

## Mission At Summerside Of St. Peter & St. Paul

In the year 1850 the busy little town of Summerside did not exist. The marshy district where it now stands and which was then known as "Green's Shore", was occupied by farms cultivated by the descendants of United Empire Loyalists, while a few handsome dwelling houses had been erected by gentlemen who, concerned in ship building, found it to their interest to reside in this village. Upon the northern shore of Bedeque Bay, a flourishing shipyard gave employment to many men, who every spring would come in great numbers from the country districts to obtain work which they found more remunerative than farming or fishing.

Of these men several were Catholics, and as the demand for labour increased in the brisk little seaboard village, they came with their families to reside permanently in the vicinity of the shipyard. In the year 1853 so many Catholic families from different rural districts had settled at Green's Shore that it was found necessary to open a mission there. This mission was attended by the Very Rev. James McDonald, V.G., pastor of Indian River, who in-

terested himself to obtain a church for the new settlement. The people of Indian River had just completed their new sanctuary, and generously made a present of their old one to their pastor, who superintended its removal to Green's Shore, or Summerside, as it began to be called. The church was placed on the corner of Fitzroy and Summer Streets, and dedicated to St. Charles; a sacristy was added to it, and the whole building put in thorough repair.

Besides the dwellers in the village at Green's Shore, a number of wealthy Scotch farmers, living in Bedeque in what was called the "New Village" were included in the mission of St. Charles. Father McDonald built himself a house on Fitzroy Street, which later was occupied by Mr. Robert Holman.

In 1859 the old Convent of Notre Dame on the corner of Summer and Convent Streets was opened. It was built and furnished by Father James McDonald at his own expense, and given as a free gift to the mission. Father James also built a hall, in which

a Catholic teacher had a school for many years. In this hall the old Temperance Society, of which the late Archbishop O'Brien of Halifax was one of the earliest members, held its weekly meetings.

In 1865 Father McDonald purchased, on behalf of his congregation, a building lot upon the corner of Central Street and Notre Dame Street, and in 1866 the work of excavating the site of a new church was commenced. The foundation stone was laid by Bishop McIntyre in July 1869. Owing to unforeseen hindrances this church was many years in building.

In September 1869, the very Rev. James McDonald was appointed rector of St. Dunstan's College. He had been for twenty-seven years pastor of the missions of Indian River, Seven Mile Bay and Summerside, and it was with great regret that his people witnessed his departure from among them. He was succeeded in the charge of Summerside and Indian River by the Rev. James A. McKenna.

In 1872 the parish of Mount Carmel presented the mission of Summerside with a large house which had been built for a school by their late pastor, Father Quevillon. This building was hauled to Summerside and placed upon a corner of the church lot fronting upon Notre Dame Street, and became the parochial residence of

the mission.

In October 1874, the Rev. Patrick Doyle, pastor of Kinkora and Seven Mile Bay, was given the charge of Summerside, in addition to his other missions, and went to reside in that town. He took active measures to hasten the building of the church which was completed in 1876, and was consecrated by Bishop McIntyre. The Right Reverend Dr. Rogers, Bishop of Chatham, N. B., and the Right Reverend Dr. Cameron, then coadjutor to Bishop McKinnon of Antigonish, N. S., took part in the ceremony of the formal dedication on the 21st October 1876, when the church was placed under the dedication of S. S. Peter and Paul.

Almost all the clergy of the diocese were present, and the spectacle was imposing. Pontifical High Mass was sung by Rt. Rev. Dr. Rogers, the sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Cameron. The Rev. Dr. O'Brien (later Archbishop of Halifax) was master of ceremonies. Mr. I. J. D. Landry, organist of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, St. John, N.B., came over to open every seat in the church was filled, and many persons were forced to remain standing in the aisles. All who were present expressed themselves much pleased with the music as rendered by the fine choir, which was justly celebrated throughout the diocese. In the

evening a concert was given by the choir, after which the Bishops and Clergy were entertained at dinner by Judge W. H. Pope at his residence Fernwood, St. Eleanora.

