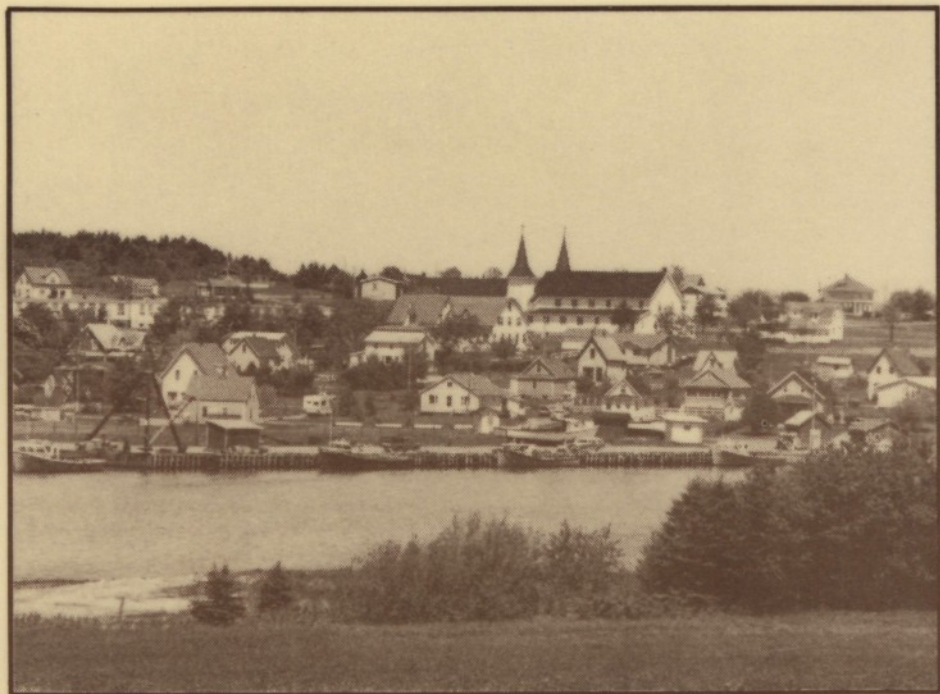
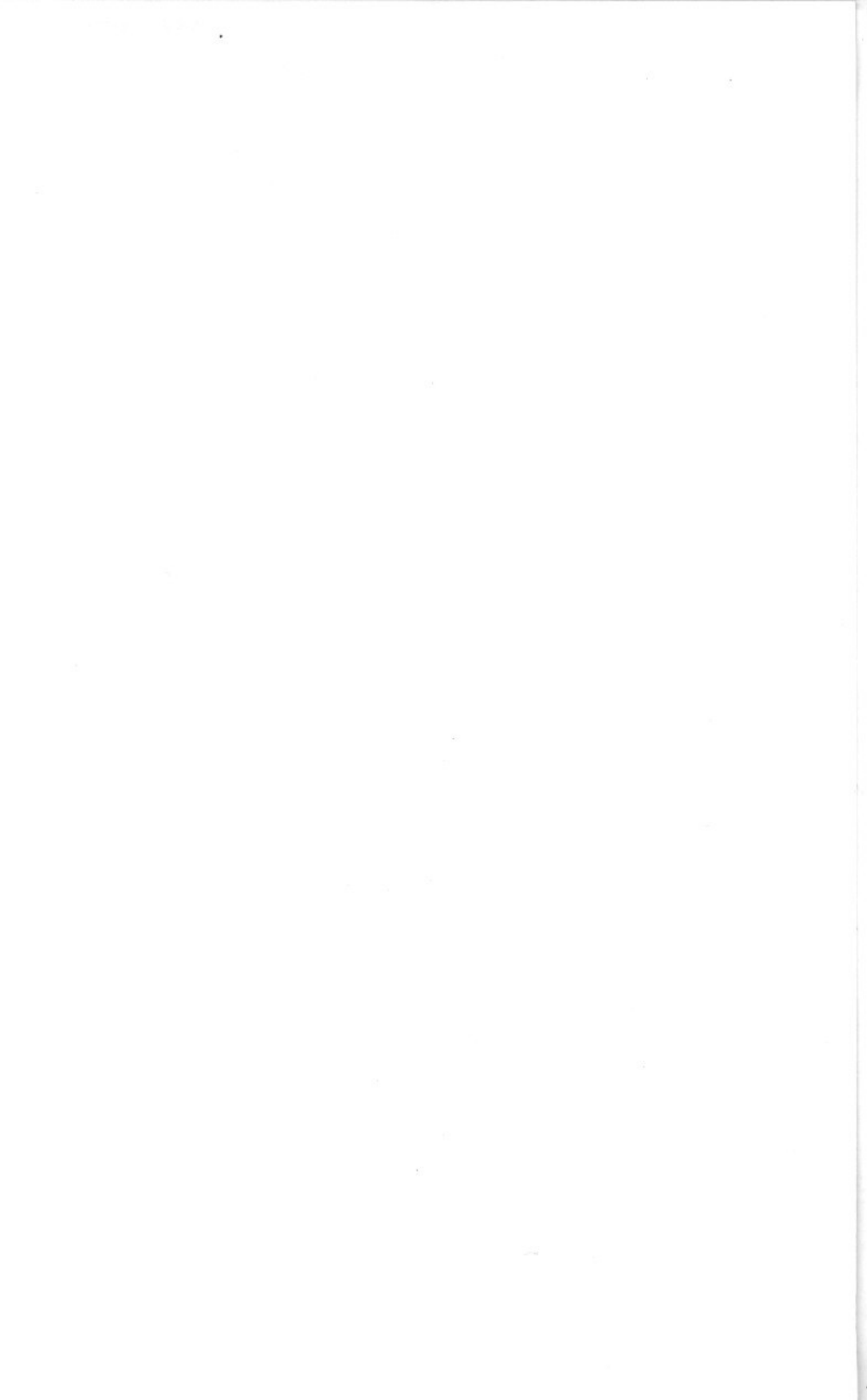


