

# THE CHAPELRY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

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BELOEIL — MONT ST-HILAIRE — MCMASTERVILLE — QUE.

## A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY

1979 by Clair Manson-A Founding member & Early Warden

- 1958- Establishment as a Mission associated with the Mission in Otterburn Park. Mass was held in the parish hall of Sacré Coeur Church in McMasterville. Father Thomas (Benedictine) lived in the presbytery of Sacré Coeur, whose parish priest was Father Desilets. Early Wardens were Gordon Calderhead, Bill Foster, and Richard Keays. Mel Sullivan formed a Holy Name Society which was very active. Fr. Pius was assistant but the deal to establish a Benedictine monastery fell through and they both left in a short time.
- 1960- Father Coté was appointed to take over both at Otterburn and McMasterville missions.
- 1961- A parish list dated October shows 56 families in Beloeil, McMasterville, St. Hilaire identified as members of the English Mission. 12 are still active members.
- 1961- I have no specific dates but during this period:  
to  
1966
1. Move to Maria Goretti occurred
  2. Altar Guild was formed, later changed to Ladies Guild
  3. Holy Name Society was active throughout.
  4. Mission was dubbed OUR LADY OF FATIMA (Mrs. Malcolm?).
  5. Wardens were first elected under the new Fabrique Act.
- 1967- In the spring the financial set-up was changed and now we controlled our finances separately from Otterburn-our own bank account and our own books and budgeting.
- 1967- At about the same time, a special meeting of parishioners was held to consider our establishment as a Chapelry. About 30 families were present from all 3 towns. A Warden from the newly established Chapelry in Boucherville outlined the steps they had taken. A long range plan both as to action and finances was presented to the meeting. The meeting then voted to ask for establishment of Our Lady of Fatima as a Chapelry under the new (1965) Fabrique Act. A memorandum was prepared by the wardens and sent to the Bishop, then Bishop Douville. He has ill and about ready to retire and we were advised that no decision would be taken until his replacement had taken over.
- 1967- Summer: In anticipation of our new independence, Bishop Girouard (Chancellor) appointed Father Albert Berubé as our pastor. We were now completely detached from the Otterburn Mission.
- 1967- On July 27 Bishop Sanschagrín was "enthroned" as Bishop of St. Hyacinthe. A letter was immediately despatched asking for our memorandum to be brought to his attention.
- 1968 - In the spring a parish survey was made by means of a questionnaire

on a variety of parish subjects including finances. On a visit to the Chapelry the Bishop showed much interest and requested a number of copies be sent to him, both for the information shown and for discussion with other parishes.

In the fall a review of our arrangement with Maria Goretti with Fr. Lavoie, the Parish priest, disclosed that heavy growth in that parish's territory would mean that they would need the basement for their own services on Sunday morning no later than 1970.

I undertook discussions with C. MacRae of the United Church with the possibility of sharing their quarters in the case we had to move in the not too distant future (St. Andrew's itself was facing financial problems and were glad to look into the possibility). In November we were told by Maria Goretti that they would need the basement for Midnight Mass at Christmas (an overflow from upstairs). So I arranged with St. Andrew's for the loan of their church for our Midnight Mass for free. It was felt this would acquaint both congregations with the possible set-up.

In the meantime a preliminary discussion on terms was unsatisfactory and further discussion was called off. However, the matter was dormant rather than dead.

1969- Rumours that we were about to be created a Chapelry were confirmed in May when the official notice came through that as of September 1, 1969 we were to be under the new set up and six new wardens were to be elected as of that date. Within a few weeks Father A. Lincourt was to be our new pastor as of that date also.

1969-Fall. While still in Maria Goretti basement we were frequently asked to change our Mass hours to accommodate the ever growing parish upstairs. The effect on our revenues was to show a drop of 30%. Father Lavoie was very cooperative but the hand-writing was on the wall.

1970-In the spring I relayed message to the wardens that St. Andrew's was willing to re-open negotiations on a new basis. Bill Foster, Frank Tarbox and myself were appointed as a committee to meet with the St. Andrew's people. After several meetings an acceptable arrangement for both sides was arrived at to be submitted to the respective congregations.

July: Father Lincourt had to resign on account of ill health and was replaced by Father Wilfred Miclette.

September: a parish meeting was called by Fr. Miclette and ratified the deal previously arrived at. St. Andrew's had a similar meeting with the same result. The move to St. Andrew's then took place.

1973-July Father St. Jean appointed to replace Fr. Miclette.

1975-Father Georges Lemieux replaced Fr. St. Jean (late summer).

1977-Fr. Peter Brown appointed. September

1978-Father Peter Morris replaced Father Brown who returned to the U.S.A. October

1979-Father Ron Fernandes to replace Father Morris (May 20) on a temporary basis.

#### Ministering Clerics 1966 to 1979

Fr. Albany Coté, St. Hyacinthe	Fr. Deschênes, St. Boniface Dio.
Fr. Brouillette, "	Fr. Gérard Barbeau, St. Hyacinthe
Fr. Albert Bérubé, "	Fr. A. Lincourt,
Fr. L.P. Breton, "	Fr. Wilfred Miclette, "

Ministering Clerics (continued)

Fr.Charles St.Jean, St. Hyacinthe  
 Fr.Georges Lemieux,  
 Fr. Peter Brown, Society of St.Edmund (SSE)  
 Peter Morris, Diocese Montreal  
 Ron Fernandes, Franciscan

Fr.David Cray,SSE  
 Fr.Brad McGovern,SSE 1985  
 Fr.Jerome Mercure,SSE 1985-92  
 Fr.Gerald Jones,Diocese of Montreal 1992-94  
 Fr.Jacques Therrien,M.S.A. (Missionaires des Saints-Apôtres)1994-96  
 Fr.Jerome Mercure, Diocese St.Jean-Longueuil 1996-

UPDATE 1990

The last extensive parish survey was undertaken in 1990. There were 93 families contacted:

ACTIVE MEMBERS: 47 families, 68 adults, 8 teens  
 (Regular) 13 families are retired representing 26 adults  
 15 are one member families widow (er),mixed religion.

INTERESTED MEMBERS: 24 families, 32 adults, 4 teens

These were interested and wanted to be kept on parish list, be notified for social activities etc.

NOT INTERESTED: 22 families

These did not want to be contacted and were not interested because they did not attend Mass, or were now going to French church etc.

Update June 1998

Present reality; there are 46 families active in the parish.(including regular and those very occasional)

Since 1990 there have been 13 funerals  
 there have been 14 families who have moved from the Beloeil area (ACTIVE FAMILIES).

This figure does not take into account the Catholics who have been baptized or received the Sacraments but do not ever participate.

ACTIVE CHURCH POPULATION

1992	222 persons	100 households
1993	203	93
1994	183	82
*1995	98 { 69 Adults 29 children	43

\* This figure only represents members that are active.

SACRAMENTS

1986-91 (6 YRS.)	22 Baptisms	4 Burials	1 Marriage	48 1st Penance/ Eucharist	51 Confirm
Average per year	3.6	.6		8	8.6
1992-98 (7 YRS.)	13 Baptisms	12 Burials	3 Marriages	68 1st Penance/ Eucharist	75 Confirm
Average per year	1.8	1.7		9.5	10.5