and conferences. A storage facility for outreach programs will be installed in the upper hall. The St. Vincent de Paul Storage will be named in memory of John and Cecelia O'Reilly. Elevators will make the entire building accessible.

The exterior of the narthex will be of the same corduroy tapestry brick as previously used in the church-complex.

A bronze-plate sign placed on the right side of the front of the church which will read "Sacred Heart Church founded in 1910." A new sprinkling system will be installed for the lawns and gardens, which will be newly landscaped and fenced to make the church clearly visible in front. The oak tree that Monsignor Hetherington had planted in the front yard in 1931 will be prominently displayed. A life-size bronze statue depicting The Sacred Heart of Jesus will be erected on the grounds of the church near the entrance of the narthex.

Fundraising and promotion of the project began in earnest during the fall of 2008. Karen Howells replaced Les Kiss as the chairperson of the Centennial Building Committee in September 2009.

Additional alterations include a parlour confessional with transparent glass panels that will replace the baptistery on the north side of the church, in keeping with liturgical guidelines that have long suggested that parishes consider having open confessionals. The large crucifix in the Our Lady of Perpetual Help enclosure will be placed in the confessional room.

The estimate of costs of construction and renovation of the church-complex is \$4,900,000.00, submitted in April 2010. The facilitator of the project is Sean Farnum of Farnum Construction. Pentagon Structures Ltd. has been selected as the general contractor. The architect is Ron Boruk, of Ron Boruk Architecture Ltd.

The Centennial Banquet will be held on Saturday June 19 at the Palliser Hotel, the traditional setting for parish anniversary celebrations. Pastors, former pastors, parishioners, former parishioners and friends are invited to join in the festivities. Lois Burke-Gaffney will be the Mistress of Ceremonies. Father Vargas will welcome Bishop Henry and pay tribute to the priests who served as pastors. Bishop Henry will be the guest speaker. Organizers of the event are Lois Burke-Gaffney, Wanda Theriault, Kellee Huebsch and Kathy Race.

Bishop Henry will be the main celebrant for the Anniversary Mass at Sacred Heart on Sunday June 27 at 11:00 a.m. A Parish Picnic at Sacred Heart School playground will follow the Mass.

Liturgical celebrations will begin earlier in the month with Holy Mass celebrated on the evening of Friday June 11, the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Bishop Eugene Cooney will be the main concelebrant and will use the chalice that Monsignor Hetherington received on the day of his ordination on July 22, 1906, in the Cathedral Church of Westminster in London. The date will also mark the 14th Anniversary of Bishop Cooney's ordination at St. Mary's Cathedral in Calgary. A Parish Appreciation Evening will follow the Mass.

The parish owes a deep debt of gratitude to all who hold office in the various ministries that are listed below and to those devoted workers of many years whose names, as Monsignor Hetherington

said, are not inscribed in the roll of officers but whose names “are written in the Book of Life.”

Senior Choir: Director Jim Howells, Vocalists Sandy Aguilera, Sumi Awe, James Byttnen, Charlene Francis, Becky Francis, Barb Hendricks, Anne Lear, Mary Lee, Ian Macleod, Theresa Mills, Ernie Myrick, Nenita Pili, Sid Pili, Judith Slimmon, Denise Watts, Catherine Wright, Glynn Wright, Carmen Fielhaber, Julianne Fielhaber.

Sunday 5:00 p.m. Mass Music Ministry: Coordinator Wayne Brister, Karen Howells, Chris Howells, Therese Symanczyk, Nicky Valbonesi, Jacque Brezovski, Chalce Brezovski, Rachel Lambert, Erin Pvorak.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Coordinator Mabel Lo, Gerard Brand, Karen Cotter, Tom Cotter, Addie Dedio, Alix Desprises, Cynthia Downey, Josie Estoque, Hany Farag, Gloria Finnigan, Lisa Gilead, Heather Grant, Raquel Guarin, Edwin Guarin, Virgilia Hidalgo, Karen Howells, Stephanie Hugo, Tita Jose, Dan Kanuka, David Kiss, Nernani Magbanua, Alice Manipol, Sarom Maxwell, Jan Mohr, James Savage, Valerie Schilling, Les Smith, Patricia Tsang, Sherwood Young.