Stella Maris Parish History



1936 • 50th Anniversary • 1986

North Rustico, P.E.I.



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History

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HISTORY COMMITTEE

Seated: Maude Gallant, Theresa Gallant.

Standing: Marjorie Doucette, Father Arthur Pendergast.

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FOREWARD

This souvenir book has been put together to help us celebrate the 50th anniversary of Stella Maris Parish. It is designed to give you an insight into our parish history.

By looking at a census of this parish, it is quite easy to conclude that the great majority of parishioners are of Acadian descent. In view of this fact, we felt it was appropriate to give some information on the early Acadians.

Since the parish did not suddenly exist but was the natural conclusion to growth from the 1790's to 1936, we have also lightly touched on this area.

The main part of the book, however, deals with the Stella Maris Parish (1936-1986) — the Church, the Convent, and the School.

We trust that you will find the matters treated in this book interesting and informative. Pictures which are rare are included. Lists of school teachers and Sisters and a list of all the parishioners from the census of 1982, and pictures of groups that are presently active in the Parish, are given toward the end of the book.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To Rilly Gauthier who provided documents which were in the possession of her Mother, Geneva Gauthier who passed away Sept. 19th, 1985.

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To Sister Edna Pitre (Catherine of Louvain) for the Chapter on Stella Maris Convent, and extracurricular activities.

To many parishioners for information and photos.

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To Kim Gallant for photos.

The Parish History Committee was made up of: Mrs. Maude Gallant, Mrs. Theresa Gallant, Mrs. Marjorie Doucette, and Father Art Pendergast. The committee wishes to thank Theresa in a special way for her untiring efforts in gathering accurate information and in writing a good part of the manuscript.



LOT 24 QUEENS COUNTY

Atlas map of area (1926)

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ODE TO STELLA MARIS

Father J. Douglas McNeill would be our Parish Priest
‘Twas first announced in nineteen thirty-six
“Stella Maris” would be the name for our new parish,
“Star of the Sea” ancient title for Mary, Mother of our Lord.

