



# Archival Connections

*Newsletter of the Catholic Archivist Group*

Volume 3, Number 2

May 2006

## From the Chair – Gayle Desarmia, SP

It is with the joy of springtime and the Easter season that I prepare this spring edition of our Catholic Archivist Group newsletter. I extend a special ‘Thank you’ to each person who submitted articles for this newsletter.

As a follow-up to the list of patron saints for archivists in the last newsletter, Larry Dohey has submitted another patron for your consideration – St. Damasus I whose feast is December 11<sup>th</sup>. St. Damasus I (circa 304-84) was pope from 366-84. A special achievement of his pontificate was providing adequate housing for the papal archives.

We are always looking for stories and news items for this newsletter. Do you have some item that may be of interest to the group? We would like to see all types of archives (diocesan, religious, educational and healthcare) represented in our newsletter. To have your items appear in the newsletter, send them to me by November 15<sup>th</sup>. (archives@providence.ca)



## Bridging the Sacred and the Secular – 2006 Conference in Ottawa



you in the National Capital.

The annual Catholic Archivist Group conference is being held this year at Maison Notre Dame de la Providence located in Orleans, September 25-28. The Librarian and Archivist of Canada, Dr. Ian Wilson, will be our special guest speaker. We plan on having session on Freedom of Information and Privacy legislation which impacts archival work, a workshop on the care of scrapbooks and albums and more. This year’s excursions will include visiting the Preservation Centre in Gatineau and a liturgy and tour at the magnificently restored Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica. We look forward to seeing

The conference information will be mailed in July. In the meantime, here is a look at the program as it is shaping up –

### Monday, September 25

- Afternoon – Arrival and registration
- 5:30 – Dinner
- Evening – official welcome, displays, social with refreshments

### Tuesday, September 26

- 8:00 – Breakfast
  - 9:00 – Robin Keirstead, UWO University, on privacy issues
  - 10:30 – Opening Liturgy
  - 12:00 – Lunch – Guest speaker: Mr. Ian Wilson
  - 2:30 – Annual General Meeting
  - 5:30 – Dinner
- Evening speaker? – Fr. Hurtubise, O. M. I.

### Wednesday, September 27

- 8:00 – Breakfast
- 9:00 – Departure by bus to Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica
- 10:00 – Liturgy and tour of the Cathedral museum
- 12:00 – Lunch at Tucker’s Marketplace Restaurant
- 2:00 – Departure by bus for Gatineau Preservation Centre.
- 4:30 – Departure for Maison Notre-Dame
- 5:30 – Dinner

### Thursday, September 28

- 8:00 – Breakfast
- 9:00 – Lynn Curry, Library and Archives Canada, Photo album and scrapbook workshop – with a long question period
- 11:00 – Closing Liturgy
- 12:00 – Lunch and departure



### **Did you know?**

On April 22, 2004, the National Library and Archives of Canada Act received royal consent. The act combined Canada's separate national library and archives into a single institution, the National Library and Archives of Canada, created a new executive called the Librarian and Archivist of Canada, and amended the Copyright Act.

In 1978, both the National Capital Commission and the City of Ottawa officially recognized the Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica of Ottawa as an historic monument. The cathedral is the oldest surviving church in Ottawa. It stands on the site that was occupied by the first Catholic chapel open to both anglophones and francophones of Bytown.

## Keeping our Archives Alive – Monica Plante, scic

One way, I found, to keep the history of our Religious Archives “alive” was to include a write-up called “Embers from the Archives” for the Sisters of Charity I.C. Community Communications.

*A short example* – Saint Basile, New Brunswick, 1854 – 1873

Three short years after establishing a new congregation, the first English speaking Sisters founded in Canada, Bishop T.L. Connolly, OFM Cap. and Mother M. Vincent (Honorata Conway) sent Sisters to a “new and far away foundation”.

In December 1857, three Irish, English speaking Sisters, “went into a wilderness amongst a people whose language and customs differed considerably from their own”, as they set out to the northern Acadian community of Ste Basile. Here the Sisters set up an Academy to prepare young girls for the teaching profession at the primary level.

They remained here for sixteen years. Nine young women entered the Sisters of Charity during these years. One of these Sisters later became the founder of the Les Religieuses de Notre-Dame-du-Sacre-Coeur Community.

Continue to tell the story, when the Sisters left and why.

*Note of interest* – This mission at Ste. Basile was continued in October 1873 by the Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph of Montreal.

