A Message from Father Curtis

Luke; 12:16
« ... Be like servants who await their masters return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. »

For the past seventy-five years (1926-2001), the people of Our Lady of Mercy give thanks to God. The parish has been blessed with countless gifts. God's word passed on by our Franciscan Fathers and Brothers. The tremendous faith shared by the parishioners has contributed to the dedication and commitment to their church.

The spiritual growth of the community simply brings out its beauty of the parish. Its faith being the true witness of God's love for all of humanity. As the years pass, the richness of God's love remains to be the true valued norm of Our Lady of Mercy.

Jesus asked his disciples; « And who is my neighbour ? » As a community that brings God's love to all, « You are my neighbor, you are my brother, sister in the fellowship of Christ our Savior. »

Let us, brothers and sisters continue building up God's reign in our world, whom the Lord has entrusted to us and let us continue sharing his love as we await his return.

Seventy-five years, a service done very well!

Contents

- 75th Anniversary Program
- History of Our Lady of Mercy
- Diocese of Edmundston
- Parish Priests
- Franciscan Fathers having been Assistant Priests
- A Few Among the 20 Franciscan Brothers
- A Few Original Families
- First Marriages
History

Our Lady of Mercy is unique because of its humble beginnings and its inspired growth in such a short period of time.

The parish, founded in 1926, had previously depended on Maliseet and the availability of the Saint John River, which was crossed by canoe or over the ice. Following the arrival of the Franciscans, they took up the challenge of crossing the river instead of having the parishioners come over to Maliseet, and held Mass in area homes. Mass was held in the homes of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Lemieux and Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Parent.

The inconvenience of crossing the river incited the Bishop of Chatham - Bishop Patrice-Alexandre Chiasson, C.J.M. (1920-1938) - to give support for the building of a church at Aroostook. Our Lady of Mercy was built in 1925-26 at a cost of approximately $7000.00. Parishioners raised money by visiting lumber camps, picnics at Waugh's flat and Basket Socials in several homes.

On December 25, 1926, the parishioners of Aroostook assembled in their church for the first time, for Midnight Mass. Their priest was Father Raymond Pennafort Willey (« Father Penn »).

Father Penn came from England in 1903. He was as dynamic as the length of his name! He was director of the Franciscan Review; he preached retreats, pastored, and built churches. His twenty years in the Tobique Missions were not spent in vain. He founded Our Lady of Mercy and was the first Franciscan to pastor at St. Patrick's.

When the Bishop of Chatham came to dedicate the Aroostook church to Our Lady of Mercy for the glory of God, he also encouraged the Franciscans to persuade their order to build a monastery there. The parishioners invited the Franciscans to build a monastery on the church grounds. This would allow a more permanent and advantageous position for the parish. The parish provided $2000.00 to assist with the building of the monastery. The span between its preparation and reality was nine years, but it happened. On October 29, 1935, the monastery was officially inaugurated, and on November 30th of that same year, the community moved from Maliseet to Aroostook.

The next year, Father Othon Musso, Offl, wrote an account of life at the monastery, saying: « Aroostook is very much alive. It extends its rays far, while consolidating community life with a jovial spirit and devotion. May the blessing of our founder St. Francis give to each the proper spirit of the Order of Friars Minor, the joy to taste the good of brotherhood. »

The Franciscans were always an integral part of Aroostook, and by 1935 they had realized the dream of having their own home where they could live out their spirituality at a more consistent pace. Father Sylvestre Beaudet became the first superior of the monastery; he was succeeded by Father Gregory Leger who remained twenty years as superior (1940-60). Father Gregory is credited with having converted the church basement into a parish hall.

For many years the monastery served as the residence for the Franciscan priests and brothers who were delegated to the different parishes. No matter where they served, the monastery remained « home » where one met with one's spiritual brothers.
The church continued to prosper and provided a spiritual community for many Catholic families throughout the next several decades. Several priests served at Our Lady of Mercy becoming integral members of both the church and local communities. Forty-one Franciscan Fathers and twenty Franciscan Brothers have resided at Our Lady of Mercy.

Father Ovide Tanguay left in 1985 and Brother Gregory Cormier in 1986, leaving the monastery empty. After the Franciscans no longer used the building, the church explored possible alternatives for the monastery. After much thought, the decision was made in the late 1980s to tear down the monastery and the smaller buildings surrounding the property.

