

Celebrating 100 Years of Faith

SACRED HEART PARISH 1915-2015



"Your faithfulness endures to all generations" Psalm 119:90

Early records indicate Sacred Heart Parish was established in 1915.

The Besners of Prince Rupert donated property for the first Catholic Church in Terrace.



"I remained in Prince Rupert till November 6, 1915 when I went to Terrace to bless the church. The service was well attended especially by non Catholics. Things had been prepared by Father Allard who succeeded in having even a little choir. "

Bishop Emile Marie Bunoz

The Besners

Olier Besner was one of the many intrepid French-Canadians who stampeded to the Klondike and for 10 years there handled the pick and shovel, at first for others, until he had made a stake, and then working his own ground.

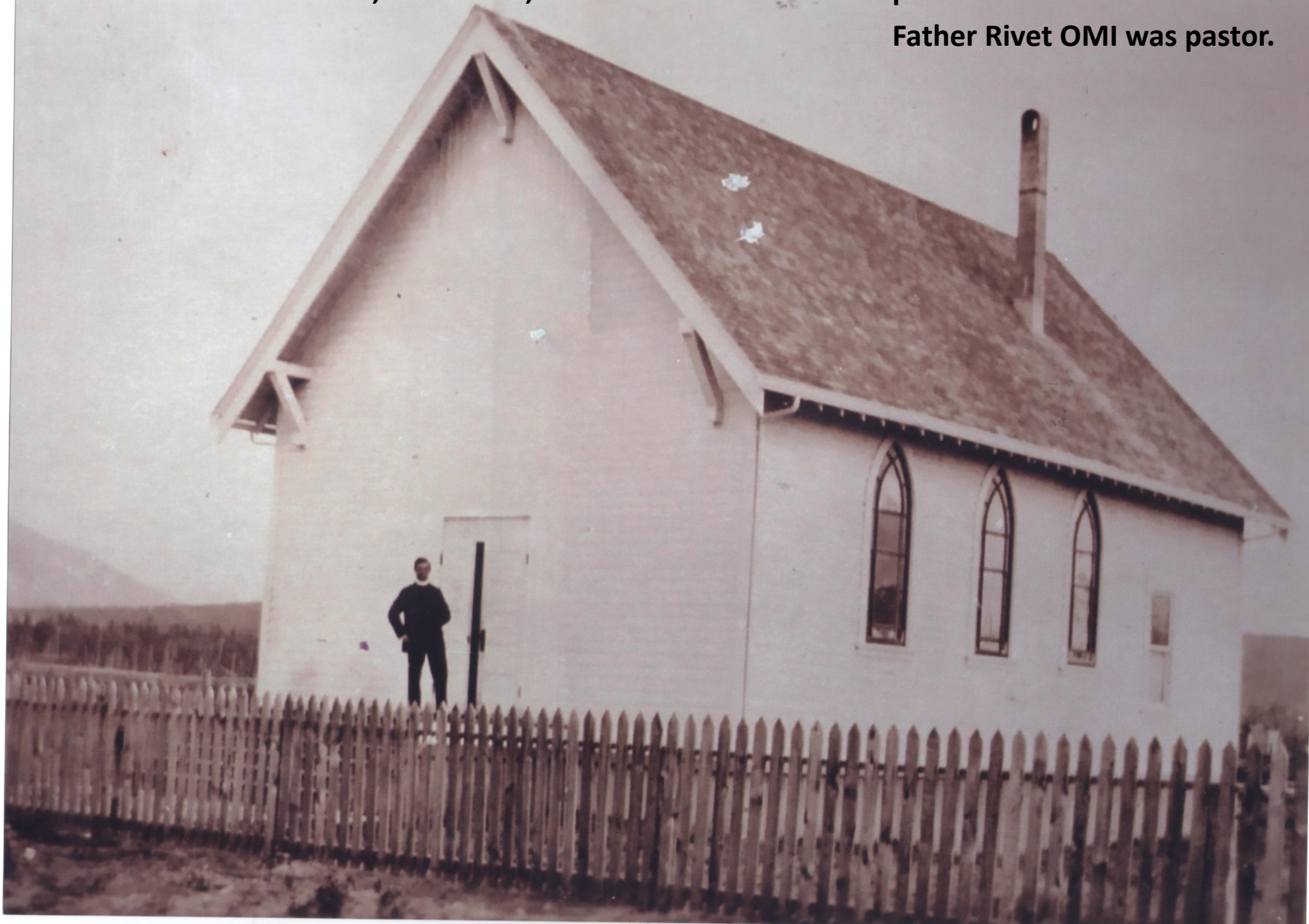
He came to Prince Rupert in July, 1908 and married Madame Artaud, of the Old Knox Hotel

