

Timeline:

Celebrating Contributions of the
Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary
to the Province of Alberta: 2005

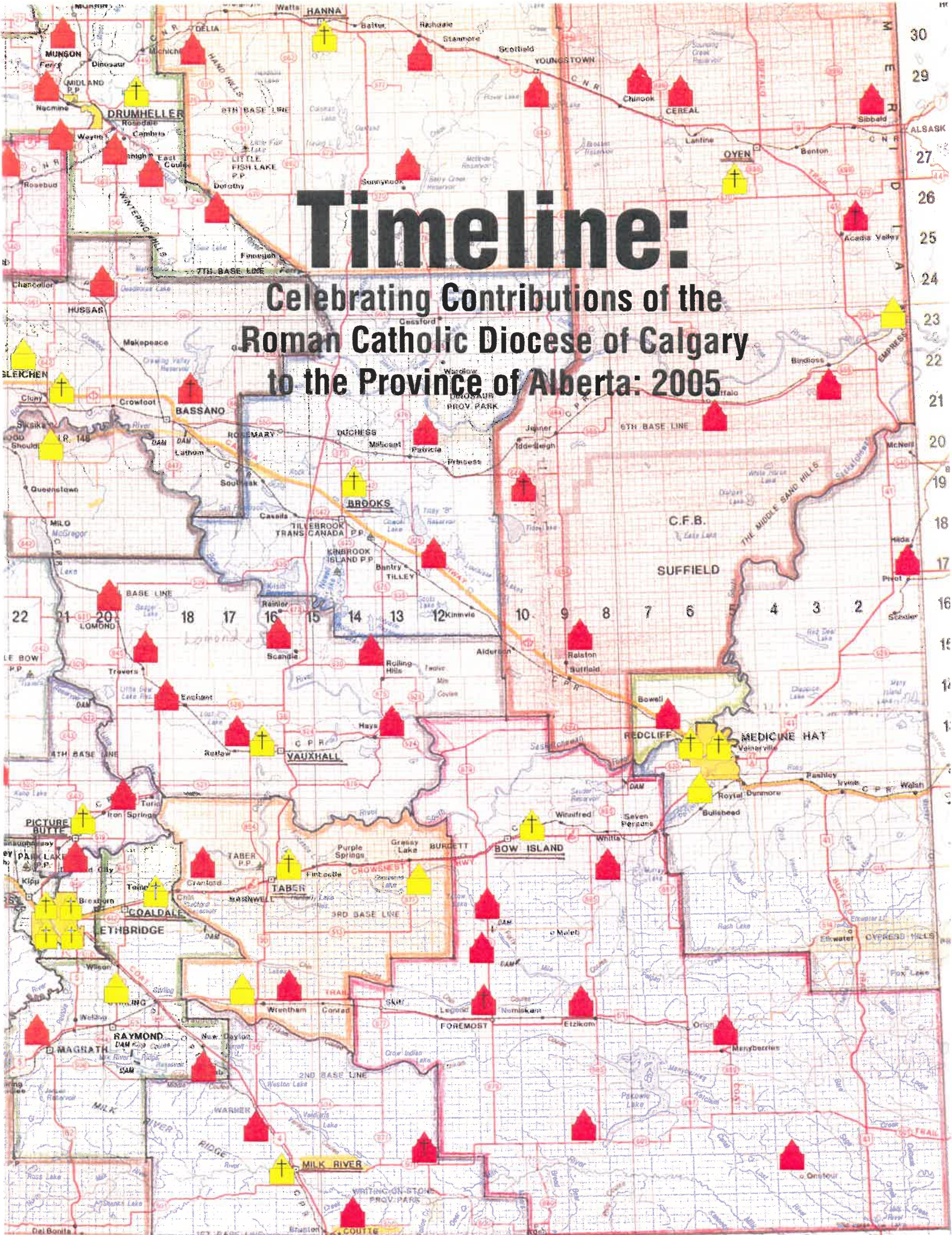




Illustration of the Diocesan Centennial prayer card (design by Pat and Greg Walsh).

Timeline of the Roman Catholic Church of Alberta to 2005

We offer you this selected list of facts about a group of people who helped to make Alberta a great place to live. We, who benefit from being Albertans, will appreciate our blessings even more, if we remember those mighty souls who preceded us.

You will find here noble souls of our First Nations, intrepid missionary workers in the vineyard of the Lord, selfless caring women who taught and nursed and prayed in the face of disease and disaster and unimaginable hardship. You will meet the indomitable spirit of builders of railways, industry, ranches and farms; forts, villages and cities; tribes, clans, and worshipping societies; schools, hospitals and homes for the poor, oppressed and elderly. You will meet suffering souls escaping to our promised land from war-torn nations of continents east and west.

Behind the statistics and records of missions, churches, and retreats, of buildings, roads and waterways, lie an irrepressible faith and belief in a loving and gracious God, a sense of responsibility for neighbors of every ilk: aboriginal, immigrant or native-born. The multi-faceted family of the Lord that comprises the population of our Province, is committed, despite sometimes failing to fulfill our goals, to an ideal of loving God and neighbor in a free, open and just society.

We hope this timeline will remind you of the sacrifices, love and commitment, of the Roman Catholic heritage of Alberta. If it leads you to find out more about how Catholics helped to build Alberta, we recommend, from your library for the early history, "From the Buffalo to the Cross" by M.B. Venini Byrne, and for the more recent history to the present day, "Winds of Change" by Norman Knowles, which may be purchased from the Diocesan Archives.

8,000 BC

Aboriginal people on the plains

1534 AD

Jacques Cartier erects a cross on the Gaspé Peninsula.

1535

Mass is celebrated at Ile-aux-Coudres.

1659

François de Laval, born in France in 1623, was appointed **Vicar Apostolic of New France** on June 3, 1658; consecrated bishop on December 8, 1658; arrives in Quebec on June 16, 1659.

1674

The **Diocese of Quebec** is established as all of North America with the exception of New England, Florida and California.

1720

Frs. Gonner and Grignas, **Jesuits**, to Nipigon to minister to the **Sioux**.

1731

La Verendrye establishes a speculative fur venture. The **first Jesuit chaplain** to Western Canada is Fr. Mesaiger;

✠ Others follow: Fr. Aulneau de la Touche SJ; Fr. Cocquart SJ first chaplain in **Winnipeg**.

1735

Fr. Aulneau de la Touche SJ a chaplain on the first fur-trading mission journey to the Canadian West becomes the **first martyr** of the West at Lake of the Woods in Ontario. [Ontario was the West then!]

1759

The English win the **Battle of the Plains of Abraham**. After taking Montreal in 1760 **England controls Quebec**; France controls only Mississippi River system: the French lay **culture and foundation of the Catholic faith in the west of Canada**.

✠ Two main **routes of Catholic influence** spread West:

a) up the Ottawa River – portage the Great Lakes to the Winnipeg System to the Saskatchewan System;

b) through Hudson Bay to the Saskatchewan System.

Both routes lead eventually to **Southern Alberta**, which has few beaver, is sacred to the **Blackfoot** people, and is the last and **least valued of the western area**.

1787

The **North West Company** and the **Blackfoot** and **Plains Cree** trade pemmican to traders in the North;

✠ **Missionaries** operate out of trading posts.

1811

David Thomson, trader, sent to survey for the North West Company, goes to the mouth of the Columbia River.

1812

Lord Selkirk and crofters in the Red River, attacked by the North West Company, **Metis**, and **Aboriginals**.

1816

Governor Miles Macdonnell asks **Bishop du Plessis of Quebec** for missionaries;

✠ **The Oblates of Mary Immaculate** founded by Charles Joseph Eugene de Mazenod, in Provence in Southern France.

1818

Bishop du Plessis sends Frs. Provencher and Dumoulin to Red River where they **establish St. Boniface**.

1826

The Oblates of Mary Immaculate **[OMI]** approved as a **Congregation** by Pope Leo XII.

1838

Frs. Modeste Demers and Norbert Blanchet arrive in **Fort Edmonton** from St. Boniface and on September 9th say the **first Mass in what will become Alberta**.

1841

John Rowland, a Roman Catholic in Fort Edmonton, **writes for a missionary** from St. Boniface.

1842

Fr. Jean-Baptiste Thibault scouts south to Parc aux Chiens/Dog Pound Creek back to Red River, and with Fr. Bourassa becomes the **first permanent and only Catholic missionaries to Alberta** in Fort Edmonton and Lac Ste. Ann.

1844

Bishop Provencher becomes **Vicar Apostolic of the North West**, i.e., West of the Great Lakes, including the Rockies, from the US border to the North Pole.

1845

Fr. Pierre de Smet SJ goes through the Kootenays and what is now **Canmore**, down along the **Bow River**, and among the **Assiniboines** conducts the **first baptisms and first funeral** in what will become the **Diocese of Calgary**;

✠ Fr. Aubert and the unordained Alexandre Tache go to **St. Boniface** to cover from the Great Lakes to British Columbia to the North Pole.

1847

Bishop Provencher becomes **Bishop of the North West**, which in 1851 will become the **Diocese of St. Boniface**;

✠ Fr. Demers is consecrated **Bishop of Vancouver Island**;

✠ Alexandre Taché, ordained in 1845, becomes the **first priest ordained west of the Great Lakes**. At age 27 he is consecrated coadjutor **Bishop of St. Boniface** in France in 1851, and succeeds Bishop Provencher in 1853.

✠ The **OMI**, with other congregations, assume responsibility for all the **missions west of the Great Lakes**, including the North West Territories, and the **Cree, Metis and Esquimaux**, until the diocese of Calgary is established in 1912.

1852

Fr. Albert Lacombe becomes the **first Oblate** to be assigned to **Alberta**.

1857

Fr. Lacombe assigned to the **Blackfoot** people;

✠ **Rev. Vital J. Grandin** OMI comes to Calgary.

1861

St. Albert parish is established nine miles from **Fort Edmonton**.

1865

Fr. Lacombe becomes a **freelance missionary of "Our Lady of the Prairies."**

1870

Fr. Leon Doucet becomes the **first priest ordained in Alberta** at St. Albert.

1871

The Diocese of St. Albert, from the U.S. border to the 55th degree latitude, is **established under Bishop Grandin**;

✠ An Oblate Vicar and **15 priests and brothers** are assigned from the 110th degree longitude to the height of the Rockies;

✠ Brother Constantine Scollen becomes the **first English-speaking teacher in Alberta** and begins working on a **Cree dictionary**.

1872-3

The **North West Mounted Police** are formed, and come to Western Canada.

1873

Our Lady of Peace Mission, a direct ancestor of the Cathedral, is established in **Southern Alberta**, 25 miles up the **Elbow River**.

1874

Louis Pagé, a **catechist and interpreter** dies in a blizzard;

1875

Rev. Leon Doucet OMI, serving three reserves: **Blackfoot, Blood, and Peigan**, established the **Dunbow School** [1884-1922];

✠ **Mission built** at the junction of the **Bow and Elbow Rivers**, in anticipation of the arrival of NWMP;

✠ Our Lady of Peace Mission builds a **chapel** [about 2nd St. between 23rd & 24th Avenues SW.];

✠ Fr. Scollen becomes the **first priest to visit Fort Macleod**.

1876

Fort Macleod becomes the **centre of missionary activity**.

1877

The **buffalo** of Southern Alberta **wiped out** by white hunters;

✠ **Treaty Number Six** is signed



Pride and splendor of the First Nations.

✚ **Treaty Number Seven** is signed at **Blackfoot Crossing**, and witnessed by Fr. Scollen.

1878

Fr. Remas arrives to work among the **Metis in Calgary**;
✚ **The Sarcee Reserve** is served by OMI from **St. Mary's** in Calgary.

1879

Notre Dame de la Paix Mission must minister to **10,000 souls** with only **two priests**;
✚ With the buffalo gone, **Cree Chief Big Bear** proposes an **alliance of the Blackfoot and Sioux** against the white settlers. Frs. Scollen and Doucet successfully argue **against the alliance**;
✚ The **Blackfoot** go to hunt buffalo in Montana.

[The **policy of the missionaries** of the day, both Catholic and Protestant, is to **erase the Aboriginal religion**, rather than to develop the **Christian Religion** on the roots of the **Aboriginal culture**.]

1881

The **United States Government** forces the **Blackfoot** back into **Canada**;

✚ The **Blackfoot [Siksika]** are on the Bow River at **Blackfoot Crossing**;
✚ The **Stoney [Assiniboines]** are along the Bow River from **Calgary to Banff**;
✚ The **Blood [Kaini]** are between **St. Mary's and the Belly Rivers**;
✚ The **Peigans [Piikani]** are at the foot of Porcupine Hills near **Pincher Creek**;
✚ The **Sarcee [Tsuu T'ina]** ask to separate from the Blackfoot and are given territory between the **Elbow River and Fish Creek**;
✚* the OMI establish a small mission at Blackfoot Crossing, which Bishop Grandin names **Mission of the Most Holy Trinity**;
✚ Fr. Legal is appointed Superior of the **Southern Missions** with Headquarters at **Fort Macleod**;
✚ Frs. Legal and Doucet winter three years on the Peigan reserve at **St. Paul des Peigans**;
✚ St. Mary's church **bells blessed** by Bishop Grandin.