Although Our Lady of Mercy has seen much change since her doors open in 1926, the parish continues to serve the spiritual needs of many families in our community.

**Diocese of Edmundston**

On December 19, 1944, His Holiness Pope Pius XII, erected the Diocese of Edmundston. Below is a list of the Bishops who have served the Diocese.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bishop</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Msgr. Anthony Roy, OFM</td>
<td>1945-1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Msgr. Romeo Gagnon</td>
<td>1948-1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Msgr. Fernand Lacroix</td>
<td>1970-1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Msgr. François Thibodeau</td>
<td>1994 - present</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parish Priests**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priest</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Father Raymond Penafort Willey, OFM</td>
<td>November 22, 1922 - September 19, 1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father Pie Guenette, OFM</td>
<td>September 4, 1942 - September 18, 1944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father Grégoire Leger, OFM</td>
<td>September 18, 1944 - August 20, 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father Camille Chassé, OFM</td>
<td>August 20, 1954 - April 21, 1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father Lionel Beaulieu, OFM</td>
<td>April 21, 1955 - July 1, 1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father Gérald Dionne</td>
<td>July 8, 1960 - August 22, 1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father Samuel Cote, OFM</td>
<td>August 22, 1969 - July 23, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father Ovide Tanguay, OFM</td>
<td>July 23, 1970 - 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father Romeo Cormier, OFM</td>
<td>1985-1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Msgr. George Travers</td>
<td>1986 - December 1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father Leo Gregoire</td>
<td>December 1988 - 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father Curtis Sappier</td>
<td>1998 - present</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Franciscan Fathers having been Assistant Priest**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assistant Priest</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Father Sylvester Beaudet</td>
<td>January 1936 - August 1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father Jean Paul Morneault</td>
<td>July 1941 - May 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father Hubert Perron</td>
<td>January 1936 - October 1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father Dieudonne Masse</td>
<td>January 1936 - January 1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 1946 - September 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father Berard Nobert</td>
<td>September 1942 - February 1975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father Andre M. Godmer</td>
<td>May 1955 - March 1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father Alexis Auger</td>
<td>December 1948 - Aug 1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father Michael Seiferling</td>
<td>Aug 1948 - May 1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Father Firmin Lachapelle</td>
<td>June 1937 - December 1957</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A few among the 20 Franciscan Brothers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brother</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brother Michel Godbout</td>
<td>1936-1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother Patrick Sweeney</td>
<td>1936-1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother Eusebe Bousquet</td>
<td>1940-1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother Theophile Godbout</td>
<td>1950-1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother Edmond Peloquin</td>
<td>1958-1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother Bonaventure St-Laurent</td>
<td>1967-1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother Julien Landry</td>
<td>1945-1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother Valere Renault</td>
<td>1958-1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother Gregory Cormier</td>
<td>1947-1955</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A few Original Families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Marshal Armstrong &amp; family</td>
<td>Perth-Andover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Fred Bowmaster &amp; family</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. John Bowmaster &amp; family</td>
<td>Bairdsville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. James Brown &amp; family</td>
<td>Four Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Roy Brown &amp; family</td>
<td>Four Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Basil Cronk</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Albion Downing &amp; family</td>
<td>Four Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Roy Farnharn &amp; family</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Lawrence Grant</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Frank Griffin &amp; family</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. John Lafferty &amp; family</td>
<td>Andover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Tom Ledwith &amp; family</td>
<td>Four Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Joseph Lemieux &amp; family</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Jack Lynch</td>
<td>Andover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Samuel MacIntosh</td>
<td>Andover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Louis McIver &amp; family</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Jack McKinnon &amp; family</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Neil McKinnon &amp; family</td>
<td>Andover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Bruce McLaughlin &amp; family</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Stephen Mooney &amp; family</td>
<td>Andover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Frank Murchison &amp; family</td>
<td>Four Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Leonard Parent &amp; family</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Charles Rolston &amp; family</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Steve Sullivan &amp; family</td>
<td>Four Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. James Underwood &amp; family</td>
<td>Four Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Nicholas Walsh &amp; family</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Nellie Wright</td>
<td>Four Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Susan Wright</td>
<td>Four Falls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following parishioners are children of founding families who contributed to the early success of Our Lady of Mercy. These individuals continue to be active parishioners carrying on the commitment of their families.