Prominent among the women pioneers of Prince Rupert is Mrs. Olier Besner, who built the Old Knox Hotel and also the New Knox Hotel, the latter the first notable landmark of the city that strikes the attention of the visitors coming in by steamer. Mrs. Besner, originally from San Francisco, was in the great stampede to the Klondike in the spring of 1908, braving all the hardships of those first golden-fleece Argonauts over the dreaded Chilkoot Pass. In 1915, Mrs. Besner bought some property in Terrace. She later donated this property for the first Catholic Church on Lakelse Avenue



The Women's Auxiliary of Extension Toronto sent \$500 towards the cost of the church structure, vestments, linen and an altar for "the poor settlers of that mission.

Father Rivet OMI was pastor.



The Church was dedicated under the title of the **Sacred Heart** at the request of the Ladies Auxiliary of Extension Toronto.

In 1923, under the direction of Father Allard OMI, the bell tower was erected. The parish grew quickly through the years and in 1930 Mr. Besner donated 5 more acres of land.

In 1951-52 A 40ft extension was built on to the original church structure.

The extension was constructed by the Knights of Columbus with Grand Knight, Henry Fortin directing the work.

Pictured Below: Sacred Heart Parish 1920-22 with Bishop Bunozy & Fr LeRay





In 1936 Father Champagne built a small school next to the church. The structure was later converted to a rectory in 1940 by Father Fabre.

PHOTOS:

