

SACRED HEART
1906 - RED DEER - 2006

The Sacred Heart Times

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March 2004

Volume 1, Issue 1

Parish Centennial Prayer

By your grace, O Father, may our Parish centennial celebrations be a time of deep conversion and of joyful return to you.

May it be a time of reconciliation between people, and of peace restored among families.

Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mother, give us a hopeful vision of the future.

Increase our witness and prayer, our sharing of the love of Christ through our gifts, and our service to you and one another.

Jesus, bless our Church and let it always be a place where the faithful may gather, the Sacraments celebrated, and devotion to You in the Eucharist flourishes.

Father, grant that we may live this 100th celebration of our parish, docile to the voice of the Spirit, faithful to the way of Christ, through the Most Sacred Heart, diligent in listening to your Word and in approaching the wellsprings of grace.

Amen.

(Adapted from a prayer of John Paul II, this Parish Centennial Prayer is a work in progress)

The Priests Who Served Us: Father Tom Maguire, CSSp

Father Tom Maguire, the second son in a family of four boys, was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1928. His father was a clerk in a solicitor's office and his mother a homemaker. Fr. Tom attended St Mary's, a local Spiritan school, from 1936 to 1946. In 1946, he entered the novitiate in Kilshane, County of Tipperary, and was professed in 1947. He was ordained as a Spiritan priest, a missionary order, in Dublin in 1955. His first assignment came in 1956 when he was sent to Port Harcourt, Nigeria in West Africa. He spent the next 14 years as a missionary throughout Nigeria. This very active and demanding life took him to Okpala, Orlu and Ahiara where electricity and running water were unfamiliar luxuries. In 1967, while serving in Nigeria, the civil war broke out. Although no deaths came to the members of the



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Centennial Committee Message from the Chairman

By Ian MacQuarrie

As the Centennial Committee chairman, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the individuals who have accepted to work on our parish centennial project. Each one is an active parishioner and committed to making our centennial year a great success never to be forgotten.

Our very capable recording secretary is Sharon Sutherland. Father Don chairs the Liturgical Committee and will oversee many activities including an open air mass in September of 2005 at Mission Hill. In the Spring of 2006, he intends to travel by horse and buggy from Innisfail to the convent site where another open-air mass will be celebrated to commemorate the trips that the early priests made to our community. He has made arrangements for the Bishop and former parish pastors to be with us for the actual anniversary week-end of June 10, 2006. Throughout the Centennial Year, our former pastors will also be invited to celebrate Sunday masses with us.

The Historical Committee is headed by John MacKenzie and supported by Michael Dawe, Mary Metzger, Henry Wostenberg, Monique MacQuarrie and Joan MacKenzie. This team has many tasks, including historical research of church buildings, priests, schools, organization, as well as the creation of a centennial book, historical mural, and a power point presentation.

The Social Committee is chaired by Therese and Roger Dion who are assisted by Michael and Janet Harach and Dave and Louella Hallet. They are presently securing the site for our Centennial Gala on Saturday, June 10, 2006. The gala will cater to over five hundred people and will feature a social hour, dinner and entertainment. Other social events will include a family picnic following the open air mass by the convent and a welcome tea on Sunday June 11, 2006.

Jeanne Davis chairs the Communications Committee. As editor of this newsletter, she welcomes you to the first issue of *The Sacred Heart Times* that will keep you informed of the Centennial Celebration plans. Please support our sponsors who made this newsletter financially viable. A parish web site is also in the making. Jeanne's committee includes Father Arlan, Monique MacQuarrie and Leonard MacQuarrie.

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Centennial Committee: Message from the Chairman

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Our Economics Committee is chaired by Jim Slip who has served on the Parish Financial Committee and the Church Building Committee. Rob Fischer who presently serves on the Parish Finance Committee, has offered to help Jim. The Loonie Drop Boxes are one of our fund raising activities. I wish to thank Roger Dion for the fantastic construction job he did on the Loonie Drop Boxes. Gordon Deck chairs the Education Committee. Plans include speakers going to the schools to share the history of our parish and

separate schools.