1882

Fr. Lacombe establishes a **two-storey house, a church and a school** south of 19th Ave., west of 1st St. SW near Elbow;
✚ **Holy Trinity church** at Blackfoot Reserve;
✚ The OMI establish a **mission among the Siksika** at Cluny;
✚ Bishop Grandin writes to the **Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus**, in England, appealing for **teachers** to work among the **Metis**.

1883

Fr. Claude is named **parish priest of Calgary**;
✚ **Canadian Pacific Railway** begins moving west to Calgary from Medicine Hat;
✚ Fr. Lacombe becomes the **President of the CPR** for one hour and succeeds in getting another **portion of land for the Blackfoot**;
✚ Fr. Legal serves alone for six years at the **Peigan Reserve**.
✚ Fr. Lacombe convinces the Government to **build three schools for young Aboriginals**: two Catholic and one Protestant, at **Battleford, Qu'Appelle, and Dunbow**;
✚ After **floods** wash it away, Siksika volunteers **rebuild the mission** of the Most Holy Trinity, Cluny, under the direction of Fr. Lacombe.

1884

The **population of Calgary** is **506**;
✚ The **Sisters of Charity (Grey Nuns)** become the **first order of women to serve** in what will become the **Diocese of Calgary**;
✚ In Dunbow the **St. Joseph's Industrial School** is established at the confluence of the Highwood and Bow rivers on the Blackfoot Reserve. **Seventeen boys** from 13-17 years old are enrolled. The

OMI and Grey Nuns will staff it until 1922;

✚ The **St. Patrick chapel** on the east bank of the Elbow near 9th Ave. and 8th St. SE is moved across the river to be near the CPR station;
✚ **Fr. Lacombe goes to Ottawa** to get **two homesteads** [268 acres] for missions in Calgary at 2nd St. SE and 4th St. SW & 17th St. SW to 34th Ave. SW: the east half went to the Episcopal Corporation of **St. Albert**; most of the west half remained with the **Oblates**;
✚ The Mission District becomes **Rouleauville**;
✚ The Indian school adds staff of two **Sisters of Charity**;
✚ Fr. Leonard Van Tighem OMI becomes responsible for missionary activity in **Fort Macleod** and area including **Lethbridge and Pincher Creek**;
✚ The **Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus [FCJ]**, after being held in captivity by **Louis Riel's forces** at Batoche during the North West Rebellion, **relocate to the new town of Calgary**;
✚ The FCJ found **Sacred Heart Convent** and **St. Mary's Boarding and Day School**.

1885

The **Riel Rebellion** reaches Battleford. The NWMP leave Calgary to help. **Prime Minister John A. Macdonald** gets **Fr. Lacombe** to **intercede with the Blackfoot** with the **calumet** [peace pipe];
✚ **St. Michael the Archangel** parish established at **Pincher Creek**;
✚ **Holy Cross** church at **Fort Macleod**.

1886

The Peigan Reserve builds a **new mission house and school** with 38 students in attendance;
✚ In Calgary the **CPR** makes **gifts** to the Methodist Church, the Church of England, and to the **Roman Catholic Church** at 7th Avenue and Centre St.;
✚ **St. Paul the Apostle at Bocket**.

1887

The OMI establish a **new house** at the Blackfoot Reserve, which includes a **Government Day School**;
✚ **St. Patrick's, Lethbridge**, sandstone church blessed by Fr. Lacombe;
✚ **St. Mary's at Banff**;
✚ **St. Patrick's at Medicine Hat**.

1888

Bishop Grandin invites the **Grey Nuns** to **establish a hospital** in Calgary on land he donates.

1889

A **permanent mission, St. Francis Xavier**, is established for the Blood Nation at **Standoff**;
✚ On December 8th in Calgary the **new Church of Mary Immaculate** opens.

1890

Crowfoot, the father of his people, who had been baptized by Fr. Doucet, **dies**;
✚ Fr. Leduc constructs a **house for the Grey Nuns** who will be coming in 1891 to **open a hospital**;
✚ The FCJ open **St. Aloysius Convent School for girls** in **Lethbridge**.

1891

The **population** of Calgary is **3,876**;
✚ A small **six-bed hospital** opens on the banks of the Elbow River.

1892

The Grey Nuns nurse patients in a **tent hospital** set up outside the city of Calgary for victims of a **smallpox epidemic**.

1893

A **larger hospital, Holy Cross**, opens. Those seeking care are charged **\$1.00 per day**, but no one is refused care;

- ✠ A **hospital** is established at **Standoff by the Oblates** and staffed by four **Grey Nuns** from Nicolet, Quebec;
- ✠ The Grey Nuns establish an **isolation ward** on the unfinished third floor of the new hospital during a **diphtheria epidemic**;
- ✠ **Sacred Heart at Canmore.**

1895

Holy Name of Mary at Cochrane.

1896

The Peigan Reserve transforms the **day school to Sacred Heart boarding school** staffed by three Grey Nuns.

1897

Rev. Emile Legal OMI is consecrated **Bishop Co-adjutor** to Bishop Grandin, whom he will succeed in 1902;

- ✠ The church erected in **Pincher Creek** will be canonically erected in 1911 under the **patronage of St. Michael.**

1898

The **Government** established a **residential school** at Standoff staffed by Nicolet Grey Nuns;

- ✠ Fr. Lebreton OMI builds **Holy Cross Church at Fort Macleod.**

1899

The Government establishes a **Siksika boarding school** at the Catholic Mission at Blackfoot crossing. The school is staffed by four **Sisters of Providence of Montreal** and opens in 1900 with five students;

- ✠ **St. Stephen at Harrisville.**

1901

The **population** of Calgary is **4,091.**

1902

Fr. Salaun establishes a **church at Ouelletteville on Crowfoot Creek**;

- ✠ When the **government of France** begins to close religious houses and **prevent orders from teaching**, many religious communities begin to **send their members to new communities** outside France. Bishop Legal **invites the Filles de Jésus** (Congregation of the Daughters of Jesus) to Canada. Three sisters come to **Calgary** to take charge of the rectory and sacristy at **St. Mary's Mission** (later the Cathedral).

1903

The **Frank Slide disaster**;

- ✠ **St. James the Major, Apostle, at Okotoks**, a mission of High River, then in 1929 of **St. Michael's, Black Diamond.**

1904

The chapel of **St. Gerard of Majella** is established at North Camp near **Namaka**;

- ✠ Three **Filles de Jésus** arrive to work in **Pincher Creek**. They establish a **convent**, open a small **boarding school** for children of **Natives and miners**;

- ✠ **St. Patrick's Church, Midnapore**, is blessed amidst a '*grande assemblee des Catholiques et des Protestants.*'

1905

The **Province of Alberta** is established;

- ✠ **St. Mary's Parish Hall** built;
- ✠ **Guardian Angels [Holy Angels] at Coutts**; parishioners of **Coutts** and their **Sweet Grass, Montana**, neighbours sit on planks resting over kegs and kneel on the floor;
- ✠ **St. Agnes's at Carstairs**;
- ✠ **Holy Ghost** [which will become Holy Spirit] at **Coleman**;
- ✠ **St. Augustine's at Granum**;

1906

The new **Holy Ghost Church at Coleman** is blessed; it has a **bell** named Marie, cast at **Louvain, Belgium**. The parish has **missions**,

but no churches at this time, in all the towns in the Crow's Nest Pass: **Blairmore, Bellevue, Hillcrest, Frank, Lille**;

- ✠ The **first Mass** is said at **St. Bernard's community hall** built around a Canada Cement Company Plant in **Exshaw**;
- ✠ **St. Henry's Church**, mission of Pincher Creek, built at **Twin Butte.**

1907

A certified **Nursing School** opens at **Holy Cross Hospital**;

- ✠ **St. Francis Xavier at Crossfield**;
- ✠ **St. Cecilia at Nanton**; an **Okotoks** mission, later of **Granum**, then **Stavelly (St. Vincent de Paul)**, finally **Claresholm**;
- ✠ Catholics in **Beiseker** have their **first Mass** celebrated in the home of the **first homesteaders**; they will complete a **church** in 1910.

1908

St. George's [though in 1941 referred to as St. Vincent's] at **Claresholm**;

- ✠ **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin at Beiseker**;
- ✠ **St. Francis de Sales, High River**; with a mission at **Brant (Sacred Heart)**;
- ✠ The Oblate Fathers build **St. Victor's Church, Gleichen.**

1909

The **Sisters of Providence** staff the new **Lacombe Home** for orphans and elderly people in **Midnapore**;

- ✠ the **Filles de Jésus** will be in active ministry among the **First Nations** until 1988;
- ✠ The Oblate Fathers ask 60-year-old Fr. Leonard van Tighem to organize a **faith community for European and Euro-Canadian newcomers** in the **Strathmore** area. He himself picks up a hammer and becomes **head carpenter** to build **Sacred Heart Church**. He also ministers to missions in **Rockyford, Langdon** (where he built a chapel for **French-Canadian homesteaders**) and **Akenstadt**, a settlement of around 90 **Dutch Catholics**.



Fr. Albert Lacombe.

Fr. Albert Lacombe

1910

The Parish of **St. Mary's, Calgary**, is canonically erected under the name **Immaculate Conception**;

- ✠ **St Ann's church and school** built in Calgary;
- ✠ **Sacred Heart Church** (recorded as **Corpus Christi** by Bishop Legal in 1913) is built at **Frank**;
- ✠ **St. Augustine's at Taber**;
- ✠ **St. Ann's, at Blairmore**;
- ✠ **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin**, south of **Grassy Lake**;
- ✠ **St. Victor's at Gleichen**.

1911

The **population** of Calgary is **43,704**;

- ✠ **St. Mary's Parish Hall** is sold to the CN to become a terminus;
- ✠ OMI priests from **Twin Butte** serve the mission at **Cowley**, where **St. Joseph's church** will be built in 1927;
- ✠ Forty-five Catholic families in **Granlea** construct a small church, **St. Anthony's**, known variously a 'Windy Ridge' and 'Pleasant View' after past and present post offices, or '**Nine Nine**,' after the township location;
- ✠ A **Missionary of the Sacred Heart** makes an arduous fifty-mile train and wagon trip from Medicine Hat to **celebrate Mass** for the German-speaking **Ukrainian homesteaders in Schuler**, which will become a mission of Medicine Hat, **St. Joseph's**;
- ✠ **Sacred Heart parish** established at Calgary.

1912

The **Sarcee Reserve** builds a small **chapel at St. George's**;

- ✠ Archbishop Legal **invites the Benedictines** to establish a college on the Old Banff Road with Faculties of Arts & Law;
- ✠ On November 30th **St. Mary's** becomes the **Cathedral Church of the new Diocese of Calgary** by decree of **Pope Pius X**; Archbishop Legal is appointed **Administrator** until a new Bishop is named and takes possession;
- ✠ The **Sisters of St. Louis** come to Medicine Hat to establish a hospital and school. [The hospital was never completed.]
- ✠ **St. Benedict Parish** Calgary established [will become **St. Joseph's**];
- ✠ On November 30th the **Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary** is formed;
- ✠ St. Mary's parish purchases the **Pat Burns house** to be the **Bishop's residence** and site of a new cathedral;
- ✠ **Immaculate Conception (St. Mary's)** at **Champion**; it will become a mission of **Vulcan** (1919), of **Picture Butte** (1996), of **Claresholm** (1999);
- ✠ **Our Lady of Lourdes at Warner**;
- ✠ **St. Isidore's at Allerston**; a mission church of **St. Peter's, Milk River**, is named after the patron saint of farmers, because most of the congregation are **Minnesota farmers of German extraction**;
- ✠ **St. Patrick's, Midnapore**, becomes a formal parish;
- ✠ Catholics in the **Whitla** area buy a **grain elevator**, tear it down, move the lumber by oxen and horse to a site where they build **Immaculate Conception church**, a mission of **St. Michael's, Bow Island**;
- ✠ **St. Mary's, Tide Lake**, mission of **St. Patrick's, Medicine Hat**.