Marie (Farnham) Burley, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Roy Farnham
Geneva (Downing) Morrell, daughter of Mr. Albion Downing
Floyd Sullivan, son of Mr. & Mrs. Steve Sullivan
Norman Bowmaster, son of Mr. & Mrs. Fred Bowmaster
Theresa (Ledwith) O'Neal, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Tom Ledwith
Jack Brown, son of Mr. & Mrs. Roy Brown
Irene Brown, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Roy Brown
### First Marriages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parishioners</th>
<th>Residence</th>
<th>Date of Marriage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frank Murchison</td>
<td>Four Falls</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Beatrice Wright</td>
<td>Four Falls</td>
<td>September 22, 1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louis P. McIver</td>
<td>Andover</td>
<td>October 27, 1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genevieve Armstrong</td>
<td>Andover</td>
<td>October 6, 1926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bustin Peter Goolsby</td>
<td>Fort Fairfield, ME</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Alma McKinnon</td>
<td>Andover</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John D. Bowmaster</td>
<td>Medford</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylvina McQuade</td>
<td>Medford</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Wiley Cassidy</td>
<td>Bairsdvile</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nellie Irene Cassidy</td>
<td>Kilburn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### First Funerals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parishioner</th>
<th>Residence</th>
<th>Died</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Birthplace</th>
<th>Cemetery</th>
<th>Priest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nellie (Wright) Cassidy</td>
<td>Bairsdvile</td>
<td>May 5, 1934</td>
<td>87 yrs</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Grand Falls</td>
<td>Fr. Philibert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Lynch</td>
<td>Bairsdvile</td>
<td>Dec. 28, 1936</td>
<td>14 days</td>
<td>Bairsdvile</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>Fr. Marcellin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louise Bowmaster</td>
<td>Bairsdvile</td>
<td>Oct. 26, 1936</td>
<td>2 days</td>
<td>Bairsdvile</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>Fr. Marcellin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Ann Morrissey</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>Sept. 24, 1938</td>
<td>74 yrs</td>
<td>Medford</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>Fr. Jean-Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angelina (Beaulieu)</td>
<td>Andover</td>
<td>Dec. 4, 1938</td>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>Andover</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>Fr. Sylvestre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph McQuade</td>
<td>Bairsdvile</td>
<td>Jan. 20, 1940</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Clairview</td>
<td>Four Falls</td>
<td>Fr. Pennafort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Sweeney</td>
<td>Four Falls</td>
<td>Jan. 18, 1940</td>
<td>11 yrs</td>
<td>Four Falls</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>Fr. Pennafort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Cornelius Brown</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>Sept. 7, 1940</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Four Falls</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>Fr. Pennafort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonard Maclntosh</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>Jan. 19, 1941</td>
<td>38 yrs</td>
<td>Nova Scotia</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>Fr. Pennafort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Francis Pelrine</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>Nov. 25, 1941</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Four Falls</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>Fr. Pennafort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bertha (McCuskey)</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>May 10, 1941</td>
<td>53 yrs</td>
<td>Grand Falls</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>Fr. Hubert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helene (Gallagher)</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>Apr. 15, 1942</td>
<td>52 yrs</td>
<td>Maugerville</td>
<td>Fredericton</td>
<td>Fr. Donahue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>Apr. 15, 1942</td>
<td>52 yrs</td>
<td>Maugerville</td>
<td>Fredericton</td>
<td>Fr. Donahue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Jane Sweeney</td>
<td>Four Falls</td>
<td>Dec. 28, 1942</td>
<td>21 yrs</td>
<td>Four Falls</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>Fr. Pius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Laferty</td>
<td>Bairsdvile</td>
<td>March 2, 1942</td>
<td>72 yrs</td>
<td>Four Falls</td>
<td>Clairview</td>
<td>Fr. Pius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julia Elizabeth Parent</td>
<td>Andover</td>
<td>March 16, 1943</td>
<td>72 yrs</td>
<td>Greenwich</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>Fr. Pius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carlingford</td>
<td>June 23, 1944</td>
<td>76 yrs</td>
<td>St. Leonard</td>
<td>Aroostook</td>
<td>Fr. Pius</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### First Baptisms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
<th>Baptized</th>
<th>Parents</th>
<th>Godparents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy Vivian Dixon</td>
<td>Jan. 5, 1925</td>
<td>May 1, 1925</td>
<td>Ida Soucie, Ephrem Dixon</td>
<td>Bertha &amp; Leonard Parent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isabella Kathleen Lemieux</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>May 30, 1925</td>
<td>Mary Ann Lynch, Joseph Lemieux</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Frank Griffin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Memories from Our 50th Anniversary - December 1976

A Message from Father Ovide Tanguay

« Nothing like Christmas '76 for us all, at Our Lady of Mercy parish church, Aroostook. The Bairdsville family share our deep joy and gratitude.