To the Chapel built in nineteen twenty
He added a sacristy, parishioners working very willingly.
Father McNeill was sent by God. Our heavenly Father
Knew we were in need, and answered our urgent plea.
Father McNeill was kind, sober, unafraid, thoughtful,
A holy man, and for Stella Maris he had great plans.

A more caring person could hardly be found
And the future he saw with his very clear mind.
Our faith was often put to the test
But in this saintly man of God we were surely blessed.
Through the Village he would go, carrying the Blessed Sacrament,
About God’s love and mercy, he wanted everyone to know.

With God at his side, new ventures he did not fear.
People in trouble to him were very dear.
He helped the fishermen to organize.
He spread his faith in school and home.
His memory clings to us no matter where we roam.
His years on earth were numbered
He wanted everything complete, and
For twelve years he performed enormous feats.

He suffered in silence, the pain we never knew
His sickness was revealed to very few.
Sad indeed were the people of Stella Maris
When they heard he had to leave in forty-eight,
We prayed for him day and night.
Three years later, God called him when the time was right.

Three priests now have gone before us,
Fathers McNeill, Robin and Ayers.
Difficult is it, to try to compare.
Each had his own gifts and fortunate were we
To have had them in our midst.

And to Fathers Corcoran, Murnaghan and Coady
What can we say? We honored you
And loved you, from the very first day.

*You are in our hearts and we are in yours
And we enjoy your visits, as often you come.
God's blessing on your work wherever you may be.*

*Soon to come to Stella Maris were Sisters of Notre Dame
Helping with our children, our problems and our fears.
Always there if we needed any cheer.
Ready to sit and talk, and lend an ear.
Instilling moral values in each and every child
To remain with them, their whole life through.
Our thanks to every Sister, To name you all
Would be my fond intention,
That I could give each one mention.*

*Last but not least, Father Pendergast is now our priest.
Your sense of humour and love for sports
Have passed the test, and your interest
In the little ones is the very best.
Small need for the crying room
When the little ones are praised.
How true the saying,
'A bit of praise goes a long way.'*

*Good health, and peace and joy on our Golden Anniversary
To Priests, Sisters, Teachers, Parents,
And all our parish family, young and old.
May God bless us in a very special way.*

Clarice Buote.

OUR ACADIAN ROOTS

By looking at a census of Stella Maris Parish, it is quite easy to conclude that the great majority of parishioners are of Acadian descent. Many of those who do not have Acadian names have married Acadian women or are able to find some Acadian heritage in their background. In view of these facts, we felt that it was appropriate to give a brief history of the Acadians.

The arrival at Port Lajoie (Charlottetown) on August 23, 1720 of three small ships from France carrying 300 passengers marked the beginning of French settlement on Ile Saint-Jean. Michel Haché-Gallant was one of the first Acadians to arrive there in 1720. With the failure of the company of Comte de Saint-Pierre in the Fall of 1724, most of the colonists from France returned home.

The first census of Ile Saint-Jean taken in 1728 shows a population of 297 plus 125 fishermen not listed. By 1748, the total Acadian population of Ile Saint-Jean was only 735.

Over the years Acadia, which comprised much of the Maritime region, had become a pawn in the power struggle between the two great imperialistic powers, France and England. Subject to continual wars, the Acadians had developed a policy of neutrality as being their wisest course.

With the founding of Halifax in 1749, the English authorities now demanded that the Acadians take an unconditional oath of allegiance. This demand led to a large-scale movement of Acadians across to Ile Saint-Jean. The census taken by Sieur de la Roque in 1752 gives the population as 2,223 souls, a marked increase in only four years.

The expulsion of the Acadians in 1755 brought a second large influx to Ile Saint-Jean. Crossing over without warning or resources, some 2,000 Acadians made their escape almost doubling the Island population overnight.