1913

St. Patrick's parishioners in **Lethbridge** begin a new church; because of two World Wars it will remain a basement with a concrete slab roof for **39 years**;

- ✠ The **Sarcee Reserve** is served by OMI from **Cluny**, and from 1941-47 by OMI from **Cochrane**;
- ✠ The **OMI donate land and materials** for building a **convent** for the **FCJ** and for **Holy Cross Hospital**;

✠ The Prospectus for the **proposed Benedictine College** is published;

✠ A **Catholic Parish** is generated at **Oyen**; and some **notable firsts** follow: the **first priest ordained** for the Calgary Diocese (Fr. William Dargan), the **first priest ordained in** the Diocese (Fr. William Bowlen), the **first Diocesan priest born** in the Diocese (Fr. Albert Rouileau); all three men serve a vast territory that included **Drumheller** and stretched from **Rockyford to the Saskatchewan border**;

✠ The **Sacred Heart Parish of Oyen** will, over time, include **Bindloss, Cavendish, Buffalo, Acadia Valley, Empress, and Youngstown**;

✠ **John Thomas McNally DD** is named **Bishop of Calgary** and refuses to let the Benedictines solicit funds for the proposed college, but the **Benedictines do not want a day school only**, and therefore do not want to pay for it;

✠ Bishop McNally rearranges the sanctuary and sacristy of the Cathedral and **cancels the purchase of the Pat Burns house**;

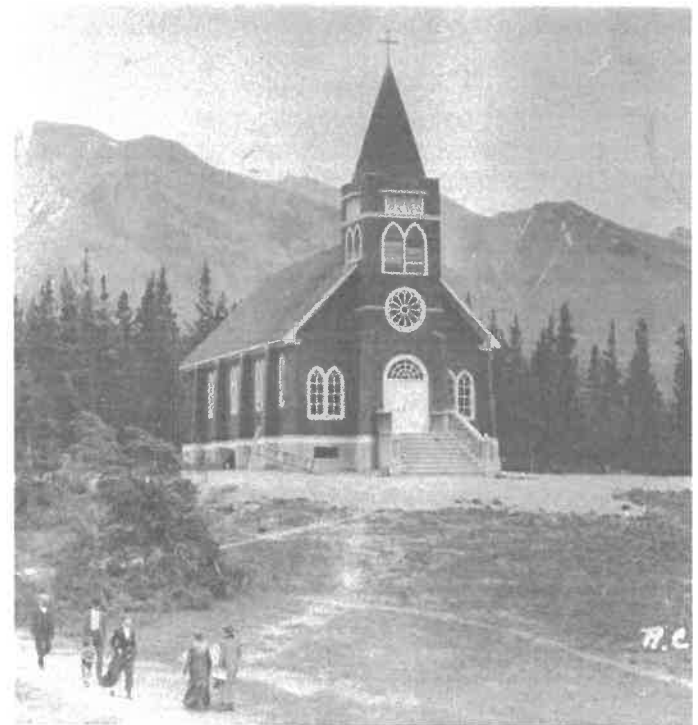
✠ The Bishop considers ways to **end relations** with the **OMI, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, the Tinchey Fathers, Order of St. Mary, the Ursulines de Chavagne, the Soeurs de Notre Dame d'Evron**, and the **English Benedictines**;

✠ **Sacred Heart at Faith** blessed.

Note: From **1840** there had been **rising tensions** between **English-speaking** (mostly of Irish origin) and **French-speaking** Catholics, supposedly united by the **neutral Latin** of the Mass.

Until **1844** the area that was to become the Diocese of Calgary was **part of the Archdiocese of Quebec**, and until **1871**, part of the **ecclesiastical province of Quebec**, it is natural that what **permanent priests** there were could speak **French**.

But as **people from great portions of Europe and North America** poured in, the **percentage of the population who spoke French** was steadily **reduced**. The **Oblates** responded to some



The Bankhead Church at the turn of the twentieth century. In 1927 the Church was moved from its mountain home to Forest Lawn, where it was rededicated under the name Holy Trinity by Bishop Kidd.

extent: in addition to **missionaries** from France, there were **Canadian, Belgian, German, Irish and Polish Oblates** in southern Alberta.

The **linguistic future** of the new diocese was recognized in the choice of **John Thomas McNally** as the **first Bishop**. although he could speak French (and Italian and Latin), he was definitely **English-speaking**, from Prince Edward Island. From the date he took possession (July 27, 1913), he seemed to find fault with nearly everything and everyone. His **dissatisfaction was indiscriminate**: it was not only with **French-speaking congregations** of religious, but also with the **Benedictines from England**. The Bishop did not find fault with the **secular clergy** because there were not any except those **he recruited**.

1914

The **Benedictines leave** the Diocese; St. Benedict's parish is renamed **St. Joseph's**;

✠ **St. Paul the Apostle at Youngstown**;

✠ **St. Cyril of Alexandria at Bellevue**; the new church will be completed in 1915;

✠ **Sacred Heart at Oyen**;

✠ **St. Anthony of Padua at Drumheller**;

✠ The **Hillcrest mine explosion** in the Crow's Nest Pass kills 196 workers, of whom **100 are Roman Catholics**.

1915

Bishop McNally **removes the Oblates** from Sacred Heart parish; Fr. A.J. Hetherington becomes **pastor until his death in 1963**;

✠ The Oblates will continue to administer to **St. Patrick's Lethbridge, St. Michael's Pincher Creek** and **Natives on reserves**, as agreed in Rome in June 1916;

✠ **St. Joseph's** new church Calgary opens;

✠ **St. Peter's at Milk River**;

✠ **St. Vincent de Paul's at Stavely**.

1916

Fr. Lavern OMI will minister to the **Peigan Reserve until 1945**;

✠ The **priests of St. Mary Tinchebray** leave St. Ann parish;

✠ The **first Mass** is celebrated in **Hanna's St. George's Church** completed the previous year; Hanna will eventually serve **missions in Sunnybrook (St. Timothy's), Youngstown (St. Paul's), and Delia (Holy Family)** [Hanna will be in the Archdiocese of Edmonton until 1965 when it will join the Diocese of Calgary.]

✠ Bishop McNally places **St. Patrick's, Medicine Hat**, in the care of diocesan clergy, along with missions at **Redcliff, Whitlaw, Taber and Retlaw**. By 1925 St. Patrick's priests will be serving a mission district bounded by **Empress, Bassano** and the **Saskatchewan and American borders**;

✠ **Fr. Lacombe dies**.

1917

St. Michael's at Bow Island becomes a parish;

✠ **St. Columbanus at Bassano**.

1918

Sts. Peter and Paul, south of **Acadia Valley**;

✠ **St. Rita's at Rockyford**; mission will include **Rosebud (Sacred Heart)**;

✠ **Brooks**, part of a **4,000 square-mile territory**, is served from **Bassano**.

1919

Bishop McNally's former quarters become **St. Mary's College** and a new Bishop's house is obtained in **Rosedale**;

✠ **St. Joseph's at Coalhurst**;

✠ **Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Hospital at Standoff** adds an **obstetrical unit**.

1920

The completed **St. Ann's Church at Blairmore** is blessed by Bishop McNally.

1921

St. Andrew's at Vulcan;

✠ The **Ursuline Sisters of the Chatham Union**, at the invitation of Bishop McNally, establish an independent Calgary Ursuline Foundation in Calgary. They begin **teaching at St. Ann's School** and provide **music lessons**;

✠ **Carbon becomes a mission of St. Rita's, Rockyford**;

✠ **Milk River** becomes a formal parish with **missions in Coutts, Allerston and Warner**.

1922

Holy Cross Hospital expands the **residence for student Nurses**.

1923

The **Calgary Ursulines** open **Villa Angela Convent** and begin teaching in **Holy Angels and Sacred Heart Schools**;

✠ **Redcliff's Catholic residents**, an eclectic mix of **European immigrants, French Canadians and Metis**, buy an old church from the Presbyterian Church, move it to a new site, and convert it into **The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary church**.

1924

Part of the **FCJ convent is razed** for a new wing of Sacred Heart Convent, with the **fourth Our Lady of Peace chapel**;

✠ **Bishop McNally is transferred** to Hamilton, Ontario;

✠ The **Pincher Creek Filles de Jésus** convert the Lebel house into **St. Vincent Hospital** and they will operate it **until** the provincial government takes it over in **1975**.

1925

Most Rev. **John T. Kidd becomes Bishop** with 36 priests and 10 religious caring for 29 parishes;

✠ The Bishop establishes a system of **secular instruction of catechism** for children and adults in **rural districts** with no Catholic schools;

✠ The **Catholic Women's League** is established in a number of



St. Mary's Cathedral erected 1889.

parishes;

✠ The **Confraternity of Christian Doctrine** and a program of summer schools is established and the **CWL Business Women's Unit** will teach **catechism by correspondence** for children in **remote areas** where there are no Catholic schools;

✠ The **Nicolet Grey Nuns** open **St. Mary's School at Cardston**;
✠ **Infant Jesus at Empress.**

1926

Bishop Kidd establishes a **new school north of Cardston**, blesses a **chapel**, and opens a **new Catholic Hospital**;

✠ the OMI and the Government establish a **boarding school** and **St. Paul's chapel** at the Peigan Nation at **Brocket**;

✠ **Rosary Hall** in Calgary provides a **home for Catholic girls** and a **hostel for immigrant girls**;

✠ Bishop Kidd dedicates the **St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Church** in **Hillcrest Mines** which will close in 1963 when the population dwindles;

✠ A small church for **St. Stanislas Kotska** parish in **Burmis** is blessed by Bishop Kidd; it will close in 1967 when the **lumbermill closes**;

✠ **St. Columbanus at Arrowwood**;

✠ **Immaculate Conception** on the **Blood Reserve.**

1927

The **first St. Mary's Boys School** is built;

✠ **Most Holy Trinity**, Calgary parish formed;

✠ A new **larger school** is built by the government **west of Brocket**, administered by the **Oblates**, taught by the **Grey Nuns**;

✠ Bishop Kidd says the **first Mass** in **St. Joseph's Church** in **Cowley**. It will have missions at **Burmis, Beaver Mines, Todd Creek** and other communities;

✠ **St. Gabriel's at Carbon**;

✠ **Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Foremost**;

✠ **Sacred Heart of Jesus at Raymond**;

✠ Bishop Kidd purchases a rectory for **St. Joseph's**, **Coalhurst**, and establishes the area as an **independent parish** with missions at **Diamond City, Shaughnessy, Iron Springs and Picture Butte**;



St. Patrick's Church, Lethbridge.

✠ Bishop Kidd blesses **St. Gabriel's, Etzikom**;

✠ Bishop Kidd carves a **new parish at Empress** from the Brooks area;

✠ **Sacred Heart of Jesus, Patricia**, mission of **St. Mary's, Brooks**. By 1970 so few people live in the area the **church closes.**

1928

Sainte Famille Calgary parish established to serve Calgary's **French-Canadian Community**;

✠ **Camp** opened at **Bragg Creek** for **altar boys and choir boys**;

✠ **St. Bernard at Exshaw**;

✠ **St. Edmund of Canterbury at New Dayton**;

✠ Two missions of **Sacred Heart, Strathmore: St. Ann's at Hussar, St. Philip's at Carseland.**

1929

Bishop Kidd invites the **Redemptorists** to serve **Our Lady of Perpetual Help** (formerly **St. Angela's**) and **Most Holy Trinity** Parishes; As the years pass the parish serves **Ukrainian, Yugoslavian, Hungarian, Irish and English immigrants**. With the dramatic influx of **Italians** in the 50s and 60s it will become known locally as **'the Italian church.'**

✠ Bishop Kidd invites the **Sisters of St. Martha of Antigonish, Nova Scotia**, to **establish hospitals in Lethbridge and Banff**, and to **teach in Lethbridge**;

✠ The **Ursulines** are invited from **Chatham, Ontario**, to establish a convent and help with a **school in Rockyford**;

✠ **St. Michael the Archangel at Black Diamond**;

✠ **St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus at Cardston**;

✠ **Our Lady of Mount Carmel** log church, a mission of **Cardston**, opens at **Waterton National Park.**

1930

Sacred Heart parish Calgary builds a **new church**;

✠ Bishop Kidd blesses the **Church at Waterton Lakes**, under the title of the **Precious Blood [or Our Lady of Carmel]**;

✠ **Our Lady of Perpetual Help [St. Mary's] at Brooks**;

✠ The **Sisters of St. Martha** staff the **Mineral Springs Hospital** in **Banff**;

✠ **Our Lady of Lourdes, Warner**, a mission of **St. Peter's, Milk River**, since 1921, becomes a separate parish;

✠ Bishop Kidd establishes **St. John the Evangelist** parish Calgary encompassing **Hillhurst, Parkdale, Sunnyside, part of North Hill and Bowness**. The **Depression** and **World War II** will delay the building of a church, and the congregation will convene in the **roofed church basement.**

1931

Bishop Kidd is transferred to **London, Ontario**;

✠ The basement of **St. John the Apostle and Evangelist** parish is built (church completed in 1954);

✠ The **new 125-bed St. Michael's Hospital** administered by the **Sisters of St. Martha** opens in **Lethbridge**;

✠ After being designated a **mission of Bow Island** in 1917, **St. Augustine's, Taber**, is again designated an **independent parish** with missions at **Retlaw, Vauxhall and Enchant**;

✠ Calgary's **Hungarian Catholic community** purchased the old Jewish Centre as a place of worship, blessed by the title of **St. Francis of Assisi** [which will remain a mission of **St. Mary's Cathedral** until 1952].