For the past 50 years, 1926-1976, we at Our Lady of Mercy give God the thanks - the thanks for Franciscan Fathers and Brothers, who never relent, under any conditions, in the ways of divine love and human endeavour - the thanks for parishioners, who respond to the call of duty and grace, every given moment of their lives, for their own spiritual growth, for the good of precious blood, marriage, social and civic relationships, at all times... !

May the years ahead show, again, the healthy signs of glory to God and peace to men of good will - in parish, church and Franciscan determination - along the path of years and demands upon all of us, fully aware of the continued building efforts of Christ's Kingdom, in minds, hearts and hopes, YESTERDAY, TOMORROW, unto our eternal destiny in heavenly REST. »

50th Anniversary Program

Saturday December 18, 1976

5:00pm - Supper for our Seniors

- Supper of thanksgiving for « the seniors » of the parish.
- Tribute to Brother Gregory Cormier, OFM:
  50 years of solemn profession in the Franciscan Order,
  30 years of service in New Brunswick,
25 years of assistance at Our Lady of Mercy.
- Supper honored by the presence of our Bishop Lacroix of Edmundston and Father Leblanc, Franciscan Provincial.

7:30pm - Parish Mass
- Bishop Fernand Lacroix and very Rev. Father Sylvere Leblanc, Franciscan Provincial.

8:30pm - Parish Gathering
- In the Parish Hall in a pleasant family atmosphere, the parishioners of Aroostook and Bairdwille spend a few hours with the Bishop and the Provincial.
- Treats and refreshments served. A few Christmas Carols.

Sunday December 19, 1976

4:00pm - Con-Celebration of Solemn Mass
- Presided by Bishop Fernand Lacroix, Edmundston; very Reverend Father Sylvere Leblanc, Provincial of St. Joseph’s Franciscan Province, Montreal; and Rev. Father Norman Thibodeau, OFM, Superior of the local Fraternity of Franciscans ministering in parishes of NB; with Franciscan fathers and priests of this diocese and others, members of religious communities, parishioners, and other guests.
- First Reading (English); Mr. Floyd Sullivan: Second Reading (French); Mrs. Fernande St. Amand.
- Homily: Robert Inman, seminarian, in a year of pastoral experience locally.
- Choir Performance: members of Grand Falls’ Assumption Parish Choir with Sister Colette Duguay and members of our own parish.

5:30pm - 9:30pm - Open House in Parish Hall
- Master of Ceremonies: Mr. Wayne Roach, chairman of our Jubilee.
- Greetings by Bishop Lacroix and Father Leblanc, Provincial.
- Historical data of interest on posters by Brother Gregory Cormier.
- Buffet Table: courtesy of the families of the parish and mission.
- CWL members and other parishioners, look after things for one and all on the glorious occasion of «Our 50th at Our Lady of Mercy».

Thanks to All who Contributed to our 50th!!

Our Lady of Mercy 75th Anniversary

Seventy-five years is a long time
For a little church to last
Many thousands of footsteps have trod
In the many years of the past

Our Lady of Mercy was built in 1926
Celebrating Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve
A crowd of people gathered
And gave thanks on their knees

The church was built on a piece of land
On very level ground
At the lower end of Aroostook
No better place good be found

Our Lady of Mercy, was the name
That the little church was given
It must have made our Lady happy
For she is the Queen of Heaven
The Bishop of Chatham helped with the funds
Whose Diocese we were in then
Years after we were changed
To the Diocese of Edmundston

Father Raymond Pennafort Willey was the first Priest
Just Father Penn will be fine
He was a friend to everyone
And kept us all in line

He suggested to the farmers
Of potatoes, plant an extra plot
The proceeds would go to the church
Whether they liked it or not

The new parish included
Four Fails, California, Tinker,
Aroostook, Portage, Brown Road
And much later Morrell

The people from these places
Were glad for a church so near
They could attend Mass every Sunday
Instead of just once a year