During the next few years, things went from bad to worse for the inhabitants of Ile Saint-Jean. The inhabitants had hardly been able to provide themselves with the bare necessities of life let alone help their poor destitute brothers from Acadia. The plight of the Acadians is well stated in a letter dated April 18, 1757 written by Vaudreuil, the Governor at Quebec, to the Minsiter in Paris: "The women and children dare not go out, being unable to hide their nakedness. It is the same with a number of the men. Ile Saint-Jean deserves attention."

Tragically, those Acadians who had escaped to the Island faced yet another expulsion. In the Fall of 1758, approximately 3,500 Acadians were expelled from Ile Saint-Jean and the settlements in different parts of the Island were ordered destroyed. Approximately 1,100 people were able to escape deportation, but not all of these remained on Ile Saint Jean.

“The 200 or 300 Acadians who came back or who had remained in hiding gathered such stray cattle and such grain as they could, and managed a miserable existence by means of fish and game. During the first decades of British rule they lived in a state of fear and trembling” (The Acadians of P.E.I., J. Henri Blanchard, page 70). Louis Gallant, grandson of Michel Haché-Gallant, is thought to have been the first settler in Rustico. The story is told that Louis Gallant lived there in seclusion for two years. One evening in 1765, he saw two men approaching his cabin. Fearing it was the English coming to harass him, he met them at the door with a shotgun. Only when he recognized their voices as those of his brothers did he put away his shotgun. (The Daily Examiner, July 23, 1883, page 3).

A map in the Department of Public Lands in Charlottetown shows that in 1765 there were no houses in Rustico, only five or six winter cabins. A census taken by the British in 1768 gives the Acadian population of Rustico as 25.

The first settlers of the territory now making up Stella Maris Parish came from the French Island of Miquelon in approximately 1793. Several Acadian families refused to swear allegiance to the new French constitution and with their parish priest, Jean-Baptiste Allain, made their way to the Magdalen Islands. From there they made their way to Arichat, Cape Breton and on to Rustico. These families were those of Jean-Baptiste Gauthier and Barbe Lavigne; Pierre LeClair and Rosalie Belliveau; Louis Blacquiere and Modeste Comeau, Joseph Pineau and Charlotte Doucet. (Acadiens de l'Isle-du-Prince-Edouard, J. Henri Blanchard, page 40). Rosalie, Modeste and Charlotte had a number of relations already settled at Rustico.

The census of 1798 gives the Island Acadian population as 675 in the three communities of Rustico, Fortune Bay, and Malpeque. About 237 of these lived in Rustico; the community continued to expand, especially towards the west and towards the north.

The century following the deportation is a period of isolation for the Island Acadian lost in an English colony, surrounded by people with different customs, not speaking their language and by times hostile to their religion. Clinging against all odds to their precious heritage, the Acadians established themselves here and there in a few small communities seeking to make a living by fishing and farming.

The economic status of the Island Acadian has always been considered very low. Like many other Islanders, they were the victims of absentee landlords and their agents. A few privileged individuals managed to buy their lands but the largest number remained tenants most often indebted to their proprietors. Things became worse with each generation. The farms were subdivided to make way for young families resulting in very small farms where it was very difficult to make a living.

Political power was in the hands of the English elite. The Acadians like all Island Catholics did not receive the right to vote until 1830. In most cases, however, this right could not be freely exercised. The proprietors or their agents were usually candidates in the elections, and, fearing reprisals, the tenants felt obliged to vote for them.

From 1860 the Acadian community began to come out of isolation. The women whose traditional way of dress had been ridiculed for years, began to adopt the dress style of the times. With the Free Education Act of 1852, more interest was shown in educating the children even to the acceptance of learning English. The land question was finally settled in 1875, enabling farmers to buy their own lands. More interest was taken in public affairs.