1932

Most Rev. **Peter J. Monahan** becomes **Bishop of Calgary.**

1934

The **Basilians** take charge of **St. Mary's Boys' High School**, and will serve in city and rural parishes;

✠ Voluntary labour builds a mission church of **Pincher Creek: St. Anthony of Padua Church, Beaver Mines**; it will close in the late 1900s;
 ✠ The **Sisters of St. Martha** begin a teaching ministry in **Canmore**;
 ✠ **St. Mary's at Barons**;
 ✠ **St. Jude's**, mission of St. Mary's, Brooks, at **Tilley**;
 ✠ The **Calgary Ursulines** unite with the **Ursulines of the Chatham Union** and transfer their novitiate to Chatham.

1935

Bishop Monahan is transferred to Regina, and Most Rev. **Francis P. Carroll becomes Bishop** of a city of 80,000, about the same number of people as when the Diocese was established in 1912;
 ✠ The **Sisters of St. Martha** open a **School of Nursing at St. Michael's Hospital in Lethbridge**; the Marthas are also **teaching in Lethbridge schools** and at **Picture Butte**;
 ✠ The **Ursulines of the Chatham Union** take up **social work and catechetical work in Drumheller**, an area hard hit by the Depression. They visit **homes and hospitals**. Their only income is from **teaching music lessons**;
 ✠ The **Oblates** undertake a **comprehensive review** of their mission and methods, and review the curriculum in **residential schools** to make education a **more meaningful and rewarding** experience for **Native children**; to reestablish their relationship with Native peoples on a **basis of trust not power**;
 ✠ **St. Ambrose at Coaldale**.

1936

Christ the King at Water Valley.

1937

The **population** of Calgary is **85,726**;

✠ **St. Joseph's at Magrath.**

1938

The old Langdon Church, purchased from the **Parish of Strathmore**, is moved ten miles southeast of **Cluny** and renovated as **St. John the Baptist Church**;

✠ At **Standoff the Blood Reserve**, Bishop Carroll opens a new church named **St. Catherine of Alexandria, Patroness of Kateri Tekakwitha**, the Iroquois woman proposed for canonization;

✠ The **Ursulines** open a kindergarten in **Drumheller** and provide summer vacation schools and Saturday morning **catechesis** in rural areas throughout the Diocese.

1939

St. Ann's parish Blairmore provides a convent for the **Sisters of St. Martha** who start a **kindergarten** and **social service centre** for the towns of **Blairmore, Coleman and Bellevue**;

✠ A new **Church of St. Anthony's** building opens in **Drumheller**;

1941

The **Nicolet Grey Nuns** are officially integrated as a province of the **Sisters of Charity of Montreal**;

✠ **Military chaplains** begin serving armed forces personnel at **Suffield Experimental Station**. In 1950 an **interdenominational chapel in Ralston, St. Albert the Great**, becomes a mission of St. Patrick's, **Medicine Hat**.

1944

St. James the Major, Apostle, at Rolling Hills;

✠ The **Sisters of Providence** take over management of a **creche for orphans** and a **home for unwed mothers** in Calgary;

✠ Bishop Carroll blesses a new **St. Ambrose church at Coaldale**.

1945

Camp Cadicasu is established for the **Calgary Diocese Camp Associates**;

✠ **St. Catherine of Alexandria at Picture Butte**;



St. Martha's Church, Lethbridge.

✠ During the World War II the **Redemptorists** accepted responsibility for the parish of **Claresholm** and the missions of **Nanton, Stavely and Granum**. They also lead many parish missions, retreats and novenas.

1946

Following World War II **St. Mary's Cathedral** parish revives the **parish's Boys' and Men's choirs**.

1948

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin in Bowness.

1949

The **Franciscans** establish a centre for **retreats and conferences in Cochrane**, with care provided by the **Sisters of St. Elizabeth**;

✠ **Sixteen thousand people** converge on **Okotoks** when Fr. Peyton visits St. James' on his **Holy Rosary Crusade**.

1950

On the **Blood Reserve near Glenwood**, Bishop Carroll opens the new **St. Francis Xavier Church**;

✠ At **Brocket** the church is moved and a new rectory built;

✠ New **St. Vincent Hospital** opens in **Pincher Creek**;

✠ The **Ursulines** open a new **St. Joseph's convent** in Calgary.

They will teach in several **schools** and volunteer at the **federal penitentiary and local hospital in Drumheller**;

✠ The **Sisters of Social Service** teach catechism and summer school in communities around **Drumheller**;

✠ The **Franciscans** are active in parish ministry in **Holy Name of Mary Parish** at Cochrane and **Christ the King at Water Valley**;

✠ In the 1950s, priests of **St. Anthony's, Drumheller**, serve missions in the rural hinterland, including: **Newcastle (St. Mary's), Nacmine (St. Philip Neri), Midland, Munson, Rosedale, East Coulee, Wayne, Dorothy, and Carbon (St. Gabriel's)**;

✠ A new **St. Augustine's Church, Taber**, blessed by Bishop Carroll;

✠ A Royal Canadian Air Force **mess hall**, is purchased and moved to Bow Island, where it is **converted to a church** and blessed as **St. Michael's**. Previous churches had suffered **fire damage** in 1936 and 1945.

1951

A new church in **Waterton Lakes** is dedicated to **Our Lady of Mount Carmel**. It will be attached to **Pincher Creek** as a mission in 1968;

✠ The **Sisters of St. Louis** open a residence in Calgary and begin teaching at **St. John's School**;

✠ The **Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood** establish a presence for a **prayer life of adoration and reparation** in Calgary and support themselves by doing **church laundry** and making **altar breads**;

✠ **St. Mary's, Immaculate Conception at Cluny**;

✠ **St. Basil the Great, at Lethbridge**.

✠ **St. Theresa's** mission of St. Ann's, Calgary.

1952

The **Sisters, Servants of Mary Immaculate**, are invited to care for the **Ukrainians in Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish**;

✠ The **Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus** open a **home for the elderly in Medicine Hat**;

✠ **St. Joseph's, Vauxhall**; a mission of various parishes since 1910;

✠ **Our Lady of Perpetual Help [St. Mary's], Brooks**, serves missions in **Bassano, Patricia, Tilley, Lomond, Gem, Rainer** and

Rolling Hills. The parish includes **Lithuanian, Hungarian, Ukrainian and Dutch parishioners.**

1953

At Brocket a **new Catholic Day School** opens.

✠ **St. Anthony of Padua at Calgary;**

✠ **Sacred Heart at Carmangay,** a mission of **St. Joseph's, Coalhurst,** served by the chaplains of **St. Michael's Hospital, Lethbridge;**

✠ Bishop Carroll blesses the **new Sacred Heart Church at Strathmore;**

✠ After the **1948 Soviet takeover of Hungary,** thousands of **Hungarian refugees** immigrate to Canada. The **St. Stephen Society of Calgary's Hungarian Catholics** receives permission to welcome a **Hungarian priest** from one of Germany's **refugee camps.** Through their **St. Elizabeth Society** purchase and renovate an old Alliance Church building at 13th Avenue SW, and establish a **mission chapel of St. Mary's Cathedral Parish,** which becomes **St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Calgary.**

1954

Sacred Heart parish Calgary is subdivided into **Holy Name of Jesus parish, St. James parish** [in 1961], and **St. Michael's parish** [in 1958];

✠ **St. John's Calgary** upper church completed;

✠ **Our Lady of the Assumption, Lethbridge,** created a parish;

✠ **St. Pius X, at Calgary;**

✠ A new and **expanded Nurses residence** is built for **Holy Cross Hospital;**

✠ As the **First Nations** secularize some institutions, the service of the **Grey Nuns at the Blood Hospital** come to an end;

✠ The **Sisters of St. Martha** add a **new wing to St. Michael's Hospital in Lethbridge;**

✠ **St. Edmund's chapel of ease, Medicine Hat,** becomes an independent parish

1955

Construction begins on the **new Cathedral;**

✠ The **Brothers of Lourdes** come to the Diocese to serve the large **Dutch population** that moved here following WWII, especially after the floods in Holland in the early 50s; they provide a **home for adolescent boys** and **teach** in southern Alberta and to support themselves acquire a **dairy farm near Lethbridge;**

✠ The **Pallotine Fathers** arrive to care for the **German people** and provide teachers for schools as well as **pastoral care** for some parishes; The **Society of St. Boniface** is established.

✠ During Bishop Carroll's term **50 new churches** are built;

✠ The **Lacombe Home** expands with the addition of a new boarding school;

✠ **Holy Family Church** established at **Delia;**

✠ **Our Lady Queen of Poland, Calgary;**

✠ A new parish, **Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Calgary.**

1956

St. Bernard's at Calgary, in the care of the **Pallotine Fathers;**

✠ The **Sisters of Providence** open a **new creche** on 4th St. SW and expand the care to **physically challenged children;**

✠ The **Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict** begin teaching at the new **Catholic Assumption School at Oyen;**

✠ The new **St. Mary's church at Beiseker** is blessed and named by Bishop Carroll as the **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary;**

✠ **St. Clare of Assisi, Hays,** and the chapel at **Travers,** become missions of **St. Joseph's, Vauxhall.**

1957

The **population** of Calgary is **206,000+;**

✠ The **new St. Mary's Cathedral** opens on the site of the stone



church of 1889;

✠ The **Ukrainian community** builds a new church under the title of the **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, referred to in the **Byzantine Rite** as the **Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary**;

✠ The **Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate** begin teaching, catechetical and pastoral work in Calgary parishes;

✠ In **Lethbridge** the **Basilian Fathers** take charge of the new **St. Francis High School**, as well as the new **Parish of Our Lady of the Assumption**;

✠ The **Society of Christ for Polish Immigrants** arrives to care for Calgary's Polish community and acquires **St. Stephen's Ukrainian Church at Riverside** for use by the Polish community. The church undergoes extensive renovations and is **rededicated to Our Lady Queen of Peace**;

✠ Responding to the **stresses placed upon the family** by the demands of modern life, the Diocese establishes **Catholic Family Services** to offer a wide range of **professional counseling and support services to Catholic families**;

1958

A new church is built in Calgary for **St. Ann's parish** and a second church begun in 1951, **St. Theresa's**, is complemented with a new rectory;

✠ The **Sisters of St. Martha** open a new facility for **Mineral Springs Hospital in Banff**;

✠ A new **St. Michael's parish** begun from **Holy Name parish** in the **Wildwood** area;

✠ **St. John Bosco**, in **Bragg Creek**;

✠ The **Franciscans** establish a house in downtown Calgary and take charge of **St. Francis of Assisi Parish**.

1959

The **Brothers of Our Lady of Lourdes** in Calgary open **Don Bosco**



House for troubled teenaged boys;

✠ **St. Paul the Apostle** church Calgary opens as a subsidiary chapel to **St. Joseph's Church**;

✠ **Corpus Christi** Calgary parish has its origins with **Mass in St. Lawrence's School**;

✠ **St. Gerard of Majella**, in Little Chicago, and **St. John the Baptist**, in Little Washington, also **St. Joseph, Willardville**, mission, on or near the **Siksika Reserve**;

✠ **St. Leo the Great** church blessed in **Manyberries**.

1960

OMI build a **teepee-shaped new church, The Immaculate Heart of Mary, at Moses Lake on the Blood Reserve**;

✠ The **Canadian Catholic Conference** presents a brief to the **Parliamentary Committee on Indian Affairs**, advocating the development of **self-government for the First Peoples**;

✠ The **Sisters of St. Martha** establish a **Family Service Bureau** in the **Crow's Nest Pass** area and offer **counseling services**;

✠ The **Sisters of St. Louis** open a house in **Lethbridge**;

✠ The **Brothers of Our Lady of Lourdes** establish a house in **Taber** and administer and teach in the **new Catholic school**;

✠ **St. Gerard Majella** parish founded at Calgary;

✠ **St. Edmund's church, Medicine Hat**, is transformed into the hall for a **new Church named Christ the King**;

✠ **Sacred Heart Church**, mission of **St. Michael's, Bow Island**, closes;

✠ Bishop Carroll blesses the **new St. Clare of Assisi church** in **Hays**.

1961

Immaculate Heart at the Blood Reserve;

✠ The **first Mass** is said in the **new St. Anthony's Church**, Calgary;

✠ **Masses at St. Raymond's School** eventually lead to the opening of **St. James the Greater church** and parish serving **Altadore, Lincoln Park and Lakeview** in Calgary;

✠ **Fr. Patrick O'Byrne**, working closely with **Jewish rabbis** and clergy from both **Christian and non-Christian denominations**, helps incorporate the **Calgary Welcome and Friendship Centre** in the **inner-city** to meet peoples' needs. Today it is the **Calgary Drop-in Centre**.