When the church was built
The parishioners were few
Griffin's, Walsh's McLaughlin's,
McIver's, Parent's, and Lemieux'

Then from the Brown Road
Came Roy, Nora, Cassie, and John
From California came Tommy Ledwith
Bringing Theresa and Tom

At Four Fails, Sullivan's, Hartt's, and Downings'
And a family of Wrights
They felt privileged to attend the new church
Proud that it was their right

The parishioners out in the country
Were made of good strong stuff
Rather than miss Mass
They'd walk through rain, snow, and slush

A monastery was added to the church
A home for brothers and priests
Everyone was welcome there
Even people off the street

Several years after the church was built
The basement was made into a hall
Bingo, card games, and suppers
Fun and games for all

After the monastery was of no use
It was torn down
It left an empty space on the grounds
And saddened the people in the town
The parish owes Brother Gregory
A debt they can never repay
He shoveled snow and mowed the grass
He toiled hard night and day

Many priests have come and gone
I could but name a few
Their pictures displayed in the hall
Some are good looking, too

Each priest was unique
During his period of time
I'll try to remember some of their names
But don't expect them to rhyme

Father Penn came from over the sea
Father Sylvestre was the first superior of the monastery
Fr. Marcelyn, Fr. Sam, Fr. Gregory, Fr. Beaulieu, Fr. Tanguay, Fr. Romeo, Fr. Travers, Fr. Leo and our present day priest Fr. Curtis

Father Leo was one of our favorite priests
He was sent to another parish
We all hated to see him go
Our thoughts of him we'll cherish

We must not forget Father Tanguay
Who was with us quite a while
He listened patiently to our sins
And forgave them with a smile

Our present priest is Father Curtis
Hope he stays a long while
He is the only priest we ever had
Who always wears a smile

Reverend François Thibodeau is our Bishop
In the city of Edmundston he resides
He serves many, many churches
All over the countryside

Over the passing of time
The church has had repairs
Recently a rug was laid
To replace the one of 40 years

When the bell rings in the steeple
Mass is about to begin
It is almost as though
We can hear an angel sing

God bless us every one
Were the words of Tiny Tim
God is always with us And we say our prayers to him

People wonder about Heaven and Hell
And what its all about
But what we will find in the great beyond
We will have to die to find out
Some say there are surprises in heaven
People who are sure to be there
The angels look all around
And can't see them anywhere

On the other hand people who
Angels thought they would never see
Are sitting with St. Peter
As content as they can be

Generation and generation pass
The young and the old
All keep their eyes on the altar
As the word of God enfolds

The monastery is long gone
But the church a place of prayer
With God’s help will last
As long as people are there

For seventy-five years
We hope the church will stay
For most of us who are here now
Will not be far away

Written by Geneva Morrell
In celebration of the 75th Anniversary of Our Lady of Mercy
November 3rd 2001

Brother Gregory

Aroostook owes you a great debt
That they can never pay
But we have all learned to love you
And have for many a day

You may have thought we took you for granted
But you were always top on our list
You will never ever know
How badly you are missed

The grounds around the building
You mowed and trimmed with ease
Your hollyhocks were gorgeous
And bloomed until winter’s breeze

When winter came you shoveled snow
Sometimes a path to the road
You worked and seemed to enjoy it
Never complaining about the heavy load

You kept the cemetery well groomed
I know if the dead could speak
They would say, « Let someone help you! »
You worked hard week after week

You decorated the church for Christmas
Cutting and tying boughs with a will
With ribbons, tinsel, and wreaths
You cut the boughs on the hill

The manger in the church was a work of art With Mary, Joseph, and infant child
A star shining from above It caused us all to meditate awhile

The manger just outside the door
Was a joy to the entire town
It looked so very heavenly
God must have been looking down

The big garden that you planted
With every row so straight
You got no help from anymore
As you worked both long and late

Carrots, beans, potatoes, and turnip
All laid away in winter’s store
All you asked was room in the freezer
Where you stored more and more

You were an avid cameraman
Taking pictures of us all
We all have pictures that you took
But none of you all

In spite of all your manual work
You took some time to write
You have a marvelous talent
Every word comes out just right

You spoiled us all so badly
That when you went away
We are still learning to do our share
Until this very day

May god bless you and keep you
As you go down your heavenly way
We will never ever forget you
Please think of us when you pray

Written by Geneva Morrell as a tribute to Brother Gregory
1990

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