The development of lobster fishing in the 1870's attracted many Acadians, especially those of North Rustico. They found employment either in fishing boats or factories. This did not, however, increase their economic prosperity. In his pamphlet, "What Fishermen Can Do," Bertram A. Blacquiére gives a very good account of the lot of the fishermen prior to their union in 1937: "Under the old system the village merchant, sheltered from the rigors of storm and sea, sold the fish for which he received a profit, and then sold the supplies to the fishermen, receiving also another profit. In addition, he was paid a salary for managing the factory. After the union was formed, the fishermen did these things for themselves, hired their own men and took the profit." The development of the Fisherman's Co-operative and the Credit Union was a great help toward making the fishermen masters of their own destiny.

At first North Rustico was an integral part of St. Augustine's Parish, South Rustico, and it was not until 1920 that a chapel was built in North Rustico and in 1936, North Rustico was named a Parish under the title Stella Maris (Star of the Sea). Of course the parish takes in more than the village as can be seen from the census at the latter part of this book.

CHAPTER I

STELLA MARIS CHURCH

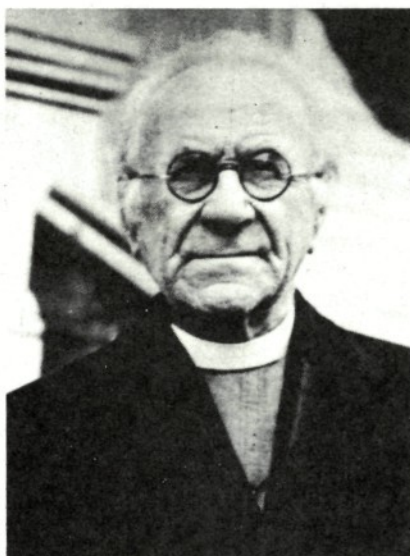
Today some people worry about the scarcity of priests to serve our Island parishes. For a number of years, we were lucky if we had even one priest to serve the whole Island. There were no priests available for the years 1758-1772 and 1785-1790.

Rustico had a small church dedicated to St. Augustine as far back as the 1790's. Even when a priest resided in their midst, the time spent with his flock was very limited due to his commitments in other parts of the Island. Rustico was a favorite spot of Bishop Bernard MacDonald, successor of Bishop A.B. MacEachern. It was in 1838 during his time at Rustico that the present church at South Rustico was built. During the time of Bishop Bernard the number of priests increased, the workload gradually became lighter so that in 1859, Father Belcourt was given the care of only Rustico and Hope River which until 1843 had been part of the parish of Rustico.

For over a hundred years, the residents of what is now Stella Maris Parish were obliged to attend Sunday Mass in South Rustico, a distance of 4½ miles. Various means of transportation were used. The majority, being fishermen, were limited to sailing across the bay in fine weather when the ice was gone. The farmers, few in number, were able to go by horse and sleigh across the ice in winter and by horse and wagon at other times; needless to say, these were always filled to capacity. With the coming of the automobiles, some paid for a drive by truck. The majority used the age-old method of "hoofing it." In the summer, the children even made the return trip in the afternoon to attend religious instruction and Benediction. The winter months proved to be a great hardship for the women and children.



Chapel Under Construction.



*Msgr. Jean Chaisson, D.D., D.P.
Native of Tignish*

As early as the Spring of 1914, Father Jean Chaisson had started a fund for the building of a chapel at North Rustico. Sister Ellen Mary Cullen remembers the occasion as she was living at Rustico Convent studying for her Matriculation exams.

“When Trinity Sunday came, Monseigneur Chaisson heard confessions until 11:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. Mass was supposed to be at 10:00 a.m. We boarders at the Convent were sitting on narrow benches in front of the pews; there was no support for your back and it was quite tiresome. At the conclusion of mass, Father Chaisson went to the pulpit and explained the difficulties of the people in North Rustico (section) of the parish. He must have been a person who believed in “striking while the iron was hot.” He immediately opened a subscription, reading out the names of the head of each household in the parish. They replied, stating the amount each promised to give. I found it rather interesting and forgot about my sore back as I listened to the men’s voices and women’s contrasting sharp voices. It added variety as some spoke in English and some in French. We usually thought of Msgr. Chaisson as stern and rather gruff in countenance, but as he ascended the pulpit after mass on that Trinity Sunday, his face seemed shining with happiness. In his zeal for souls, he rejoiced in having so many approach the sacraments and fulfill their Easter duty. At this time, all receiving Holy Communion would be fasting from midnight.”