1962

The **Pallotines** provide teachers for the **new St. Francis High School** in Calgary NW;

✠ The **Diocesan Jubilee gift to the Sarcee Reserve**, with the OMI brokering the labor, is a **new Our Lady of Peace church**;

✠ **St. Boniface, Apostle of Germany** [1960], new church completed at Calgary;

✠ **St. Mary's (Immaculate Conception) at Medicine Hat**;

✠ **Our Lady Queen of Peace Polish Church** at Calgary acquires **property for a new Church**;

✠ **St. George's, Claresholm**, is demolished and replaced with the **new Christ the King Church**;

Priests with Bishop Carroll, on retreat at Mount St. Francis Retreat Centre, Cochrane (circa 1950). Seated l. to r.: Rev. A.J. MacGillivray, Rev. H.F. Ritter, Rt. Rev. N.R. Anderson, Rt. Rev. A.J. Hetherington, Most Rev. F.P. Carroll, Rev. G. Ehman CSsR-Retreat Master, Rev. E.J. McCoy, Most Rev. M.A. Harrington, Unknown; standing l. to r.: Rev. D.T. Sullivan, Rev. L. Malo, Rev. J. O'Brien, Rev. I. Lever, Rev. R. Sullivan, Rev. A. Hamilton, Rev. F. McKay, Rev. W. Kręwski, Rev. M. McGreevy, Rev. N. Lebel, Rev. G. Violini, Rev. Paul O'Byrne, Rev. A.E. Rouleau, Rev. A.E. Tenant, Rev. F. Mongeau, Rev. E. Mulvill, Rev. S. Molnar, Rev. H.J. Doiron, Rev. R. McGuinness, Rev. J.A. Cunningham.



St. Patrick's Church, Medicine Hat, 1887, when still part of the North West Territory.

✠ **St. Ann's parish, Calgary, sells St. Theresa's mission church and builds St. Bernadette's mission, SE, which will become an independent parish in 1968.**

1963

Reverend **Marvin Fox, OMI, becomes the first Treaty Indian ordained a priest in Alberta, and perhaps Canada, at the parish Church of the Immaculate Conception;**

✠ Most Rev. **Joseph L. Wilhelm becomes Auxiliary Bishop** and serves as **Vicar General** and pastor of St. Anthony's Parish;

✠ Bishop Wilhelm represents the Diocese at the 1963, 1964, and 1965 sessions of **Vatican Council II;**

✠ In 1965-6 **eight new churches** are built, six new schools, **Newman House, and a parish centre at St. Mary's in Banff;**

✠ **Our Lady of Assumption** parish Calgary opens a new church;

✠ **St. Elizabeth of Hungary** church becomes a parish;

✠ **St. M. Bernadette Soubirous** Parish church Calgary opens to serve **Lynnwood, Millican, Valleyfield, Ogden, Crestwood and South Hill** districts;

✠ **St. Cecilia's, Calgary, to serve Fairview South, Acadia, Willow Park and Maple Ridge;**

✠ A new **St. Francis Xavier** church blessed by Bishop Carroll at **Crossfield;**

✠ New church for **St. Pius X, Calgary, an unusual circular design, the prototype for many later places of worship;**

✠ Bishop Carroll blesses the new **Most Holy Trinity Church, Calgary, with its shell-shaped roof structure and semi-circular shape which manifest the profound liturgical changes** flowing from **Vatican II.**

1964

St. Clement's School leads to the founding of **St. Clement's Parish** Calgary;

✠ **St. Luke's at Calgary, formed from part of St. Pius X;**

✠ A new **St. Agnes Church, Carstairs, opens;**

✠ A new wing to **St. Michael's Hospital in Lethbridge** increases its capacity to **205 beds;**

✠ The **Sisters of St. Benedict** open a **convent in St. Cecilia's Parish, Calgary, and teach at St. Cecilia's and St. Mathew's schools;**

✠ In anticipation of staffing a **possible denominational college, the Basilians** are assigned to **St. Pius X parish adjacent to the new University of Calgary, where they become chaplains.**

1965

St. Bernadette's Church and Parish Hall Calgary open;

✠ **Holy Cross Hospital** is rebuilt and **expanded to a capacity of 500 to 600 beds;**

✠ The **Lacombe Home** is sold to the **FCJ** and the elderly residents move into a **modern new facility** just east of the old home;

✠ **Following Vatican II, the Church accepts openness and diversity and rejects past missionary practices** that aimed at **acculturation and uniformity.** Missionaries are now encouraged to proclaim the Gospel from the **perspective of the culture and history of indigenous people;**

✠ The **Brothers of Our Lady of Lourdes** establish a second home in Calgary: **Dominic Savio House;**

✠ In **Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, Vatican II** calls upon "the whole of humanity" to "**scrutinize the signs of the times in the light of the Gospel,**" to assure that all humanity has an **equal right to a just social, economic and political society.**";

✠ The **Canadian bishops** join with labor and other churches to **promote medicare.**

1966

Bishop Wilhelm is named **Archbishop of Kingston, Ontario;**

✠ The former St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church becomes **St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church for Italian Calgarians;**

✠ The **FCJ** acquire the old Lacombe home and property and operate a **school** on the site as well as turn the original Lacombe Home into a **boarding house;**

✠ The **Sisters of Providence** open a **day school and nursery** on 4th St. SW;

✠ The **Sisters of St. Louis** open a second convent in Calgary, and provide **catechetical instruction in rural areas** across the Diocese. Since Vatican II the Sisters are serving in **nursing, social work, chaplaincy, pastoral care, counseling, spiritual direction, parish ministry and the Marriage Tribunal;**

✠ The **Brothers of Our Lady of Lourdes** establish a **larger boys' home** and brothers residence on Fairmont Drive in Calgary;

✠ **Picture Butte's mission at Shaughnessy, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, closes;**

✠ A **Roman Catholic chaplain** appointed to organize and guide a **faith community** of students, staff and faculty of the **University of Calgary;**

✠ The resignation of Bishop Carroll accepted by the Pope on December 28.

1967

Bishop Carroll dies.

✠ Most Rev. **Francis Joseph Klein** becomes **Bishop but dies nine months after his installation;**

✠ Nonetheless Bishop Klein instituted the **Senate of Priests** as recommended by Vatican II; **opened a Liturgical Commission** office; fully staffed the **Diocesan Catechetical Office;** established **Canadian Martyrs** parish; changed the Catholic Charities Office to the **Diocesan Council of Social Agencies;**

✠ Rev. **Paul O'Byrne** becomes the **first chair of the Senate of Priests;**

- ✚ The **Oblates**, lacking sufficient personnel, ask to be relieved after **80 years of service to Pincher Creek**;
- ✚ The **Sisters of the Holy Cross** come to assist in faith development through the new **Religious Education Centre**, and introduce the **“Come to Father”** catechism to children throughout the Diocese;
- ✚ The **Canadian Bishops** create an autonomous organization: the **Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace** to support small and large self-help projects in **Third World countries** and to do **development education** in Canada. The bishops enunciate **two principles**: “No account would be taken of third world peoples **religious belief or ideologies**” and **“Administrative costs** of the Organization would be **limited to ten percent** of the funds collected.” The Diocese supports CCODP with a **Share Lent program** of collections and a **boycott of South African good, products, multinational corporations, and Canadian banks operating in South Africa**;
- ✚ The new **St. Bernard’s Church** in **Exshaw** is blessed. Sunday Masses also cover the people of **Seebe and Kananaskis**;
- ✚ The new church blessed for **St. Gerard’s, Calgary**;
- ✚ **Calgary’s Croatian Community** gathers at Sacred Heart Convent to celebrate their **first Mass as a formally recognized Croatian Catholic Mission**.

1968

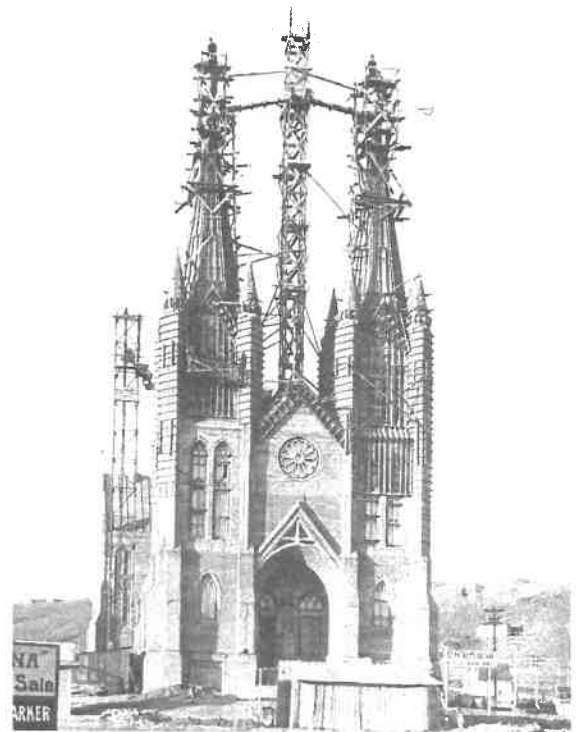
Most Rev. **Paul J. O’Byrne** becomes the **first bishop in North America** in recent times to be **chosen after public consultation with the clergy** of the Diocese;

- ✚ The **Providence Child Development Society** is formed;
- ✚ The **Dominican Sisters of Poland** arrive to work at the Polish Parish of **Our Lady Queen of Peace** in Calgary, where they will teach a **Polish Saturday School** [to be known later as **John Paul II School**];
- ✚ **Corpus Christi** church completed, Calgary NW;
- ✚ **St. Cecilia’s** at Calgary;
- ✚ New church dedicated at **St. Luke’s, Calgary**;
- ✚ The direction of the Catholic Welfare Council changes; it is renamed **The Council of Social Affairs**, and works at the ecumenical level with the **Calgary Inter-Faith Community Action Committee**. **CIFCAC** will lead to the establishment of the **Pastoral Institute, Carter Place**, and expansion of the **religious studies** program and library holdings at the University of Calgary;
- ✚ There are **113,583 Roman Catholics** in the Diocese, served by **132 churches (nearly half missions)** and **150 priests, 262 women religious, and 79 schools with 22,959 students**;
- ✚ The **Catholic charismatic movement** introduced to Calgary through a prayer group at **St. Gerard’s Parish**;
- ✚ The **Sisters of Providence of Kingston** at **St. Michael’s, Pincher Creek**;
- ✚ **St. James’, Okotoks**, restored as Parish with **St. Michael’s, Black Diamond** as mission [see 1903];
- ✚ **Immaculate Conception at Whittle**, a mission of St. Michael’s, Bow Island, closes.

1969

A second **Ukrainian parish, St. Stephen, the Protomartyr** (part of the Eparchy of Edmonton), opens for the southern part of the city;

- ✚ The **provincial government purchases the Holy Cross Hospital** for five million dollars;
- ✚ The **Grey Nuns** withdraw from **Brocket** after **69 years** of service;
- ✚ Bishop O’Byrne invites **The Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritans)** to the Diocese where they will serve mostly in rural parishes, including **Raymond, the Crowsnest Pass, Banff, Vulcan, Strathmore, Fort Macleod, Beiseker and Vauxhall** as well as **Our Lady of Perpetual Help** in Calgary;



Building the new St. Patrick’s Church, Medicine Hat, 1913, designated a National Historic Site in 1996.

- ✚ The Bishop institutes a **Diocesan Pastoral Council** to involve **lay persons** in determining the **priorities of the Diocese** and its future direction;
- ✚ Bishop O’Byrne becomes the **first Roman Catholic Bishop** in Canada to **preach in an Anglican Cathedral** at a special **ecumenical service** for the University of Calgary’s spring convocation;
- ✚ **St. Ann’s, St. Cyril’s and Holy Spirit Parishes** are amalgamated in a new canonical entity: **Roman Catholic Parish of the Crowsnest Pass**;
- ✚ The new **Canadian Martyrs Church** Calgary blessed.

1970

The former **Queen of Poland Church** becomes the church of the **Croatian Catholics** in Calgary;

- ✚ Bishop O’Byrne establishes a more **permanent mission** for the **Portuguese people**;
- ✚ The **Sisters of St. Martha** open the **Martha Retreat Centre** in **Lethbridge** to provide a peaceful location for study, reflection, and spiritual enrichment;
- ✚ A new **Holy Angels’** church blessed at **Coutts**;
- ✚ **Picture Butte’s mission at Iron Springs, Our Lady of Mercy**, closes;
- ✚ At **St. Mary’s, Medicine Hat**, the **Sisters of Charity of St. Louis** organize youth retreats, support the Medicine Hat Women’s Shelter, the Food Bank, the local soup kitchen, ‘Unisphere’ and ‘Education for Justice,’ among other ministries.

