

## PARISH OF ST. DOMINIC - Founded 1912

In the years prior to 1912, the needs of the English-speaking families were ably attended to by Father Donovan, S.J., who held Mass and worship in the basement of the Parish of Immaculate Conception. However, due to the increased industrial activity in the area, the English-speaking population grew considerably. For that reason, the priests of the Immaculate Conception advised the Diocese that it was time for the English-speaking to have a parish of their own.

This became a reality December 21, 1912 by order of His Grace Archbishop Paul Bruchesl. The founding Pastor was Father Andrew Cullinan and the original wardens were Messrs. Patrick Reilly, Peter McEvoy, Michael Mahoney, Joseph Preston, Arthur Hinton, William Walker and Percy Reynolds.

During the first twelve months of existence, the congregation attended Mass in the old Jesuit Chapel at the corner of Garnier and Gilford Streets. The first baptism was December 29, 1912 (Evelyn Bertha Squires) and the first marriage was January 12, 1913 (William Bromlilaw of Saint John, N.B. to Margaret McCormick).

Meantime, the Pastor and wardens were busy searching for a suitable property to build a church. The property eventually found and purchased was located on de Lorimier Avenue and Gilford Street. The architect, Mr. R. Gariepy, was commissioned to submit a design which when presented to the Pastor and wardens, they decided that the cathedral-like structure was much too expensive to build. He was then asked to re-submit as a basement only with provision for future completion. On September 21, 1913, the wardens were authorized to sign a contract with the firm of Heon, Roy & McLevel to begin construction. The corner-stone was laid by Bishop Gauthier on Sunday, October 19, 1913 and the building was duly consecrated as a place of worship on Christmas Eve, 1913.

Father Cullinan served the parish until 1918 when due to ill health, he was replaced by Father Robert Emmett Callahan who laboured earnestly in the interests of the parish until his death in 1924.

Following the death of Father Callahan, the pastoral duties were taken over by Father F.M. (Fred) Elliott who was well-remembered for his kindness and caring through the difficult years of the depression.

Upon moving to St. Michael's Parish in 1937, Father Elliott made way for Father Jasper J. Stanford who, while noted for his oratorical skills, also became well-known for favouring Bingo games. Although frowned upon by some, the games certainly helped to alleviate the tremendous

debt of the parish. Father Stanford was Pastor through the war years until 1948 when Father William Byrd replaced him. At this time, the English-speaking population of the parish and the city began moving westward creating difficult times for the succeeding pastors - Father Donald Feron from 1953 to 1955 and Father Gerald Britt from 1955 to 1965.

From 1965 to 1971, Father Russell Schultz was Pastor. He was noted for his work with the youth of the parish and, in particular, for the first Folk Mass (Hootenanay) which was carried on National Television by the CBC. It was during Father Schultz's pastorship that talks began in respect to selling the property due to the extremely high cost of upkeep.

Prior to appointing a new pastor in 1971, Father David McKee was named administrator. Father David was no stranger to St. Dominic's having been brought up a few doors away.

In 1971, Father Peter McGlynn became Pastor and, although in poor health, served tremendously the spiritual needs of the parish until his death in 1983. St. Dominic's once serving the needs of 1000 families was now down to 100 families. Knowing that a need still existed, Father Peter was instrumental in the sale of the property to the City of Montreal and the moving to rented premises on Mont Royal Avenue close by de Lorimier. The final Mass in the original church was concelebrated by Most Reverend Leonard Crowley, Auxilliary Bishop of Montreal and former pastors on September 21, 1975. Worship began immediately in the new premises and the consecration was performed on November 30, 1975. In the latter years of Father Peter's illness and for a short time after his death, the parish was administered by his brother and former curate Father Gerald McGlynn.

The year 1983 saw Father Brian Moon appointed as administrator and the creation of the East End Christian Community with a team ministry based in St. Brendan's Parish. Father Moon was succeeded by Father Gilles Surprenant in 1986 and in 1988, the team ministry was restructured and Father Mario Nahuelpan was appointed to be responsible for St. Dominic's.

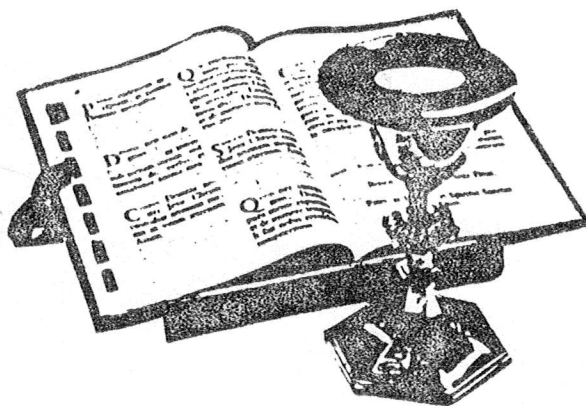
The week of December 18, 1987 was designated as the official 75th Anniversary Week with celebration of Benediction and unveiling of a commemorative plaque to pastors past and present. A Latin Mass was concelebrated by Father Mario Nahuelpan and former curates Father John Purcell and Father Oswald Sullivan. Sunday, December 20, 1987 Auxilliary Bishop Leonard Crowley celebrated Mass using the chalice given to Father Andrew Cullinan on his ordination. On January 17, 1988, to a standing room only attendance, Father Mario celebrated a Folk Mass assisted

by all the original members of the Folk Group of the Sixties. During all this time, the walls of the church were decorated with memorabilia showing St. Dominic's active participation in all aspects of the Diocese of Montreal - Holy Name Society, Leo Knights, Catholic Women's League, Knights of Columbus, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Sodality, Sacred Heart League and many others, as well as sports and drama.

On April 30, 1988 a 75th Anniversary Homecoming was held with over 400 former and present parishioners attending. People came from all over Canada and points in the U.S.A., to attend this nostalgic gathering, wanting to tell anyone who would listen how proud and honoured they were to be able to say: "We do" or "We did attend St. Dominic's".

1988 brings more challenges, but as our sign in the front window joyfully states: "75th Anniversary 1912-1987 and still serving the Community".

Malcolm MacKenzie



Most of the information gathered for the above came from news clippings of the "Montreal Beacon" and were written by E.J. (Ed) Callahan, father of Norine who is the inspirational force behind the printing of this 75th Anniversary Commemorative Cook Book. Norine's grandfather, Felix Callahan, was the printer, publisher and co-editor of the first Catholic daily newspaper in North America "The Montreal Sun".

MOVED TO ST. CASIMIR'S SEPTEMBER 16 1990