Interior of Chapel.

By the year 1919, enough funds were available so that Father Chaisson was able to announce, again on Trinity Sunday (June 15), that the building of the chapel in North Rustico was to commence. This little chapel was 30 by 70 feet, and was finished in Douglas Fir. It had an altar with crucifix and candles, a credence table, and a sanctuary enclosed by a communion rail. The benches, few in number, were of rough boards without backs.

On September 19, 1920, Right Reverend Henry J. O'Leary, Bishop of Charlottetown, blessed and laid the cornerstone of the new Chapel and dedicated it to Our Lady under the title of "Stella Maris" which translated means "Star of the Sea." On the same day, the first Mass was celebrated by the Pastor, Reverend Jean Chaisson. The Way of the Cross was blessed at the Chapel on November 10, 1921.

Father Chaisson came to North Rustico once a month to hear confessions. He stayed overnight at the home of Cyriac Pineau, now the home of Francis and Lucy Doucette, in order to celebrate Mass the next morning. Some men of the community led Sunday evening services at the Chapel. The women sat on one side while the men sat on the other. The parishioners were still obliged to make their way to South Rustico for Sunday Mass unless a visiting priest was free to celebrate Mass at the Chapel. On Sunday afternoon in the summer months, the Sisters from South Rustico Convent came to teach religion at the Chapel; they gave instruction in both French and English.

Speaking of Father Chaisson being rather severe reminded Maude Gallant of how he appeared to her. "He had a very stern countenance and to me, as a young girl, he seemed to have eyebrows down to his knees."



Chapel with Sacristy added.

The children were now able to make their First Communion and Confirmation at the Chapel. On May 22, 1922, Right Reverend Louis J. O'Leary made the first pastoral visitation and confirmed 25 boys and 18 girls.

The population of North Rustico increased to such an extent that a resident pastor was needed. At the diocesan retreat on July 9, 1936, Most Reverend Joseph Anthony O'Sullivan announced that "Stella Maris" was a newly formed parish cut off from Rustico parish, to be effective October 1st. Reverend J. Douglas McNeill was appointed as the first parish priest. He had been assistant priest at Tignish for four years.

The first work undertaken by Father McNeill was to dig a cellar under the church and build a sacristy. The work was begun on October 14, 1936 by the people of the parish who willingly did the digging and building free of charge.

In the sacristy a small altar was erected and a little statue of Our Lady was placed on a shelf near it. On December 9th this addition to the church was blessed and Mass was offered in it on the same day. Father Clarence Pitre gave the sermon on the occasion of the blessing of the Stations of the Cross in the sacristy on January 31st, 1937.

Soon after the arrival of Father McNeill, on October 26, 1936, pews from the old church at Summerfield were purchased for the sum of \$50.00. These were set up and ready for use by All Saints' Day on November 1st.

There was only one acre of land belonging to the Parish; this land had been donated by Simon Pineau for the erection of the Chapel. In addition, thirteen acres was purchased for \$650.00. Three acres of this were marked off for a cemetery and a cross was erected and blessed on Nov. 2nd, 1936. The first burial, Mrs. Felix (Mary) Pineau, took place on the 19th of November. The cemetery was later consecrated on September 18th, 1938.

The first group to receive First Holy communion in the new parish of Stella Maris included: Marion Doyle, Arthur Buote, Augustine Gallant, Margaret LeClair, Mary Matilda Pineau, Edna Rose Blacquiere, Eric LeClair, Martha Joan Blacquiere, Bernard Doiron, Lorette Buote, Rose Gauthier, Mary Yvonne Gallant, Arthur Gauthier, Robert Reginald Doucette, Gertrude Inez Gauthier, Joseph Edward Gauthier. This was in the Fall of 1936.

The first trustees, as given in the 1936 Diocesan Yearbook were: John J. Blacquiere, Earl Blanchard and Moses Buote.