1971

The **Sisters of Providence** work for the **Inner City Project Society**, as pastoral assistants, and on the **Tsuu T’ina Reserve**;

- ✚ The **Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood** build a new **monastery**, and in subsequent years an **anonymous donor** will leave large sums of money at the front doors to enable the Sisters to **repair the facility** without incurring debt;
- ✚ The **Ursuline Sisters of Prelate**, Saskatchewan answer an invitation from Bishop O’Byrne to establish a **house in Medicine**

Hat, where they teach at **St. Patrick's Elementary** and **McCoy High School** and minister to **St. Patrick's Parish**;

✚ The **Oblate Conference of Canada** advocates the establishment of an **indigenous church** reflecting the **needs, culture and unique charism of the Native population** through the training and formation of religious leaders among the Natives themselves. Throughout the 70s and 80s the Oblates will conduct **workshops, seminars and conferences** to further the **formation of a truly indigenous church**;

✚ The **Cursillo movement** is introduced to the Diocese and will play an important role in the **spread of the charismatic movement**.

1972

The **Brothers of Our Lady of Lourdes** are instrumental in establishing a **home and treatment for autistic Children, Margaret House**;

✚ The Diocese of Calgary responds when the **Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops** asks that **social justice offices and programs** be instituted across the country;

✚ **St. Paul The Apostle** becomes a formal Roman Catholic parish in **Airdrie**;

✚ The Cardston Mission of **St. John ViAnny, Whisky Gap**, closes;

✚ At Standoff **Bishop O'Byrne is named Sitting Above**, honorary Chief of the **Kainai Nation**. He blesses the new **White Calf Hall** named in honor of an assistant to **Chief Red Crow**;

✚ A new **St. Michael's** church opens in **Bow Island**.

1973

Bishop O'Byrne asks the **FCJ** to **replace the Sisters of St. Benedict** who taught at **Assumption school in Oyen**, also to serve in the surrounding communities of **Youngston, Cereal, and Acadia Valley**;

✚ The old **St. Mary's Church in Acadia Valley** hosts its final Mass;

✚ **St. Mark's, Marlborough**, Calgary, established in a succession of homes: **basement** of Most Holy Trinity, **Marlborough Community Hall**, **Chris Akkerman School**, **St. Marks School**.

1974

The **Sisters of Social Service** begin social and pastoral ministry at **St. Elizabeth of Hungary** parish in Calgary;

✚ The Diocese of Calgary and the **Mission Council** establish a **partnership** with the **Diocese of Chikwawa** in the south-central African nation of **Malawi**. Bishop O'Byrne invites the **Spiritans** to go to Malawi as a tangible expression of our **solidarity** with the church and people of that country. Two Spiritan Fathers, and two Diocesan priests, go to **promote justice and liberation** among the poor and marginalized of Malawi. The Spiritans also create a **Lay Spiritan Association** to enable lay people to share in their **work for the poor and disempowered**;

✚ The **University of Calgary** awards an **honorary degree** to **Fr. Patrick O'Byrne** for his services to the community and the province as a **committed ecumenist**;

✚ The **Diocesan Pastoral Council** is established to provide a means of **long term planning** and **lay input into administration** of the Diocese;

✚ **St. Francis of Assisi** parish, Calgary, joins with the **Anglican Cathedral Church of the Redeemer** and the **Alberta Housing Corporation** to construct four **senior citizen residences: Carter Place, George C. King Tower, Murdoch Manor and Edwards Place**. The **Sisters of Providence** will serve the Catholic residents and also elderly people at nearby **Baker House and Rocky Mountain Plaza**;

✚ A segment of **St. Gerard's Parish** is transformed into **Holy Spirit** faith community for **Braeside, Palliser, Bayview and Oakridge**;

✚ **St. Gerard's**, Calgary, extends boundaries to include **Canyon Meadows**, and **St. Bonaventure** community becomes an independent parish.

1975

Sisters of the Holy Cross enter into service on the **Diocesan Mission Council, the Father Latour Native Pastoral Centre, the Pare Labrecque Society** and in Catholic schools;

1976

The Diocese designates the **Korean Catholic Community** as a formal parish dedicated to **St. Andrew Kim**.

1977

St. Peter's, west of Sarcee Trail NW, is formed. Most of the families thrive in **Ranchlands and Silver Springs**; the rest of parish is still populated largely by **'gophers, cattle and horses**;

✚ The completed **St. Mark's and Holy Spirit** churches, Calgary, dedicated.

1978

Sisters of Social Service begin working in Calgary parishes, including **Sacred Heart, Holy Name, St. Mary's Cathedral and St. Bonaventure**;

✚ The **Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul (Kingston)** open **Immaculate Heart Prayer Centre** in Calgary, and provide ministry for **St. Luke's Parish**;

✚ More than 600 **charismatics** attend a renewal conference hosted by **Lethbridge's People of Praise** prayer group;

✚ **St. Augustine's, Taber**, mission since 1959 at **Wrentham, St. Thomas Aquinas**, closes due to dwindling population; **St. Cyril and St. Methodius** mission at **Cranford** since 1962, closes.

1979

The **Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul** minister to **St. Michael's Parish** and **open Kermaria Retreat Centre**;

✚ **St. Thomas More** parish formally erected to serve **Whitehorn, Temple and Falconridge** subdivisions of Calgary;

✚ In the late 70s **Sacred Heart Calgary** parishioners join forces with **Scarboro United Church** to build a **senior citizens' residence, Bankview House**.

1980

The **FCJ Christian Life Centre** opens to provide a wide range of programs in **spirituality, family life, social justice, youth leadership and pastoral ministry** to people of all ages;

✚ The **Filles de Jésus** close their **Pincher Creek** house and move to Calgary to do pastoral work at **St. Thomas More, St. Patrick's** and the **Lacombe Nursing Home**;

✚ The **Congregation of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary** begin teaching in the **Separate School System** in Calgary, to minister at the **Pastoral Health Centre** and the **Drop-In-Centre**, and to do pastoral work at **St. Famille Parish**. They will also serve in the **Father Latour Native Pastoral Center, the Diocesan Mission Council, the Catholic Chinese Community and Day Care Centers**, on the **Diocesan Tribunal**, and the **Spanish Catholic Community of Calgary**;

✚ The **Calgary Catholic Immigration Society** opens **Cabrini House** to provide temporary **housing to immigrants and refugees**;

✚ Because of the **vastness** of the region **Oyen** is responsible for, **Youngstown** is returned to the care of **Hanna and St. Mary's [Our Lady of Perpetual Help] Brooks** will take care of that portion of **St. George's Parish, Hanna**, south of **Pollockville**;

✚ Forty-one **Kanai Nation** members of the parish at Standoff make a **pilgrimage to Rome** for the beatification of **Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha**;

✚ **St. Luke's**, Calgary, erects a **non-denominational, government-subsidized senior citizen's apartment, Carroll Place**. As a number of other parishes did, it forms a **Social Justice Ministry** to help bring **Vietnamese 'boat people'** to Canada;



The present St. Mary's Cathedral consecrated in 1957.

✠ **Non-Profit Inter-Faith Thrift Stores** are established in **Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Blairmore and Claresholm.**

1981

The **Missionaries of St. Charles, (Scalabrini Fathers)** are invited to minister to the **Italian community of St. Andrew's Parish** in Calgary;

✠ The **Diocese of Calgary** and a group of **Catholic educators and business people** form a committee to prepare a proposal for an affiliated **Catholic college at the University of Calgary;**

✠ The Diocese joins with the **Evangelical Lutheran Church** to establish the **Sandstone Ecumenical Centre**, housing both the **Catholic parish of the Ascension and the Lutheran congregation of the Redeemer;**

✠ **Holy Redeemer** parish is organized in SE Calgary for **Dover, Dovern and Erinwoods** areas;

✠ A new church is built in **Brocket;**

✠ **St. Michael's, Pincher Creek Knights of Columbus** restore Fr. Lacombe's **hermitage;**

✠ **Our Lady of Perpetual Help** church in **Foremost** is ravaged by **fire** and during its repair, **Foremost's United Church** congregation provides a **temporary place of worship;**

✠ Bishop O'Byrne forms a **Chinese Catholic faith community** in Calgary;

✠ Bishop O'Byrne and visiting Cardinal Seper bless a new church, **Our Lady of Mount Bistrice**, for the **Croatian Catholic Community**, in **Deer Ridge, Calgary.**

1982

Between 1979 and 1982 Canada accepted more than **60,000 refugees from south-east Asia**, nearly a quarter of whom settle in Alberta, many near Calgary. To serve the needs of these people, Bishop O'Byrne invites the **Order of Preachers (St. Vincent Liem's Dominican Vicariate)** to establish a house in Calgary, and he

establishes a **south Asian congregation at St. Ann's Church;**
✠ Work begins on the new **St. Patrick's Church** on Shawnessy Boulevard;

✠ Bishop O'Byrne forms the **Social Justice Commission of 12 people** from across the Diocese to consider **issues at the local, national and international levels** and formulate reaction to them in light of the teaching church;

✠ Bishop O'Byrne commissions a **program to prepare lay persons in pastoral care;**

✠ **St. Michael's, Bow Island**, amalgamates with **Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Foremost**, under a single priest;

✠ The inaugural liturgy for the new **Ascension parish**, Calgary, held in the gymnasium of **St. Bede Elementary School;**

✠ The new **St. Bonaventure** church, Calgary, opens, but rapid growth will necessitate an **extra Mass at Our Lady of Mount Bistrice Church in Deer Run** in 1985 until 1997.

1983

The **Canadian Bishops** publish "**Ethical Reflections on the Economic Crisis**";

✠ The **Council of Social Affairs** under Fr. Jack Bastigal, operating under the "**preferential option for the poor,**" focus not only on **action for social justice**, but on the very real daily needs of the poor, by **fostering the idea of a Food Bank**, which opens and is administered by CIFCAA;

✠ In cooperation with a **Franciscan Friar**, the staff and **Social Justice committee** design and coordinate the **first outdoor Way of the Cross on Good Friday.** It continues to this day;

✠ The **Council of Social Affairs** establishes the **Diocesan Communications Department** which produces a weekly **half-hour program** investigating timely **social and spiritual issues**, *The Searchers*, on CFCN-TV for two seasons;

✠ An **Inter-Faith Thrift Furniture Store** opens in Calgary;

✠ A representative **group of lay people** report to Bishop O'Byrne that "**many, possibly a majority of women** in the Calgary Diocese, do not view themselves as oppressed," but nonetheless many women **feel "neither accepted nor encouraged** to fully serve our church with their giftedness." The **group recommends** that "structures be developed on diocesan and parish levels to **ensure that all women have equal access to and full participation in the roles of leadership, service and authority** in the life of the church;"

✠ The Bishop establishes a **Diocesan Life Commission** to provide advice on life issues and to organize an annual **Respect Life Sunday;**

✠ **St. James, Okotoks**, opens a new church.

1984

The **Grey Nuns** open the **Youville Memorial Residence** for women in south-west Calgary;

✠ **St. Andrew's and St. Clement's** parishes merge to complete **Our Lady of Grace Italian and English Church** in 1985;

✠ **Pope John Paul II spends 12 days in Canada** and lends support to the **social justice issues** of the Diocese;

✠ **St. Peter's**, Calgary, replaces their '**portable church**' with a church resembling the **barque of St. Peter.** The Parish will face expansion as the following areas of development around it include **Hawkwood, Scenic Acres, Citadel, Arbour Lake, Tuscany, Royal Oak and Rocky Ridge;**

✠ After worshipping for many years in other churches, the **Calgary Portuguese Community** has its own **Our Lady of Fatima Church** blessed.

1985

St. Martha's Parish, Lethbridge, named after "the Sisters of St. Martha, who have for years **given of themselves to serving the**



Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Calgary, whose architectural elements evoke images of both the congregation's First Nations' heritage and their new homeland with the cross facing east toward their Polish Motherland.

people of Lethbridge;"

✠ **Vietnamese Catholics** in Calgary move from **St. Ann's Church** to the former Italian church, **St. Andrew's**, which is renamed **Blessed Vincent Liem**;

✠ The **social justice people in Lethbridge** incorporate the **Local Enterprise Trust Association** to foster local initiative and self-reliance through **community cooperation**;

✠ The **Calgary Separate School District** celebrates the centennial of its establishment;

✠ The **Religious Education Office** and the **FCJ Christian Life Centre** institute the **Together Enabling Adults for Ministry** program to **train and equip lay persons** for ministry in the Church;

✠ **St. Paul's, Airdrie**, opens its new church;

✠ **Holy Redeemer** (formerly the ATCO trailers of the temporary St. Peter's) and **St. Thomas More**, Calgary, churches blessed;

✠ **St. Anthony's**, Calgary, assumes **administration of Anthonian Court**, a seniors' residence built on parish property.

