

Assumption Parish gets a new altar from the Parish Church of St. Médard, Coteau Station, Diocese of Valleyfield, Quebec

by Father Joseph Devereaux

In February 2012, Fr. Devereaux, pastor of Our Lady of Assumption in Otonabee travelled to St. Médard Parish in the Diocese of Valleyfield, Quebec, to obtain an altar, religious art and items for use in several parishes here, in the Diocese of Peterborough. Fr. Christopher Reynolds (Norwood/Hastings), Fr. Jean-Pierre Pilon (Campbellford), Ted Roberts (parishioner of St. Thomas More, Millbrook), Adam Parker (of St. Joseph's, Douro) and seminarian Nic Carvalho assisted with the work.

Unfortunately, the parish church of St. Médard in Coteau Station was sold due to decreased attendance. Therefore, a new home was needed for the religious artifacts. The Diocese of Valleyfield wanted the altar, etc., to continue to be used for religious worship. Our Lady of Assumption Parish was delighted to receive such a gift. Indeed, Fr. McCarney, founding pastor of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, would have desired such an altar for the church, which was build in 1950, had the money been available. Providentially, the beautiful altar, donated to St. Médard Parish in 1927 by Lawrence Wilson, MPP, found a new home in the Diocese of Peterborough.

For structural integrity reasons, the church bell, cast at Meneely Bell Co. Troy NY. in 1902, also had to be removed from the tower at St. Médard's and plans will be made to use it in the future.

Bishop De Angelis, along with the pastors and parishioners of the churches in this diocese who were recipients of the religious articles, wish to sincerely thank His Excellency, Mgr. Noël Simard (Bishop of Valleyfield) and Fr. Jean Trudeau (Chancellor). The sacrifices and love for the Church which inspired the donation of these gifts so many years ago will continue to enrich the spiritual lives of those who will attend Mass at the Churches where they now are used. At Our Lady of Assumption Parish, on the Feast Day of St. Médard, the Holy Mass will be offered for the repose of the souls of the parishioners of St. Médard Parish, Coteau Station, Quebec.



— Valleyfield, Quebec —

The Diocese of Valleyfield has a rich Catholic history. Established on April 5th, 1892 by Pope Leo XIII, it became a suffragan of the Archdiocese of Montreal, from whose territory it was annexed. His Excellency Excellence, Monseigneur Joseph-Médard Énard became the first bishop of the new diocese and held office from 1892 – 1922.

Similar in size to the Diocese of Peterborough, in terms of the number of churches and missions, the Diocese of Valleyfield was originally composed chiefly of French Canadian families. There were also many Irish Catholic families in the parishes of Valleyfield, Huntingdon, Ormston, and Hemmingford.



A reproduction of Leonardo Da Vinci's "The Last supper" painted by J. Médario Gagnier in 1924, now hanging in Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Campbellford.

Below, Fr. Joseph Devereaux with Nic Carvalho and the bell cast for St. Médard Parish at a foundry in Troy New York in 1902.

The city of Valleyfield was founded in 1855, under the name of St. Cecilia; in 1874 it became legally known as Salaberry of Valleyfield. The first pioneers were chiefly fisherman and lumbermen. Today Valleyfield had developed into an important manufacturing centre, in large part due to its proximity to the St. Lawrence River. The diocese comprises the counties of Beauharnois, Chateauguay, Huntingdon, Vaudreuil, and Soulanges.

Much like the initiative taking place in our own diocese with Bishop De Angelis' beginning the new Sacred Heart College, Bishop Énard perceived a pressing need to provide for the spiritual and academic formation of young people at the outset of the life of his diocese and founded a classical college affiliated to Laval University.

For any parishioners from the Diocese of Peterborough who are travelling to Quebec, a stop at Valleyfield to see the very beautiful

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Cathedral of Sainte Cécile would be spiritually worthwhile. It is only a 15 minute detour off the main highway.

Likewise, it is hoped that parishioners from St. Médard Parish will also visit Our Lady of Assumption (Otonabee) and St. Mary of the Visitation (Campbellford) to see the altar and paintings in their new homes. ✠



“The marriage of Joseph and the Virgin Mary” and “The presentation of Mary in the Temple” painted by J. Médario Gagnier in 1924, now adorning Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Otonabee.



High Altar – Donated to St. Médard Parish in 1927 by Mr. L. Lawrence A. Wilson, M.P. — now installed in Our Lady of the Assumption, Otonabee.

Canonization of the Lily of the Mohawks

In our Easter 2012 edition, Fr. Joseph Devereaux wrote about **Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha** (p. 26) and we carried statements regarding her pending Canonization by Archbishop Richard Smith, President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and by Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada.



Known as the “Lily of the Mohawks”, Kateri Tekakwitha was born in 1656 in Ossernenon (today Auriesville, New York) to a Catholic Algonquin mother and a Mohawk Chief. At the age of 4, her parents died of smallpox which also left her scarred and nearly blind. She was raised by

aunts and an uncle who were suspicious of the Christian faith and only reluctantly allowed her to be baptized at age 18. In the face of increasing hostility, she fled to St. Francis Xavier Mission, a Christian Mohawk village in Kahnawake, Quebec where she died of tuberculosis on April 17th, 1680, shortly before her 24th birthday. Witnesses report that within minutes of her death, the smallpox scars vanished from her face, which then radiated with beauty.

This Canonization is scheduled for October 21st, and we salute the community of Baysville where a church is dedicated to her honour.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has added a page to their website which will be of interest to those who wish to follow this historic event in the Church in Canada:

<http://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/component/content/article/64/3375-canonization-of-kateri-tekakwitha-21-october-2012>

