

year or two earlier. We know that the church had a bell, the bell having been unearthed in 1870 near the known site of the church.² The date 1723 was inscribed on the bell, suggesting that the church had this bell from about the time that the church was established.

The register of Saint-Pierre-du-Nord shows that until the beginning of 1732 Saint-Pierre-du-Nord only occasionally had a priest. The situation at Port-LaJoye from 1724 - 1732 was not a great deal better. With the collapse of the fishery initiative of the Comte de Saint-Pierre, Île Saint-Jean became less important in the eyes of officials in Louisbourg and Paris, and had already lost in 1723 the two resident priests who had been at Port-LaJoye since 1721. From time to time during the 1724 - 1732 period, priests came to Île Saint-Jean from Île Royale, i.e. Cape Breton, or from Acadia, staying for several days, a few weeks, or perhaps two or three months.

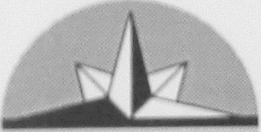
In early 1732 Father Mathieu François Le Paige was installed as the resident parish priest and he remained here almost continuously for seven and one half years. Le Paige not only ministered to his flock at Saint-Pierre-du-Nord, but also to people from outlying areas considered a part of the parish, including Tracadie, Havre-aux-Sauvages, Malpec and Pointe-de-l'Est. In subsequent years, Baie-de-Fortune was added. Occasionally the priest journeyed to these places. The register provides us with the first known date when a priest ministered in the French settlement of Malpec, noted by Father Le Paige as being 15 leagues distant from Saint-Pierre-du-Nord. On May 1, 1735 at Malpec he married Marie Magdeleine Arsenault and Jean de Launay,

and conducted two baptisms. This had not been his first visit to Malpec. He had been there at least one time prior to September 1734.

In 1739 Le Paige was succeeded by Father Gabriel Le Moign who had already been at Port-LaJoye a couple of years and who remained at Saint-Pierre-du-Nord for five years. It is evident from a comparison of the registers for Port-LaJoye and Saint-Pierre-du-Nord that during the 1732 - 1744 period, Saint-Pierre-du-Nord enjoyed more stability in terms of priests than did Port-LaJoye. Together, Le Paige and Le Moign served 12 years continuously at Saint-Pierre-du-Nord, while during this period, no less than six different priests rotated through Port-LaJoye. Perhaps that was a reflection of a broader social stability at Saint-Pierre-du-Nord where fishing was the major part of the economy, providing for trade and a small merchant class. Saint-Pierre-du-Nord always had a greater population than Port-LaJoye — indeed, much greater for much of the existence of these two settlements. Port-LaJoye was an administrative and military centre — those on administrative postings came and went and the troops garrisoned at Port-LaJoye were rotated yearly. While the important officials lived at Port-LaJoye, Saint-Pierre-du-Nord was the wealthier community.

During the time that Louisbourg was occupied by the British from 1745 until 1749, one finds no entries in the register of Port-LaJoye. However, there are a few entries in the register of Saint-Pierre-du-Nord. In mid-August of 1745 Father Samuel Riou visited Saint-Pierre-du-Nord and performed a marriage and a baptism. It is of some significance that he signed

² John C. MacMillan, *The History of the Catholic Church in Prince Edward Island from 1835 till 1891* (Québec, 1913), pp. 295-296; *The Weekly Examiner and Island Argus*, Charlottetown, 23 November 1883, p. 1.



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