Father McNeill undertook the task of training altar servers. The following were the first altar boys: Alyre LeClair, Arthur LeClair, Ferdinand LeClair, Clarence Doiron, J. Aubin Doiron, Cornelius Doiron, Edward LeClair, Elmer Buote, Eugene LeClair, Ronald Blacquiere, Leo LeClair, Alphonse LeClair, Edward LeClair, J. Robert Gauthier and Wilfred Blacquiere. The story is told that one early morning a certain altar boy was told by Father McNeill to get him the scissors. The altar boy misunderstood and returned with all the Sisters and they, no doubt, wondered what this summons could mean.



Fr. J. Douglas McNeill

The following is an alphabetically arranged list of those who were the first group confirmed by Bishop J.A. O'Sullivan in Stella Maris Parish, on Sept. 18, 1938.

Blacquiere: Alfred, Augustine, Edna, Helena, Ivan, Joan, Leonard, Lillian, Urban, Wilfred.

Buote: Arthur, Lorette, Rosina.

Connell: Gordon.

Doiron: Arthur, Bernard, Bernice, Eleanor, Isidore.

Doucette: Alice, Emile, Emma, James, Lauraine, Maurice, Robert.

Doyle: Thomas, Gavin, Marion.

Fleming: Gertrude.

Gallant: Augustine, Benjamin, Bernice, Doris, H. Freda, M. Freda, George, Joyce, Marion, Marjorie, Raymund, Regina, Vernon, Yvonne, Zita.

Gauthier: Annie, Edna, Emily E., R. Emily, Eric, Freda, Joseph, Louis, Mary, Noel, Patrick, Peter, Richard.

LeClair: Alphonse, Edgar, Edmund, Edward, Eric, Francis, P. Francis, Juliette, Margaret, Leo.

MacDonald: James.

Perry: Joseph.

Peters: Arthur, Ella May, Ethel, Louis.

Pineau: Alyre, Eleanor, Mary, Matilda.

Savidant: James, Daniel.

Everyone was kept alert and participated in an exemplary manner in the Mass and other liturgical celebrations. Father taught the whole assembly to sing the Gregorian, Mass of The Angels. However this was not accomplished all at once. First there was the formation of the Mens' Choir. Sixteen men met on Oct. 30, 1936 for this purpose with Joseph Aeneas Poirier as organist. It was a monumental task since they all had to learn Latin. The story goes that the first choir practised long and hard in secret for their first Midnight Mass at Christmas. The congregation was not told about the Mass, nor were they expected to attend because the choir was not certain it would get through it. The people became suspicious that something was going on, and when they saw the men sneaking to church around 11:30 P.M. they decided to go and investigate. From all accounts the Mass went over well and they had about 25 unexpected people in attendance.

On December 8th, 1936, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the first reception of the Children of Mary took place. On this occasion a beautiful four foot statue of Our Lady, bearing a crown with a large star, made especially for the children of Mary, was placed over the main altar.

The census, taken in December of 1936, showed one hundred and ten families with 629 persons. Our latest census taken in August of 1982 shows one hundred and seventy-five families with 850 persons.

A house was purchased from Madeline Pineau and hauled by Wes Coles on to the church property. With some alterations and additions the Rectory was opened on April 1, 1937. Before this Father McNeill stayed at the home of Cyriac Pineau.



Stella Maris Rectory with harbour in background.

The first ordination to the priesthood at Stella Maris took place on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25, 1938, when John F. Buote was ordained by Most Rev. J.A. O'Sullivan. Father Buote celebrated his first Solemn Mass at Stella Maris on March 27, 1938.

On March 21, 1943 another son of the parish, and a former teacher at St. Andrew's School, Rev. James Wilfred Pineau was ordained a priest in St. Dunstan's Basilica by Bishop O'Sullivan. Father Pineau celebrated his first Solemn Mass at North Rustico on March 25, 1943. Father Poirier of Mont Carmel preached in both English and French. Father Pineau taught French for many years at St. