

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

50th ANNIVERSARY

1949 - 1999

- 1937 - 49 Fund raising started by Fr. John Gilhooley, OMI, continued on by Bishop Jordan. The Bishop also contacted the Sisters of St. Ann firstly to enquire if they would come and teach when the school became a reality. When it became apparent that sufficient funds could not be raised by the Parish he again approached the Sisters of St. Ann and asked them if they would build the school. They agreed and immediately drew up plans for a convent and school. In the meantime, Fr. A. MacDonald purchased 10 lots adjacent to the Rectory and Church. Bishop Jordan also contacted the English Oblate Brothers in Montreal and asked their help in the construction.
- 1949, Spring Brothers Morvan, St. Jacques and Morier arrived and construction began under the supervision of Fr. MacDonald.
- 1949, Summer Sisters of St. Ann arrived to start foundation work for school. Sister Mary Eunice, Sister Mary Germaine des Anges, Sister Mary Bridget and Sister Mary Marlana. A parish member, Mrs. A. Van Dyk, offered them the hospitality of her home while the school and convent were under construction.
- 1949, Sept. 6 The school year commenced in temporary quarters as the school building was not ready to be moved into. Grades 1 and 2 were taught in the Church basement (22 students), and Grades 3 and 4 were taught in the Choir Loft (20 students), all using tables and benches as the desks had not arrived.
- 1949, Oct. 6 The Sisters' sleeping accommodations were ready and they moved in, however, only with beds, coverings and other possessions. There was no furniture, blinds or drapes, so blankets were used for window coverings, boxes for chairs and a plank for a table.
- 1949, Oct. 28 Classes moved into the school.
- Oct. 30 Sacred Heart School blessed by Bishop Anthony Jordan, OMI.
- 1950, May 28 First Annual May Procession in Honour of Our Lady held, with 61 children participating.
- June 15 First meeting of the Home & School Association.
- Sept. School opened with the addition of Grades 5 and 6 classes. There were 105 students registered.
- Oct. 22 First Annual Rosary Procession held.
- Dec. First Christmas Concert held, despite an epidemic of Mumps!
- 1951, Jan. 3 Bishop Jordan consecrated and celebrated the first mass in the Sacred Heart Convent Chapel.
- Sept. School added Grade 7 class.
- 1952, Sept. School added Grade 8 class. At that time 160 students were registered.
- 1953, Sept. School opened with 172 students registered and the school was beginning to get too small.
- 1954, June Original Grade 4 students graduated from Grade 8. There was no option but to go on to public school.
- 1955 The Cafeteria was converted to a classroom for Grades 1 and 2.
- 1956 Plans were drawn up to construct the Auditorium, incorporating 3 high school classrooms in the basement.
- 1957 Due to increased registration, Grades 1 and 2 were discontinued and Grades 7 and 8 moved to the basement of the newly constructed parish hall (auditorium).
- Oct. 6 Auditorium blessed by Bishop O'Grady, OMI.
- 1958 School opened for Grades 4 to 7 with an enrolment of 139.
- Oct. 3 Tom Taylor, first Frontier Apostle at Sacred Heart School, arrives to teach Grade 8.

- 1962 School opened for Grades 1 to 8. Grades 9 to 11 moved to St. Mary's School.
- 1962 - 65 Student registration increased from 230 students to 279 students.
- 1968 With the reduction of women entering religious orders in the 1960's, the Sisters of St. Ann regretfully announced that they would be leaving as at the end of the school year in 1969.
- 1968, Sept. The Presentation Brothers took over the operation of the school, with the new Principal Bro. Mark Fitzpatrick. The Brothers resided at the hostels at Prince George College until the Sisters of St. Ann moved from the Convent in the summer of 1969.
- Oct. School Council formed.
- 1969, Aug. The Brothers take up residence at Sacred Heart School. Bro. Mark Fitzpatrick, Bro. Leo Prud'homme and Bro. Neri O'Sullivan.
- 1972, Sept. Bro. Leopold O'Mahoney takes over as Principal.
- 1975 Bro. Ivan Verba arrives in the Diocese, where he will serve a total of 18 years.
- 1977 Bro. Peter Shymko arrives in Diocese and will stay until 1984, when he is transferred to Toronto.
- 1983 Bro. Ivan takes over as Principal. He will serve this position until 1992.
- 1985 Bro. Joseph Wichrowski arrives to take up teaching duties.
- 1988, Dec. Bro. Gerard Despathy arrives and remained on staff for 9 years.
- 1990, Nov. Due to a \$150,000.00 Arson fire in the Principal's Office, the Brothers are forced out of residence for about six weeks.
- 1992, Sept. Bro. Peter Shymko returns and takes over as Principal. He will stay in the position for 2 years and will later return to the diocese to begin studies for ordination to the priesthood.
- 1994, Sept. The Brothers relinquish the administration of Sacred Heart School after 26 years.
- 1997, Aug. 17 The Presentation Brothers leave the diocese in order to facilitate the opening of a new community in Knoxville, Tenn.
- 1997 - 1999 Mr. Terry Wilson, current Principal of Sacred Heart School.

At the opening of Sacred Heart School in 1949, Fr. A. MacDonald, OMI, said "I ask you not to forget what the Sisters have done for you here". That advice is valid for us today, as during their 20 year period of administration the school grew from 47 pupils to 290 pupils. 3,389 students passed through their loving and capable hands and for all those women we give thanks.

The following is a quote attributed to Mr. Terry Wilson, Principal, in his presentation in June, 1997, "In a very special way we are sorry that the Presentation Brothers are leaving us. Their contribution to Sacred Heart School is simply immeasurable. We could not have enough paper to list what the Brothers have brought to our school. More importantly, it is not just the "what" they brought, it is how they brought it. They gave of themselves to educate and develop each child under their care." Their contribution over the 26 years of their administration is another reason to give thanks.

It would also be remiss not to give thanks to all Frontier Apostles for their contributions to the Parish and the education and direction they so willingly imparted to the many students who also passed through their classes since 1958.