Presently, we are looking for someone with website development experience, a photographer who will be readily available to take pictures of centennial and related activities, as well as volunteers to man the Loonie Drop Boxes once a month after mass for about ten minutes. *If you feel you are the person to fill any of these volunteer positions or you want to help on a committee, please call me at 346-4462.*

The Priest Who Served Us: Father Tom Maguire CSSp

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order as a result of the war, it was a very traumatic and harrowing time for the missionaries.

Those of us old enough to remember, recall the images on television news broadcasts showing the thousands upon thousands of starving Biafra men, women and children. Father Tom, along with other missionary priests and sisters, were first hand witnesses to this atrocity. They had not been trained to handle situations such as these and they did the best they could with what they had.

The Biafra Civil War, as it was called, ended in January of 1970. Priests and sisters were rounded up by government soldiers and after a trial in Port Harcourt, they were deported. It was at this time that Fr. Tom went back to Dublin for about a year. His next assignment was to the Spiritan Generalate in Rome where he spent the next two and a half years as an archivist. Then it was back to Dublin for another year. In 1974, he was once again assigned to West Africa where he served

another two years of missionary service, only this time it was in Sierra Leone.

Following this assignment, Father took a sabbatical and came to Canada. While in Toronto, he offered his services to the Holy Ghost Fathers (Spiritans). Fort McLeod in Southern Alberta was to be his first assignment in Canada and for the ensuing nine years, 1977-1986, he served that community as parish priest. He was then transferred to Holy Spirit in Edmonton where he spent another nine years, 1986-1995, as parish priest. From 1995 to 1996, he helped out at St. Theresa's Parish in Millwoods.

It wasn't until 1996 that Sacred Heart in Red Deer was blessed with Fr. Tom as our pastor. In the year 2000, Father took a sabbatical and visited his homeland of Ireland once more. Following the sabbatical, he retired from fulltime ministry and now lives in an apartment in Edmonton. Like many priests in retirement, he is available to help other priests or parishes when needed.

As Fr. Tom looks back on his life in God's service, he is thankful for the opportunity to have worked in third world countries where the daily treasured desires are for good, clean, available water and where every parent is grateful to see their family fed and possibly schooled. There are no selfish demands or expectations for untold luxuries.



When asked about his hobbies and interests outside of work, we get the feeling that these activities are secondary to the real purpose of life in both his home and school upbringing. Father humbly claims that in addition to being small in stature, he had no special talent for athletic activities anyway. However, anyone who has heard Fr. Tom's sermons, knows that despite his stature, Father Tom delivers quite an impact and punch with his words in his Sunday homilies!

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as we both prepare to celebrate 100
years in Red Deer!*

The Priests Who Served Us: Reverend Father Henri Voisin

Rev. Fr. Henri Voisin was born in LeHavre, Normandy, France in 1875. He was educated in the College of St. Mary of Tinchebray where he graduated with honours. He then passed his M.A. with highest honours, coming first in a class of much older men, some of whom were already professors. He joined the Order of Priests of St. Mary of Tinchebray. He became a passionate promoter of a movement in his order, aiming at the creation of a new field of action in America. And so he was the first to come to Canada, with Reverend Father Bazin, in 1904. Two months later, he brought another priest and three theological students.



Bishop Emile Legal, OMI, in Edmonton, entrusted the French fathers with the task of serving the spiritual needs of settlers midway between Calgary and Edmonton. Fr. Voisin quickly established French settlements North of Castor, one hundred miles from the railroad. Filled with passion, he covered the 200-

mile journey several times, once, with a team of oxen, to bring supplies to the settlement. He slept for two weeks in the open, without a tent, often with barely anything to eat.

Innisfail had a small community of French-speaking Catholics so, that same year, the priests of St. Mary built a small residence there. From Innisfail, they radiated, travelling on horseback to visit Catholic homes in the regions of Red Deer, Blackfalds, Stettler, Olds, Didsbury, Sylvan Lake, Rocky Mountain House and Brazeau-Nordegg.

Father Voisin took charge of the district of Red Deer and, by 1905, was celebrating regular religious services here. It was in 1905, that he began building a church in Red Deer at the corner of 51st Avenue and 48th Street. He had to shingle the church himself because his volunteer helpers refused to work on the very steep roof that Father had designed. The church was consecrated by Bishop Emile Legal, OMI in 1906 and was dedicated to

Our Lady of Seven Sorrows. Also in 1906, Father built a temporary chapel in the South part of Red Deer.