1986

The **St. Mary's College Act** is passed by the Alberta Legislature and given **royal assent** on September 18th;

✠ A **justice and peace group** of representatives of **Presbyterian, Lutheran, United, Roman Catholic and Anglican churches (PLURA)** forms to **share information, promote and support the work of members' churches**, and generally enjoy the **fellowship** of like-minded people. It soon expands to include **Quaker, Mennonite, Christian Reformed and Salvation Army** representatives;

✠ The **Catholic Charismatic Renewal Society** opens a **Renewal Centre**.

1987

The **Providence Prayer and Hospitality House** opens its doors;

✠ The **Sister Announcers of the Lord** respond to an invitation from Calgary's **Chinese community** and establish a house. Bishop Dominic Tang of Canton, China, blesses the convent and the **Little Flower Day Home** to care for ethnic Chinese families;

✠ Over a period of years the **Social Justice staff**, working with the **Calgary Catholic School Board**, undertakes **three projects**: 1) they bring a team from the **Justice/Peace Education Council** in

Washington, D.C., to instruct teachers on methods of **educating for peace and justice** within the existing curriculum; 2) they **encourage school children to become involved** in *Tools for Peace* to support the **people of Nicaragua**; and 3) hold **workshops** for students and teachers in the **five high schools** in the district;

✠ **St. Ann's, Strathmore**, closes **St. Philip's mission, Carseland**.

1988

The **Filles de Jésus** begin pastoral care in **Carstairs**;

✠ Over a period of eight years the **Social Justice Office** organized a two-week experiential trip to the **Cuernavaca Centre for International Dialogue on Development**, to provide adults, teachers and students with a **deeper understanding** of the situation in developing countries;

✠ **Holy Spirit, Calgary**, new church blessed.

1989

The **Social Justice Office** addresses local issues: **support for unemployed persons on an interchurch basis**, Native peoples (**land claims, racism, unemployment, education**), Catholic immigrants problems of **language training** and institution of **just immigration policies**, Alberta's **Lord's Day Act**;

✠ The Bishop, finding the **United Way** "in conflict with **Catholic values**," withdraws the Diocese from its annual campaign. The Diocese **creates Catholic Charities** to collect and distribute funds to agencies and organizations which **uphold Catholic values**;

✠ **St. Joseph's Parish** sells St. Paul's Chapel of Ease to Calgary's **Chinese Catholic Community**;

✠ The **Franciscans** relinquish **St. Francis Parish**, Calgary, which is entrusted to the **Vietnamese Dominican Fathers**.

1990

The **Family Resource Centre** expands its offerings by offering **Retrouaille weekends** to help **heal and renew troubled marriages**.

✠ Each Sunday **St. Mary's Cathedral parish hall** becomes a dining room for **hundreds of Calgary's homeless** and also the hall serves as a **Catholic Charities' 'Community Kitchen'** where single parents, disabled people and seniors living alone can join forces and at nominal cost, produce **nutritious meals** in large quantities;

✠ The **last Ursuline Sister** leaves **Drumheller**, and parishioners mourn the end of "a **rich heritage of service** to the valley and surrounding area,"

✠ Sr. Rose-Ann Engel of the **Ursulines of Prelate** serves as **Diocesan Chancellor and Director of Adult Religious Education** in the 90s;

✠ The Bishop convokes the **Diocese's first Synod** with "**Our Place in God's Family**," as the **Synod Theme**. More than 3,000 parishioners and some 600 youth participate and establish **seven commissions** dealing with **personal faith, the family, the parish, the Diocese, the universal Church, education and youth**.

1991

The president of the **Oblate Conference of Canada** apologizes to the **Native community** for the **damage caused by the residential schools** and the pain caused by the actions of some priests in the past. The **Oblates commit themselves to working for healing and reconciliation** within the **Native communities** and between Natives and the Church;

✠ The **Board of Governors of St. Mary's College** establishes an office in Calgary;

✠ The **Social Justice Commission** is **dissolved** shortly before the **Social Justice Office** is closed;

✠ The **Lay Ministry** of the Diocese offers **courses in bereavement and palliative care**;

✚ More than 200 **conservative Catholics** in Calgary petition the Bishop to authorize a **traditional Tridentine Latin Mass**. The Bishop authorizes a **monthly celebration** at St. Ann's Church;
 ✚ **High River's Sacred Heart** mission at **Brant** closes;
 ✚ After **vandals loot St. Anthony's church in Granlea**, it is closed.

1992

132 voting delegates at the formal **Synod pass 112 of 113 recommendations**;

✚ **St. Ann's** mission at **Hussar** is attached to Strathmore;

✚ **St. Joseph's, Magrath**, has a Mass of Closure.

1993

St. Mary's College appoints **Dr. John Thompson**, president of St. Thomas More College, Saskatoon, as **Acting President**, with **Yolande Gagnon** as **Chair of the Board of Governors**;

✚ The **Progressive Conservative government** of Premier Ralph Klein proposes in **Bill 19** to amend the **School Act** to give the province full responsibility for collecting and distributing taxes for the school boards through a **new Alberta School Foundation fund**.

Many Catholics **view these changes as an assault on the separate school system** and a threat to the integrity and autonomy of **Catholic Boards of Education**;

✚ The Diocese launches an **Annual Bishop's Appeal** to raise funds to support **Catholic Charities** and other causes.

✚ **Tridentine rite** celebrations of the **Mass begin in St. Anthony's**, Calgary;

✚ **Fire** devastates **St. Peter's Church Milk River** for the second time (1928). The rebuilt church will incorporate **liturgically significant architectural features** and a stained-glass image of **Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha**;

✚ **St. Luke's Parish**, Calgary, introduces '**Small Church Communities**,' based on the conviction that individuals can best **explore their faith, help others and gain a sense of belonging** in intimate group settings;

✚ Plans begin for a new church in **Medicine Hat** to incorporate **St. Joseph's, Schuler; Christ the King, St. Mary's and St. Paul's**.

1994

In April more than **7,000 Catholics** attend a demonstration organized by the **Coalition to Save Catholic Education** at the **Stampede Corral** in Calgary. They **succeed in persuading the government to amend Bill 19** to acknowledge Catholic rights and concerns;

✚ The **Minister of Education** announces that **Catholic School Boards can not compel students to attend religion classes**;

✚ **St. Mary's College** offers courses in **religious education to teachers** seeking professional development and to education students seeking to teach in the **Catholic school system**. Any further **attempts to affiliate with the University of Calgary are dropped**, and the Board resolves that St. Mary's should become a **free-standing, private college**, offering a **two-year transfer program** and working toward degree-granting status;

✚ The **Board of Governors of SMC** reaffirms its decision that St. Mary's should be a Catholic college, but a **Catholic college open to all**. It should also be first and foremost a liberal arts and sciences college committed to the **synthesis of faith and reason**;

✚ A new church built in **Brocket**; a **Holy Family Shrine** erected;

✚ Regular church services end at **St. Edmund's Church, New Dayton**;

✚ **St. Martha's** new church opens in **Lethbridge**.

1995

The **Siksika Catholic community** revives the traditional procession and **celebration of Corpus Christi**; they also incorporate the **Blackfoot language** into the **music and readings** of the Sunday



Ursuline Sisters in Calgary in 1921: l to r, Sr. Regina; Rev. Mother Angela, Foundress of the Calgary Ursulines; Mother M. Clare of Chatham; Rev. Mother Mary of the Angels, Co-foundress; Sr. Regina; in front, Miss Eva Pleasance, Postulant.

Mass; **Holy Trinity Parish** assumes an active role in the new diocesan board known as the **Kateri Pastoral Council** which is tailored to the **needs of Native Albertan Catholics**;

✚ **FCJ** from around the world meet in Calgary to discuss their **missions for the coming millenium**;

✚ The **Sisters of St. Louis** found **Elizabeth House**, a home for **pregnant and parenting teens**;

✚ Responding to a resolution of the **Calgary Diocesan Synod**, Bishop O'Byrne reopens the **Social Justice Office**;

✚ **Regnum Christi**, a lay movement associated with the **Legionnaires of Christ**, found **Clear Water Academy**, a private school dedicated to academic excellence and "**authentic Catholic spiritual development**;"

✚ On the first anniversary of the Synod the Diocese establishes a **Family Resource Centre, A Youth Commission, an office of Adult Religious Education, a Social Action Office and a spiritual direction committee**;

✚ The Diocese moves the **Carbon Mission** attached to **Beiseker** to **Drumheller**, and twins **St. Mary's, Beiseker** with **St. Rita's, Rockyford**;

✚ After **Manyberries' last practicing Catholic** moves, **St. Leo the Great** closes. The **Onefour Mass Station** closes;

✚ **St. Anthony's**, Calgary, welcomes the **Latin Mass Community**, which eventually will be served by priests of the **Fraternity of St. Peter**. The Tridentine Rite members, **full members of the parish**, can participate in **all facets of parish life**;

✚ The **Calgary Korean Community** moves to its own place of worship, the **former Portuguese church** on 2nd Avenue, NW.

1996

The **Holy Cross Hospital** closes as a public hospital;

✚ New ministries for the **Franciscan Missionaries of Mary** include **health care** in nursing homes, **catechesis** on Native Reserves, the Korean Catholic Community, Diocesan Synod, Catholic **Chaplaincy** at the University of Calgary, **Home Care** for the sick, service to the **homeless**, co-director of the **Permanent Diaconate and Chancellor of the Diocese**;

✚ **Dr. David Lawless** becomes the **first president of St. Mary's College**;

✚ **Bishop O'Byrne, Anglican Archbishop Barry Curtis and Evangelical Lutheran Bishop Stephen Kristenson** sign an historic document, the **Calgary Covenant** pledging their three churches to **work together in five key areas: spiritual, moral, social,**

intellectual and organizational. The Calgary Covenant marks a significant milestone in ecumenism locally, nationally and internationally;

✚ The Parish Pastoral Council of Crowsnest Pass recommends the closing of St. Cyril's, Bellevue, and Holy Spirit, Coleman;

✚ Vulcan designated a mission of High River, St. Francis de Sales; its mission Sacred Heart at Carmangay closes because of a shortage of priests. Vulcan also served Barons to 1981 and Champion to 1996;

✚ St. Albert the Great mission Ralston closes;

✚ One of Canada's first reinforced concrete buildings, St. Patrick's, Medicine Hat, widely regarded as one of North America's finest examples of neo-Gothic architecture, is designated a National Historic Site;

✚ The Calgary Chinese Community moves to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church and the Spanish Community assumes administration of St. Paul's Parish, renaming it Our Lady of Guadalupe;

✚ At Holy Name, Calgary, the Sisters of Charity of St. Louis open Elizabeth House for pregnant teenagers;

✚ A shortage of priests causes a 'stop order' on Holy Redeemer, Calgary, building plans. After losing its resident priest the parish is re-absorbed by Holy Trinity;

✚ Holy Spirit Calgary will continue to help the Tsuu T'ina congregation with sacramental preparations and weekly celebrations;

✚ St. Bernadette's, Calgary, begins hosting special Masses for Calgary's Filipino Community;

✚ Over 2,000 worshipers gather to celebrate the inaugural Mass in the handsome and spacious new Our Lady of Fatima religious and cultural centre of the Calgary Portuguese Community on 2nd Avenue, NW.

1997

St. Mary's College offers certificate programs in religious education for teachers and school administrators;

✚ In new quarters at St. Anthony's School in Calgary, SMC inaugurates its liberal arts transfer program and enters an affiliation with St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. The first class of 25 students can take a full-time program of courses;

✚ The Roman Catholic, Evangelical Lutheran and Anglican Bishops issue a joint statement on family violence, gambling and poverty at the first annual Special Ecumenical Education Day. The spirit of the Calgary Covenant helps sustain ecumenical initiatives such as The Inn from the Cold and Feed the Hungry;

✚ Bishop O'Byrne submits his resignation to the Vatican on his 75th birthday;

✚ Bishop O'Byrne agrees to rename Crowsnest Parish, Holy Trinity Catholic Parish;

✚ St. Victor's, Gleichen, closed.