Left: The Church in 1941

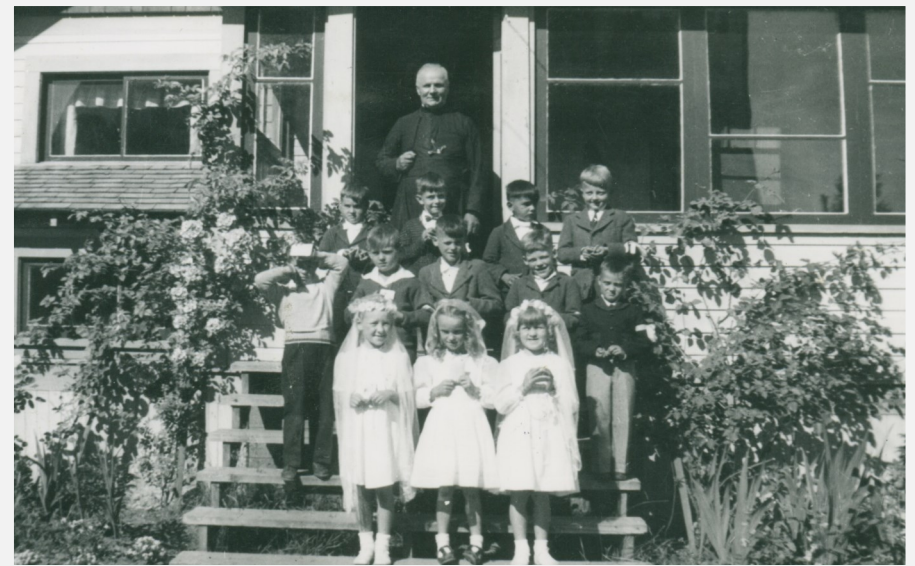
Bottom Left: Church interior 1943

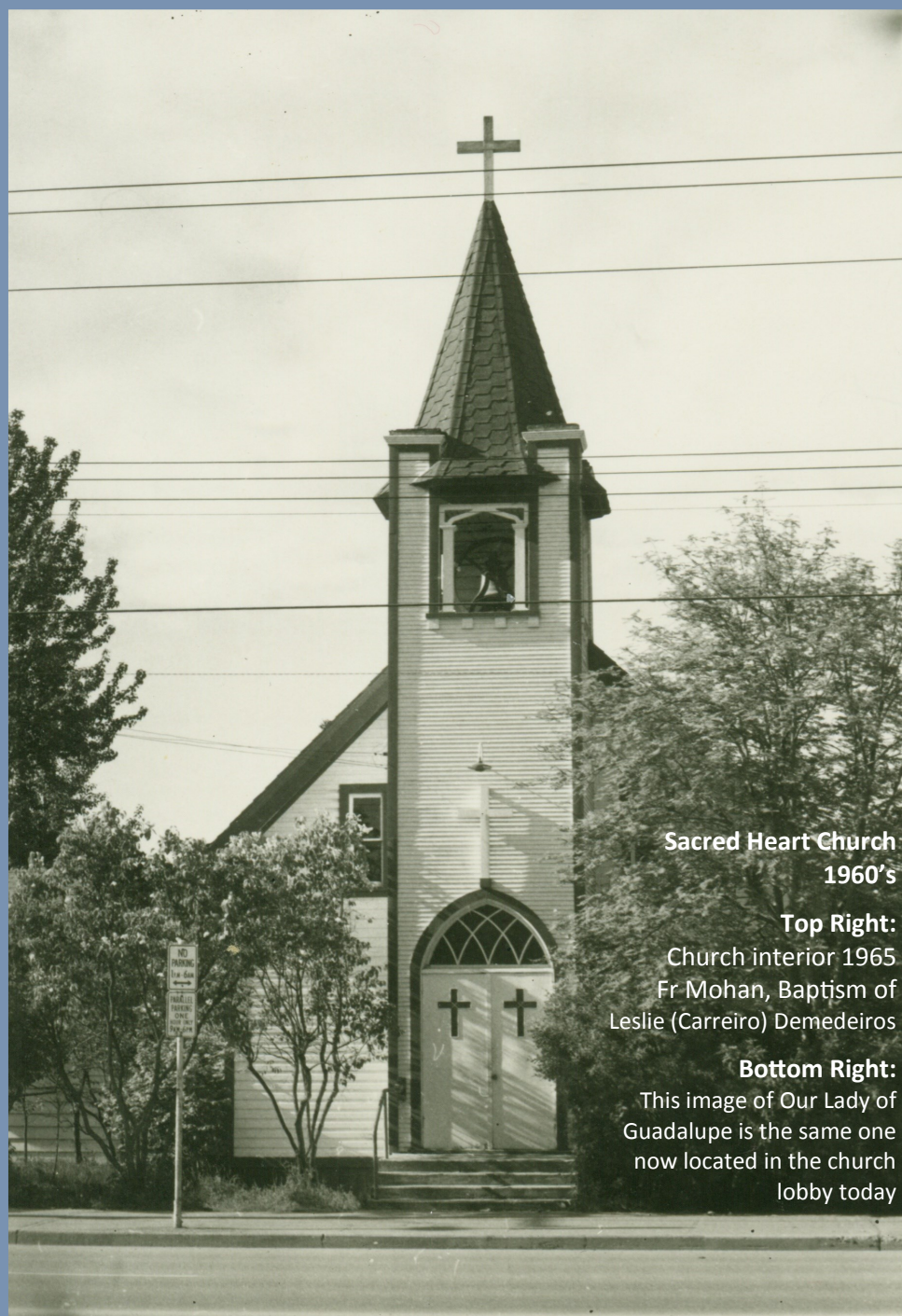
Bottom Right: First Communion 1945

Top: Fr Fabre, Top Row: Paul Johnson, Richard Cote, Dave Johnston, ? Julseth.

Middle: ?, Vistor Prystay, Bobby Christy, Jim Christy, ?Normandeau

Front: Rita Jouy, Cecile McConnell, Betty Jean Kofoed





Sacred Heart Church
1960's

Top Right:
Church interior 1965
Fr Mohan, Baptism of
Leslie (Carreiro) Demedeiros

Bottom Right:
This image of Our Lady of
Guadalupe is the same one
now located in the church
lobby today





Pictured Top Left:

1944 Fr Fabre with a few parishioners alongside the outer church wall

Top Right: Wedding 1929
Charles Kofoed & Agnes Desjardins
(parents of Diane Gowe, Tom & George Kofoed, Adele Johnson)



Bottom: Wedding 1968
Fred & Loretta (Menz) Kuemper
Father Bernard





Veritas School

An 8 room classroom school was opened in the Fall of 1959 under the direction of Father Mohan. Veritas School, the Latin word for Truth, was named by Father Oliver Mohan.

The Sisters of St Joseph of Toronto arrived to take charge of the new school in 1959 and a convent was built in 1960.

The school was staffed for many years by the Sisters of St. Joseph and Frontier Apostles. Frontier Apostles came to Northern B. C. from all over the world to build and staff Catholic schools.

In 1988 The Sisters of St Joseph left the diocese.

Pictured on Top: First Communion Class, Fr Allison & Fr Mohan 1961

Left to Right: Sisters Mary Catherine Doyle, Pat Connaughton, Betty Lou Knox and Mary Macoretta, with Bishop Gerald Wiesner OMI in center





Oblates of Mary Immaculate (O.M.I) 1917-1994

Pictured Above: O.M.I Farewell Celebration , July 5, 1994

Left to Right: Father John Massel, Father Jim Jordan, Father Al Noonan, Father Tim Coonen, Father Oliver Mohan



As the population in Terrace grew and the downtown core evolved, Sacred Heart Parish expanded.