Altar Servers: Coordinator Barbara Hardwicke-Brown, Servers Jennifer Aquino, Mary Kate Aquino, William Chiappini, Leianne Marie Gingco, Grant Guarin, Charlotte Hardwicke-Brown, Grace Hardwicke-Brown, James Hardwicke-Brown, Johannes Juanerio, Monica Magbanua, Michelle Magbanua, Matthew Magbanua, Jennifer Miko, Sean Miko, Lauren Poelzer, Maria Reichert, Federica Samori, Arthur Sinclair, Samantha Straub, Alessandra Tiberi, Christian Tiberi, Matteo Tiberi, Britney Vloria, Robert Chiappini, Mark Oria, Michael Oria.

Lectors: Coordinator Shirley Teasdale, Mark Kennedy, Noel Llanos, Frank Manzara, Fred Stark, Trish Whimster, Paul Chrumka, Fred Clemens, Rachel de Souza, Beth Iredale, Martin McDonald, Rosalie McDonell, Robb Sherman, Carmen Tellier, Red Armstrong, Lois Burke-Gaffney, Denyse Fair, Lisa Hanslip, Theodora Lo, Dolly Magbanua, William Moroney, Mark Paslawski,

Fabeola Pepaj, Linette Savage, Treasa Ashir, Bill Daenen, Bev Dowling, Gates Guarin, Collette Martinez, Melissa Setiawan, Bob Sheldon, Michael Swanson.

Ushers: Coordinator Michael Gallant, Frank Archer, Radek Subda, Cal Morrison, Len Maxwell, Bob Shaw, Marcelo Aquino, Ben Steblecki, Danusia Steblecki, Tom Shannon, Walter Meznaric, Allan Skitch.

Hospitality Ministers: Coordinator Michael Gallant, Maria Aguilera, Leslie Blair, Marion Tyo, Wanda Theriault, Odell Scheidl, Melanie Walsh, Lucy Nissen, Flora Malig, Alix Desprises, Judy Chambers, Darlene Moriarty, Claire Logan.

Sacristans: Coordinator Frank Manzara, Marcello Aquino, Karen Cotter, Tom Cotter, Addie Dedio, Cynthia Downey, Lisa Gilead, Karen Howells, Stephanie Hugo, James Savage, Tom Shannon, Fred Stark, Arlene Magbanua, Mike Maurette, Karen Kryzan.

Reception: Coordinator Stephanie Hugo and Louise Aboussafy, Wanda Theriault, Elizabeth Berry, Karen Cotter, Addie Dedio, Fran Eby, Connie Grant, Claire Logan, Lucille Martyn, Mary Jane Pawlek, Lisa Gilead, Maureen Lee, Margaret Feddema, Val Cloarec.

Marriage Preparation Course: Coordinator Debra Miko.

Annual Bishop's Appeal: Coordinators Tom and Karen Cotter.

Pastoral Health Care Ministry: Coordinator Fred Stark, Louise Aboussafy, Stephanie Hugo, Lucille Martyn, Olivia Bialik. Mount Royal Care Centre Ministry: Coordinator Tom Shannon, Fran Eby, Theo Bruseker, Noel and Eileen Llanos, Emily Churko.

Legion of Mary: President Flora Malig, Anne Nazareth-Gracias, Alix Desprises, Gloria Finnigan, Anne Prystupa, Margaret Feddema, Regine Durand.