## Dictionary of Basilian Biography – Kevin J. Kirley, CSB

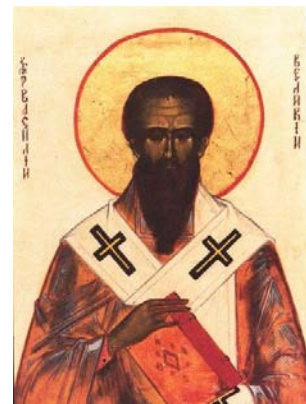
Dictionary of Basilian Biography

Lives of Members of the Congregation of Priest of Saint Basil from Its Origins in 1822 to 2002

2nd Edition, xxviii, 715, U of T Press, Toronto, 2005

Father P. Wallace Platt, CSB, general editor of the Dictionary of Basilian Biography, decided in 1997 that a new edition of biographies of deceased Basilians was necessary for at least two good reasons: i/ many confreres had died since Father Robert Scollard, CSB, brought out the first edition in 1967, and ii/ considerably more research had been done on the deceased French Basilians by Father Félix Pouzol who had access to the archives in Annonay, Viviers and Privas. The editorial board of six members, all of whom were employed full-time in their Basilian apostolate, worked under Father Platt’s direction for eight years to complete the task, or, as it states on the dust jacket, ‘to enrich the book and balance its presentation’.

True to Father Scollard’s original design, the model for each biography is patterned after that of the entries in the Dictionary of Canadian Biography: personal background, education, community appointments, with a concise word on the character, talents and difficulties encountered for each member. Where applicable a



bibliography of a confrere's publications appears at the end of the entry, or a reference is given where it may be found elsewhere.

Who are included? All those who died as Basilians, be they priests, scholastics or novices, prior to the year 2003, and deceased Basilians who had left the Congregation and been incardinated in a diocese. After lengthy discussion the board decided to include as well those Basilian priests who returned to the lay state and died prior to the year 2003.

Readers will find the Preface, the Introduction and the Glossary helpful for an appreciation of the Basilian history and a better understanding of terms peculiar to the Basilian apostolate.

The 632 biographies appear in alphabetical order by last name, and from ABEND, Joseph John to YOUNG, Edmund Michael. The book ends with a list of the Basilians by chronological order of death.

Although at the moment the editor-in-chief and the editorial board members are enjoying a respite from their labours, they envisage a new volume, probably a supplement, to include those who have died after the end of 2002. Needless to say, they welcome corrections and/or additions to the present volume, which came off the press in October 2005, and they are open to suggestions for inclusions in the book that will eventually follow.

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### **A Treasured Chalice – Monica Plante, scic**



Among the items located in the Heritage Room of the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception in Saint John, New Brunswick is a 163 year old chalice.

This chalice was presented to Father Louis Thomas Connolly, OFM Cap. when he left Ireland.

It bears an inscription in Latin which translates as follows,  
“To the Reverend Thomas Louis Connolly, in consideration of his outstanding merit, asking that as he performs his sacred office he remember the donors who are ever mindful of their beloved friend. Dublin in 1843”.

Bishop T.L. Connolly became the second Bishop of Saint John in 1852. Two years later, Bishop Connolly along with Honoria Conway founded a new order of English-speaking Sisters in Saint John. This chalice was used at the Mass when the Bishop received the vows of the four founding Sisters on October 21, 1854.

When the Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception celebrated their 150th Anniversary of foundation on October 21, 2004, this same chalice held the sacred wine at our Thanksgiving Eucharist at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

## Irish Building Stone Exhibit – Larry Dohey

### R.C. Archdiocese Partners with the Johnston Geo Centre



The Archives of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. John's has partnered with The Johnson GEO CENTRE to present a new exhibit called Irish *Building Stone*.

The Exhibit showcased the stone of the Basilica of St. John the Baptist and its ties to Ireland. Highlights included pieces of 400 million year old granite quarried in Ireland used in the construction of the Basilica, the story of the Basilica's construction documented through the use of rare archival documents and artifacts from the Basilica Museum collection featuring our Irish connections.

The Exhibit was open at the Johnston Geo Centre to the general public until March 31, 2006.

The GEO Centre shows the amazing life-story of our planet, through the remarkable geology of Newfoundland and Labrador. One of the most distinctive buildings in the province, the GEO Centre is located next to Signal Hill National Historic Park.

The Archives of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese is the main repository for the historical and contemporary documents of the Roman Catholic Church in Newfoundland and Labrador, the Archives is open from Monday through Friday by appointment. The Archives are located at 200 Military Road (The Basilica)

## Importance of Parish Archives – Eloi de Grace



Canon Law says that "in each parish there is to be an archive" (Can. 535 §4). Parish archives are a unique source of information on the history of the diocesan Church.

The diocesan archives contain records of the "official" history of our Particular Church, but it is **ONLY** in the parish archives that we will find information on how the people in the pews lived their Faith.

The value of documents found in our parish archives goes beyond the reason for which they were created. Parish archives reflect the work of the Pastors and the parishioners.