In 1972 the church property was sold and a part of Veritas School and the convent were relocated from Lakelse Ave to the present location on Straume Ave.

Father Allison said there was a group of people who were interested in moving the old church from its present site and preserving it elsewhere. Unfortunately the church was built in several different sections and would have been extremely difficult to move. The old church remained on Lakelse until the new property owners disposed of it.

Pictured Top Left: Veritas School being relocated to Straume Ave.

Pictured Below: The convent was moved as is on a truck flatbed rather than the contents and furnishing being packed up in the usual way. It was noted at the time that “not even a teacup was broken.”



Pictured Above: Construction of Sacred Heart Parish.



December 15, 1974
The New Church was dedicated
& blessed by Bishop Fergus O'Grady OMI.
with Father Andy Allison & Father Bill Sweeney





Top Left : 2011: Blessing of New Altar by Bishop Gerry Weisner with Father Terry Brock

Top Right: 2004: Renovation of Church entrance Max & Joe Botelho

Bottom Right: 2015 New Church interior with Father Terry Brock

Bottom Left: Stained Glass Window Commemorating Sacred Heart's 75th Anniversary. Designed by Marion Schlegel



Shepherds of Sacred Heart



Rev LeRay



Rev E Fabre



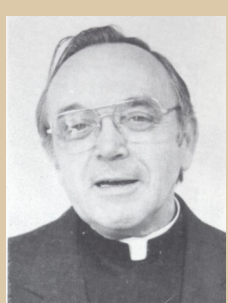
Msgr. Turgeon



Rev O Mohan



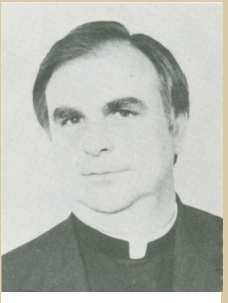
Rev A Allison



Rev R Bernard



Rev M McCarthy



Rev J Jordan

Rev Rivet 1917-1920
Rev LeRay 1920-1922
Rev Chartier 1922-1927

Rev E. Allard
Rev Godfrey
Rev LeRay 1927-1931
Rev Champagne 1931-1938
Rev O. DeKeyser 1938-1939
Rev Fabre 1939-1945
Rev Racette 1945-1952
Rev LeRay 1953-1955

Rev Donze
Rev LeRay 1955-1956
Rev Turgeon
Rev Mohan 1956-1968
Rev Turgeon 1956-1960
Rev A Allison 1960-1965

Rev Bernard
Rev Cullen 1966-1968
Rev Turgeon 1968-1970
Rev Dalton

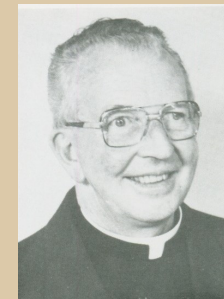
Rev Tom Lasalles
Rev A Allison 1970-1977
Rev Bill Sweeney 1970-1975

Rev Mc Carthy
Rev Jim Jordan 1977-1985
Rev Ed Egan 1977-1981
Rev Harold McIntee 1981-1983
Rev Tim Coonen 1981-1985
Rev Allan Noonan 1986-1992
Rev John Massel 1992-1994

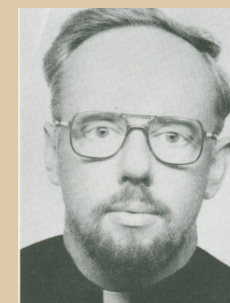
Rev John Smith 1994-2000
Rev Joseph Lang 2000-2002
Rev L MacLennan 2002
Rev Terence Brock 2002-present



Rev T Coonen



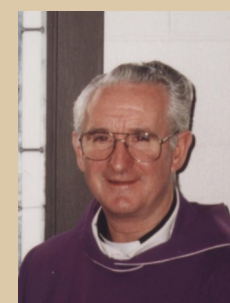
Rev H McIntee



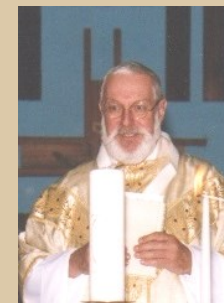
Rev J Massel



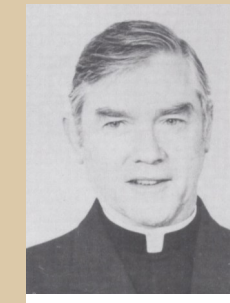
Rev A Noonan



Rev J Smith



Rev J Lang



Rev L MacLennan



Rev T Brock



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