Sacred Heart Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada: Co-presidents Anna Marinelli and Janet MacPhee, Mary Jane Pawelek, Anne Nazareth-Gracias, Maria Aguilera, Glenna

Anthony, Sandy Biant, Lisa Bush, Sheila Clapham, Mary Comella, Addie Dedio, Maria Espejio-Gartner, Margaret Feddema, Janice Fraser, Marie A Guidi, Rosemary Lo, Janet MacPhee, Jean Major, Salena Maxwell, Mary Nolan, Douglas Chapman, Bennie Panaro, Marguerita Pereira, Wanda Theriault, Stella Rogowski.

St. Vincent de Paul Society: Coordinator Maria Gartner, Lorne Gartner, Jane Harrison, Jan Mohr, Rob Vanden Heuvel, Ed Roddy, Rosalie McDonell, Maria Aguilera, Stan Klus, Whitney Clemens, Fred Smithers, Verness Jespersen, Monty Jespersen, Fleurette Collins, Kathryn Cliché, Mary and Ed Verbeek, Sevilla Alcaraz, Aileen de la Cruz, Marianne Laigo, Jake Laigo, Claire Logan, Robin Logan, Dory Smyth, Nibert Santos, Michael Buenverida, Rob Sherman, Mike Walsh.

Among the countless others who are serving or who have served in ministries throughout the years: Douglas Chapman, Bridie Keane, Marguerite and Norman Cornish, Irene Smith, James and Sarah McNamee, Jack and Elizabeth Kane, Eileen and Jack Van Tighem, John and Roberta Currie, Cecelia and John O'Reilly, Kay and Jack Fears, Dr. Aidan and Mary Ann Kavanagh, Nicholas and Juliana Yurchevich, Jack and Leila McDonald, Marguerite and Frank Aboussafy, George and Wanda Theriault, George and Helen Prieur, Georgiana and Bill Howells, Urban and Mary Guichon, Joe and Kay Moriarty, Ed and Isabelle McCormick, Frank and Lois Burke-Gaffney, Ed and Mary Verbeek, Perry and Mike Badyk, Charles and Irene Von Muehldorfer, Clair and Kay Cote.

Others: Dorothy Leonard, Eva Ann and Gary Grace, Nick and Peggy Taylor, James and Rosanna Scott, Nell and Clair J. Cote Sr., Nan and Ian Douglas, Dan and Pat O'Byrne, Peter and Stephanie Hugo, Jean and Bill Major, Mark Woitas, Ron and Anne Thompson, Kevin and Jenny Bond, Robert and Bernadette Scott, Chris and Karen Howells, Vince and Ruth Cooney, Joe and Pat Badyk, Jenny Grasby, George Edwards, John Hugo, Mary Morin, Doreen Lam, Gerry Cooper, Doreen Bevan, Matthew Aguilera, Rose Schmaltz, Theo Bruseker, Walter Huber, Nora Shea, Anoshka Fernandez, Alanna King, Red and Irene Armstrong,

Ferida Shambler, Andrea Bowling, Lena Dudder, Heidi Esser, Brian Wooliams, Ingrid Ryans, Pat Malloy, Linda Witkowicz, Mary Anne Sawyer, Alla Kouleva-Spivak, Alice Manipol, Florence Falasconi, Patricia Williams, Joan DeVos, Rita Owen, Irene Rodrigues, Ted Wilson, Brenda Williamson, Claire Sreenivasan, Maria Quesada, Margaret Kasprzak, Mandy Clarke.

Others: Evelyn Dechant, Les Smith and Carmen Tellier, Marguerita Pereira and Roberto Fernandez, John and Liz Hall, Sue Stuart, Nell Chernichen, Mary Ewart, Blanca Ferreira, Dawnelle Martin, Rafael Martinez, Nadjie Martinez, Steve McGovern, Wendy Irvine, Bi Trinh, Bill Bakular, Ruth Bakular, Danuta Walsh, Merlin Whitty, Mary Whitty, Brenda Milcetic, Samantha Mugridge, Bev Vetter, Nina MacDonald, Alex Cormack.