1998

At a time when the Diocese is suffering from a serious shortage of clergy, the Vietnamese Dominicans begin to take up critical work in teaching, university and hospital chaplaincy and parochial ministry;

✚ Bishop Frederick Henry is named Bishop of Calgary;

✚ SMC moves to the site of the Father Lacombe Centre in Midnapore;

✚ On Maundy Thursday, Bishop Henry breaks ground for a new library at SMC. Enabled by a large donation from the Basilian Fathers the library is named St. Basil's Hall;

✚ On Good Friday, fire destroys the original Lacombe building at

SMC, but the move to the new campus is not delayed;

✚ There are now 338,190 Roman Catholics in the Diocese but the number of priests (149) remains virtually unchanged from 1968. In 1969 there was one priest for every 757 persons; now there is one priest for every 2,272! The average age of clergy is now close to 60. In 1968 there were 17 seminarians, now only nine. There are 130 women religious (262 in 1968) and 95 schools with 47,822 students. Nearly a third of all the priests in the Diocese are foreign born;

✚ The Diocese has trained more than 1000 pastoral care lay ministers since 1982;

✚ Bishop Henry initiates Project Rachel, a reconciling healing program for women and men involved in a past abortion experience and feeling alienated from God and the Church;

✚ As expansion of the Trans-Canada Highway makes travel difficult, and Japanese visitors begin to replace American, the Lake Louise Mass Station has to be closed;

✚ After an unknown arsonist sets a fire that severely damages Holy Spirit Calgary church hall, jubilee room and gathering area, hundreds of volunteers repair the ruined facilities;

✚ St. Albert the Great Parish, Calgary, established for MacKenzie Town, MacKenzie Lake, Douglas Glen and Douglasdale. Parishoners begin attending Mass in Cardinal Newman School.

1999

Calgary population is 864,000+;

✚ Mount St. Francis celebrates its fiftieth anniversary and its service to over 100,000 retreatants!

✚ Dr. Terry Downey becomes President of St. Mary's College;

✚ St. Agnes, Carstairs, opens its doors to the local United Church congregation, while they are constructing a new church;

✚ St. Catherine's, Picture Butte, twins with St. Ambrose, Coaldale, sharing the same priest, administrative staff, Parish Council and Finance Council; thus Picture Butte's mission at Baron's, St. Mary's, closes.

2000

After a century of service the Sisters of Charity of Providence end their service to the Siksika Nation;

✚ The Sisters of St. Elizabeth withdraw from Mount St. Francis retreat house;

✚ St. John Bosco mission in Bragg Creek closed;

✚ St. Mary's, Cluny, is twinned with the Siksika Nation's Holy Trinity Church, which also is caring for St. Columba, Bassano;

✚ The Piikani Nation builds a replica of its first Catholic Church. Just as they had incorporated many traditional Piikani architectural features into their new place of worship in 1981, they now gradually integrate elements of Piikani spirituality into liturgical celebrations;

✚ St. Ambrose, Coaldale, mission at Raymond, Sacred Heart of Jesus, closes, when St. Ambrose and St. Catherine's celebrate a Unity Twinning Mass;

✚ In Lethbridge pastoral care assistants from St. Patrick's, St. Basil's, St. Martha's and Assumption Parishes join forces to coordinate sacramental preparation throughout the city;

✚ St. Ann's, Calgary, merged with St. Mary's Cathedral Parish.

2001

The Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart complete and outdoor Stations of the Cross in honor of their service of 50 years in Medicine Hat;

✚ The Diocese donates eight acres to St. Mary's College and agrees to sell the remaining 31 acres of the Lacombe site to the College;

The Diocese reorganizes the following parishes:

Twinned or merged:

- ✠ **St. Bernard's** Calgary again becomes a **self-sustaining parish** with **Our Lady of the Assumption, Bowness**.
- ✠ **St. Paul's, Airdrie**, merges with **St. Agnes, Carstairs**;
- ✠ **St. Mary's Cochrane** absorbs **Christ the King mission, Water Valley**;
- ✠ **St. Andrew Kim and Canadian Martyrs**, merge as **Canadian and Korean Martyrs, Calgary**;
- ✠ The Spiritan Fathers withdraw from **St. Mary's Parish, Banff**, which is twinned with **Sacred Heart, Canmore**;
- ✠ **St. Mary's, Acadia Valley**, becomes a mission of **Sacred Heart, Oyen**;
- ✠ **Holy Cross, Fort Macleod**, merges with **St. Theresa's, Cardston**, with **St. Theresa's** becoming a mission of **Fort Macleod**;
- ✠ **St. Augustine's, Taber**, twinned with **St. Joseph's, Vauxhall**;
- ✠ In **Medicine Hat**, **St. Mary's** and **Christ the King** merge into the amalgamated community of **Holy Family Parish**;
- ✠ **St. Joseph's, Schuler**, becomes a mission of the new **Holy Family Parish, Medicine Hat**;
- ✠ **St. Mary's, Tide Lake**, mission placed in care of **St. Mary's, Brooks**.

Closed:

- ✠ **St. Francis Xavier, Crossfields**; ✠ **Christ the King, Water Valley**;
- ✠ **St. Bernard's, Exshaw**; ✠ **Our Lady of Lourdes, Warner**;
- ✠ **St. Ann's, Hussar**; ✠ **Holy Angels', Coutts**; ✠ **St. Jude's, Tilley**;
- ✠ **St. Augustine's, Granum**; ✠ **St. Henry's, Twin Butte**;
- ✠ **St. Joseph's, Coalhurst**; ✠ **Infant Jesus, Empress**;
- ✠ **St. Cyril's, Bindloss**; ✠ **Holy Family, Delia**;
- ✠ **Our Lady of Assumption, Grassy Lake**; ✠ **St. Joseph's, Cowley**;
- ✠ **St. Paul's Chapel of Ease, Medicine Hat**; ✠ **Sacred Heart, Faith**;
- ✠ **Annunciation of the Virgin Mary, Redcliff**; ✠ **St. Clare's, Hays**;
- ✠ **St. James, Rolling Hills**; ✠ **St. Ann's, Travers**; ✠ **St. John's Church, Calgary**, which will be **destroyed by fire in 2002**.

2002

- The old **St. Mary's School, Calgary**, is **demolished**;
- ✠ The **OMI priests at Standoff** serve four mission churches at the **Kainai Nation: Immaculate Heart, St. Francis Xavier, St. Catherine's and St. Mary's**;
 - ✠ Highway construction necessitates the eventual **demolition of St. James church, Okotoks**, with **interim Masses at St. Mary's School gymnasium**. At the site of its new church the parish will take along the 96-year-old original church. Parish missions of **St. James** over the years include **Black Diamond/Turner Valley and St. Michael's**;
 - ✠ The **Korean congregation Calgary**, relocates from **Canadian Martyrs to St. Ann's Church**.

2003

- On Easter Sunday the **Sisters of Charity of St. Louis** suffer the **loss of four sisters**, ages 72 to 82, in a **tragic car accident**. They are remembered as **remarkable women** who made an **enormous contribution to the life of their order and the entire Diocese of Calgary**;
- ✠ As part of its golden Jubilee celebrations, **St. Anthony's Calgary**, opens a **Perpetual Adoration Chapel, 24/7/365**.

2004

St. Mary's College, through an amendment of its Act in the Legislature, becomes **St. Mary's University College** with degree-

granting status;

- ✠ **St. Mary's University College** holds its **first convocation** and awards its **first degrees**; at the ceremony, the **first Honorary Fellow of St. Mary's University College** is awarded to long-time benefactor, **Allan Markin**;
- ✠ **St. Albert the Great, Calgary**, consecrates **new church**;
- ✠ **Holy Family, Medicine Hat**, consecrates **new church**;
- ✠ **St. Luke's, Calgary**, completes the rebuilding of an **enlarged church**;
- ✠ **Bishop Paul O'Byrne** dies on September 2.

2005

- Three **Sisters of Providence** serving in the **Father Lacombe Care Center** in Midnapore, celebrate **anniversaries** of their religious life: **Sr. Rose Muskoluck—50 years**; **Sr. Claire Demers—60 years**; **Sr. Teresa Langi—70 years!**;
- ✠ **St. Mary's University College** receives approval for **limited provincial government funding**. At its second annual convocation **Yolande Gagnon** becomes the University College's second **Honorary Fellow**.



President Terrence Downey, Bishop Frederick Henry and students at the new St. Mary's University College (2001)..

Diocese of Calgary -- 2005 --Recapitulation

Catholic Population – 393,674

Priests: Diocesan – 73; Religious Order – 42; Total – 115

Brothers – 10; Sisters – 113; Seminarians – 10

Parishes – 71; Missions – 15; National Churches – 7; Churches 71

Senior Citizens' Homes – 1

Catholic Schools – 130

Note: Our timeline does not cover in any detail the incredible development and superb and invaluable contribution to Alberta of our Catholic Schools. We recommend that you peruse the information the Calgary Separate School Board has made available for this Centennial Celebration of the Province.

Diocesan Committee for the Alberta Centennial Celebration

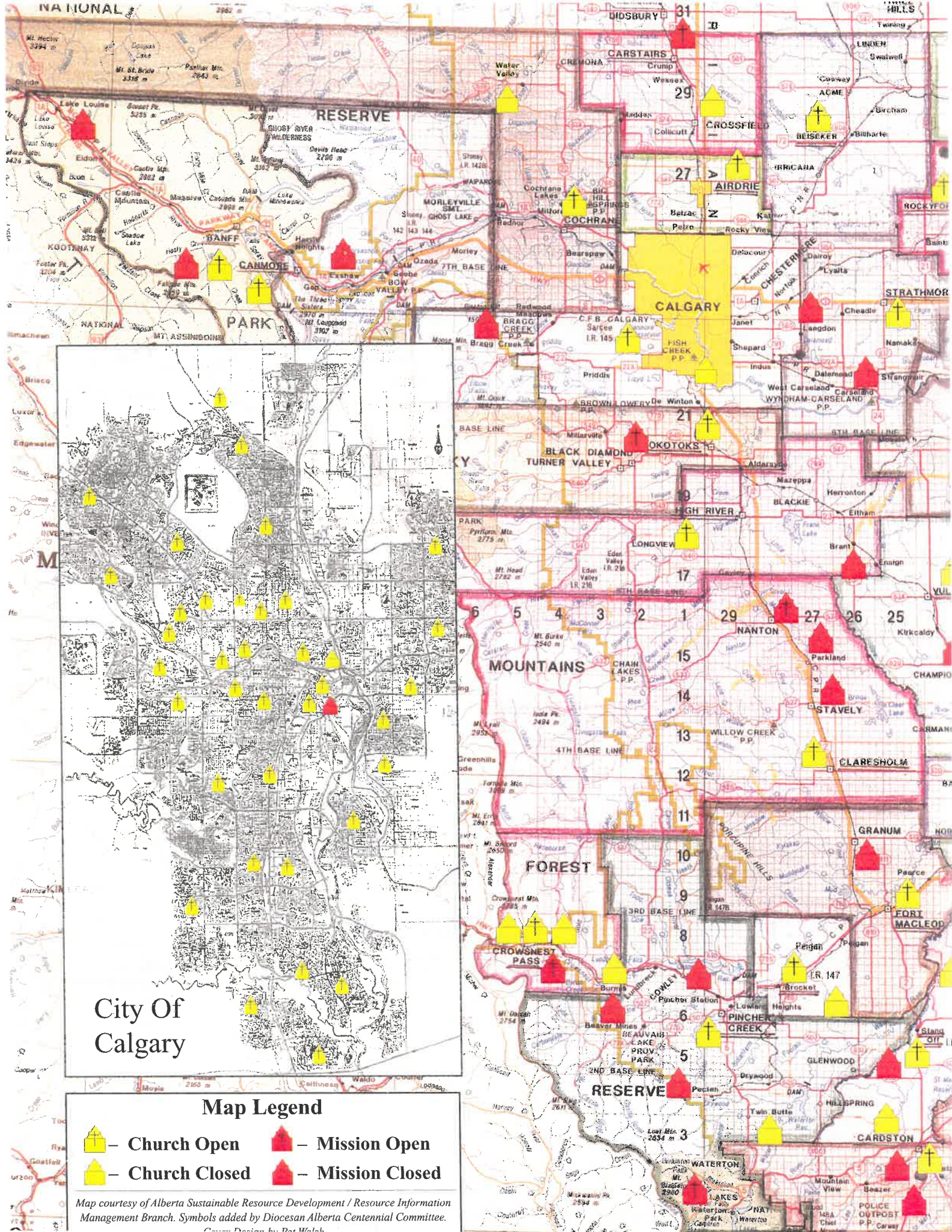
Fr. Brian Hubka; Dr. Patrick F. Walsh – Co-chairpersons

Sr. Jeanntte Filthaut, S.P. – Secretary; Christine Mader – Diocesan Liturgy Office; Sr. Leona Henke – Diocesan Archivist;

Barb Fabijan-Waddell – Calgary RCSSB; Sr. Louise McIvor, SCSL

– Sisters Assembly Representative; Gail Holland – Lethbridge;

Ann & Gerry McKee – Medicine Hat



City Of
Calgary

Map Legend

- Church Open
- Mission Open
- Church Closed
- Mission Closed

Map courtesy of Alberta Sustainable Resource Development / Resource Information Management Branch. Symbols added by Diocesan Alberta Centennial Committee. Cover Design by Don Walsh