### How we know what we know

Reading documents in the archives is how we know what we know about our diocesan and Local Church history. Parish history is part of the continuing history of the Church. Making good use of Parish archives and eventually writing the history of a parish may foster a sense of pride and stimulate in parishioners a deeper commitment.

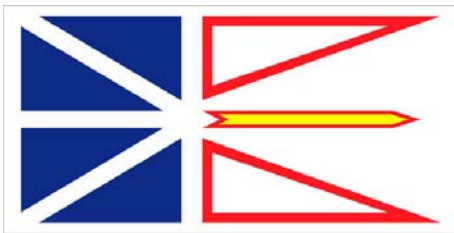
Documents in the Parish archives enable continuity with the past. Documents we create will be deposited in archives to be used by people coming after us. The documents in our archives will be a source of inspiration to a generation yet unborn.

### Responsibility

The primary responsibility for a parish archives belongs to the parish. The Pastor, in cooperation with parish staff and volunteers, must provide continuous care of the documents entrusted to them and of the recent records they created as they move from an active to an inactive stage. Ideally, the Parish archives project should be part of the job description of one individual. Appointing a person (staff or volunteer) to be responsible for the parish archives is one important step.

Documents that we **MUST** keep for their legal, administrative and historical value **MUST** be protected (i.e., in a dark room, and away from heat, water and rodents). Once the archives project is completed, the boxes of material have to be stored in such a way that you can control access to them. The Parish archives are private archives and they are confidential.

## **“This is My Home, My Native Land” – Larry Dohey**



The Archives of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. John's will be making available rare drawings, sketches and maps from its collection for an exhibit that will celebrate the history of the province. The exhibit titled **“THIS IS MY HOME, MY NATIVE LAND”** will feature 40 illustrations that appeared in pre 1900 publications in Europe and the United States.

In the late 1800's most international publications would send illustrators with their writers to help tell a particular story. These illustrations will be married with maps, drawings, photographs, archival documents, and text panels, created to convey the story.

Some of the important historical moments that are documented in the international journals include the Laying of the Atlantic Cable from Ireland to Newfoundland, (1865); the French Shore Debate over Fishing Rights in the waters of Newfoundland; (1890); the construction and loss of Cathedrals and churches, (1846); and the Great Fire of 1892. The exhibit also features rare illustrations of old St. John's and villages in the province as well as illustrations of early industry.

*The exhibit will be housed in the The Mullock or Palace Library adjacent to the historic Basilica Cathedral of St. John's. The Library was officially opened in 1859 as a public library and reading room. The Library is now home to the Basilica Cathedral Museum.*

*For more information contact Larry Dohey - Archives of the R.C. Archdiocese - 709-726-3660 - [ldohey@nf.aibn.com](mailto:ldohey@nf.aibn.com)*

## New Members

We welcome the following new members of the Catholic Archivist Group –

- ✚ Gloria Romaniuk – Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg Archives
- ✚ Marie Michael Power, SM – Sisters of Mercy
- ✚ Brigitte Pollock – Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops Archives
- ✚ Shaaron Grogan-Sheahan – Toronto Catholic District School Board

*Welcome!*

## Election of Secretary



With the spring comes our Catholic Archivist Group time for election. This year we will be holding elections for the position of Secretary. Please consider letting your name stand for the position of secretary. Our revised Constitutions and a Nomination Form will be emailed to you later this month. Our elections will be a success if all members participate.

## Archives Awareness Week – Natalie Trébouté



(equivalent to \$2500.00 CAD). Following Bishop Horan's purchase, the Sisters began to acquire more land.

For Archives Awareness Week, the Archives office at the Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul displayed historical documents relating to land transactions from 188 years ago. Sister Gayle Desarmia, Archivist, Thomas McCarthy, Archives Technician, and Natalie Trébouté, Assistant Archivist, welcomed tours through the office on April 6, to tell the story of how the Sisters of Providence acquired the Providence Manor property. There are 6 lots in total in the block bound by Montreal, Ordnance, Bay, and Sydenham streets. In 1860, Bishop E. J. Horan purchased the first lot for £515.00

## Catholic Archivist Group

We are a group of archivists committed to maintaining and promoting the archives of Religious Institutes, Diocesan and Catholic Institutions in order to preserve the social heritage of all of its members

The main thrust of the Catholic Archivist Group is that of mutual encouragement and support and to keep before all relevant authorities and groups the importance, significance and relevance of our Archives.

We follow the terms of reference of professional archival guidelines in Canada, Canon Law, and the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church, as well as pertinent government legislation.

## Publication Schedule

The newsletter will be published December 1 (Fall issue), February 1 (Winter issue) and May 1 (Spring issue).

Submit your news items, articles and photographs by November 15, January 15 and April 15.

The next deadline is November 15, 2006.

## Catholic Archivist Group Executive – Contact Information

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