Others: Phyllis Hertzler, Hans and Inger Nissen, Eileen Finn, Marion Pourbaix, Earl Sarterio, Cecil and Byrne Charlebois, Dr. Fred and Darlene Moriarty, John Smyth, Peggy Murdock, Barbara McCullough, Lillian Webber, Frances MacIsaac, Bruce McDonald, Mary Molyneux, Mary Lanaras, David Blott, Pauline Garvie, Lois Gajecki, Mary Biner, Dan and Freddie Aherne, Jillian Milner, Marie and Art McLean, Nancy French, Leona Morrow, Madonna Marcotte, Pat Nex, Gina Filippetto, Christine Tapuska, Roberta and Dennis Hickey, Margaret Van Gastel, Eva and George Ries, Viola Stewart, Reg and Marion Tyo.

Jack Fears, who celebrates his 100th birthday on September 24, 2010.

These people have contributed to a welcoming community and a fine church. The church is very beautiful but more than that it is holy. Many have really prayed there and that gives the church a character that goes beyond its beauty.

Vocations from Sacred Heart Parish

Bishop Paul O'Byrne

Monsignor John O'Brien

Reverend Patrick Chisolm

Reverend Louis Connolly

Reverend Michael Duggan

Reverend Robert Finn, CSB

Reverend Philip Fry

Reverend Richard M. Haughian, SJ

Reverend James Jordan

Reverend William Kelly, CSB

Reverend John Kirley

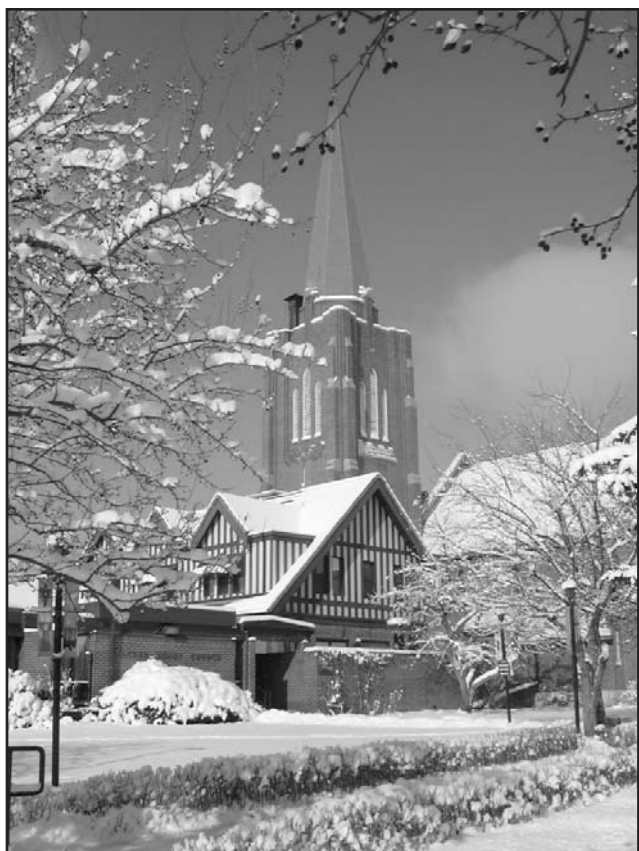
Reverend John McNamee

Reverend Patrick O'Byrne

Reverend Donald Scott

Reverend Joseph Toole

Sister Anne Hemstock, SP



Acknowledgements

It is a pleasure to express my gratitude to Lois Burke-Gaffney for inviting me to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Sacred Heart Parish. I thank Lois for her invaluable guidance and friendship. Thanks are also due to Father Edmund Vargas for offering assistance in a giving manner. Thanks to the parish staff - Barbara Nelson, Nancy Murphy, Andrea Falacinski, Jim Howells, Len Maxwell, Mark Kennedy and Paul Kennedy. Thanks to Archivists Carol Hollywood and Diane Lamoureux. Thanks to the parishioners who were so generous with their time and information.

Sheila Ross
May 16, 2010





AD MAIOREM DEI GLORIAM

For the greater glory of God

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