From Innisfail, Father ministered to Catholics in the districts of Evarts and Red Deer and later on, to Catholics on the ranches in the Trochu district. Eventually, with the help of an assistant, he tended to the needs of all Catholics in the country, from Red Deer to as far South as Calgary.

In Innisfail, he laid the foundation for a Catholic school that was later transferred to Red Deer. He gathered a few students and became their teacher, cook and housekeeper. In addition to these duties, he was called to be the Provincial Superior of the fathers of his order in Alberta. This was a great responsibility that would necessitate trips from Innisfail to Castor, in the saddle or in the buggy. At one time, he covered 700 miles on horseback in a period of a few weeks.

His travelling incidents were numerous and included several narrow escapes. In

1906 he was caught in a terrible prairie fire in Trochu escaping it by reaching a creek bed. He also came close to drowning when fording the Red Deer River at Content and again, on another occasion, when fording the Medicine River. Just as arduous were his trips to the West country where he travelled through bush and muskeg. On one particular three-day trip to Nordegg that he made in the saddle, he found himself in the middle of a snowstorm with barely any food. He came upon a homesteader in the middle of the bush who refused him food and shelter. So he wandered through the bush until midnight when he eventually came across a small shack where he would stay. Shortly after his visit, the owner of the place was arrested as a horse thief, the police having been on his trail for a long time! On another occasion, again lost in the bush in the West country, he knocked at the door of a log shanty and was received by the owner, a dangerous character, who was later charged with several murders and was eventually executed.

Support our Sponsors



Best wishes to Sacred Heart Parish
as you prepare for your
Centennial Celebrations in 2006!

*Best wishes on your
preparations for your upcoming
Centennial in 2006*



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The Priests Who Served Us:

Reverend Father Henri Voisin *(cont'd from page 3)*

In late 1907 or early 1908, the priests of St. Mary moved their headquarters from Innisfail to Red Deer. In the spring, Father purchased property at the top the North hill where he built the residence, a convent, a college and a new church. These were the first buildings in Red Deer North of the river. During this time, Father made a trip to France to secure the services of the Daughters of Wisdom, and to raise some necessary funds for his building plans. At the same time, he brought back young priests to Canada whom he would locate in Castor, Stettler, Carstairs and Trochu, and at a later period, at St. Ann's Church in Calgary.



Father personally attended for

several years to our parish, to the convent and to the district. For two years, he went to Stettler when the community's priest was stricken with illness. Fr. Voisin assisted in the building of churches in Innisfail, Olds, Gaetz Valley, Trochu Valley and Sylvan Lake. He was editor of the Catholic Chimes for ten years. He organized and conducted, with the help of the Daughters of Wisdom, a summer religion course for poor children scattered on homesteads. He acted as a member of the Patriotic Fund committee and of the Belgium Fund committee. He was a passionate of the arts and in

addition to painting, he played the cello, cornet and organ in the Red Deer orchestra. In acknowledgement of the services rendered, Rev. Fr. Voisin was received in private audience by His Holiness Pius X in 1908 and was granted an autograph.

After 20 years of service in Central Alberta, Fr. Voisin found himself in poor health. In 1924, he went Tisdale, Saskatchewan. Again, Father was recognized as a man of deep learning, greatly gifted in many ways. During his residence in Saskatchewan, he completed a number of beautiful paintings for the interior of his church. He passed away on June 12, 1934.

Volunteers Wanted

- Do you have experience at website development? Call Jeanne Davis at 346-3949.
- Can you help after mass on the first Sunday of the month for 10 minutes? Loonie Drop Box helpers call Ian MacQuarrie at 346-4462.
- Are you a photographer with good equipment that can capture centennial celebration memories? Parish will pay for film and developing expenses. Call Ian at 346-4462.

Special thanks to all who have so generously came forward to help prepare our Parish Centennial Celebration!

First Loonie Drop Box campaign is on week-end of April 3 & 4!


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We have enjoyed serving the people of Sacred Heart Parish for more than seventy-five years. It gives us particular pleasure to extend our congratulations as you prepare for your Centennial Celebrations!

In touch with business



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Chartered accountants

Jim Slipp, C.A.
Partner

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