St. Paul's church was of brick. It was built in the Gothic style and was ninety feet long, forty five feet wide, with a tower twelve feet by twelve. From the floor of the nave to the apex of the ceiling it measured thirty-seven feet.

The chancel was eighteen feet by twenty-three, and the ceiling was grained, the church being furnished with pews of ash and black walnut which were made in Montreal, from a design by Adolphe L'Evesque, Architect, and cost five hundred and fifty dollars, considered a very fine one. The organ was built by Messrs. I. J. John, N.B., at a cost of eight hundred dollars. Over the doors which led to the side chapel and vestry were two very rich statues of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and of St. Joseph. These were given by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, Montreal.

At the base of the Sanctuary arch, over each end of the Communion Railing, stood brackets supporting statues of the Sacred Heart and of the Good St. Anne. Above the altar was a statue of Our Lady of Lourdes, given by the women of the congregation. The Communion Railing was of black walnut and brass; it, like most of the other furnishings of the church, was from Montreal. The pulpit of ash and black walnut, which cost one hundred dollars and was the work of Mr. Matthew Dempsey of Summerside, was given by Mr. Ronald McDonald who also gave the Stations of the cross, rich oleographs in black walnut frames. In the vestry was a fine old oil painting of St. John the Baptist upon our Lord; this picture was bought in France. The church of S. S. Peter and Paul possessed an exceptionally fine bell, a gift from the late Francis Malone, of DeSable. This bell, which weighs six hundred and five pounds, was cast by J. W. Shane of Baltimore, U.S.A., and bore the inscription:—

"Presented to St. Paul's Church, Summerside, by Francis Malone, 1876."

It was blessed and placed in the steeple in 1877. The sponsors on the occasion were: Mr. and Mrs. John Gaffney of Summerside; Mr. and Mrs. John Hughes, of Free-town; Mr. and Mrs. D. H. McDonald, of Point Pleasant, Bedeque.

The bell of the old church which is largely composed of steel and very clear in tone, was originally the church bell of Rustico. It was purchased by the town and served later as a fire bell.

The old church of St. Charles was sold as soon as the new sanctuary was ready for use, but the vestry, which was of more modern date, was retained for parochial purposes, in which were held the meetings of the St. Charles Total Abstinence Society. This Society was established in 1873, John Gaffney Esq., was the first president. It met every Sunday, and in the winter every Thursday evening, the members had a reunion, devoted to music, readings and debates.

The Summerside Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society

was inaugurated by Father Doyle in 1882, and has been the means of effecting much good. The confraternity of the Sacred Heart was established among the congregation the same year.

The first Convent of Summerside having become old and unsuitable for the requirements of the school, the idea of building a new one was suggested to the congregation. While others were thinking about it, Mr. Ronald McDonald, always prompt where the performance of a generous action is concerned, purchased a large new house on the corner of Church and Summer Streets, which he presented to the nuns for a convent. The building not being suitable for that purpose, was lotteried and brought eighteen hundred and twenty three dollars. It was won by Austin C. McDonald, Esq., M.P.

With the proceeds of the lottery a new Convent was forthwith commenced, for which the building contract was given to Pierce Doyle. This Convent was opened on the 12th May 1885. It is sixty feet in length by forty-five feet in width, and forty-four feet from the ground floor to the apex of the roof. It is surmounted by a cupola and a gilt cross. A broad verandah runs along the front of the house, which makes it very bright and cheerful looking convent. The interior arrangements are very complete and reflect great credit on the Sister who directed the work. The chapel is a gem, and most tastefully furnished. Besides a beautiful statue of Our Lady of Lourdes, of St. Joseph and of St. Anne, here is to be seen one of St. Aloysius, which was given to the chapel by the boys of the congregation. That of our Lady of Lourdes was given by the Sodality of the Children of Mary. The neatness, order and good taste displayed in St. Paul's Church and in the adjacent Convent is the subject of favourable comment on the part of all visitors to Summerside.

First pew holders in the old St. Charles' Church, Summerside: Donald McDonald, Bedeque; Angus MacDonald, Bedeque; Patrick Gaffney; Martin O'Halloran; Mrs.

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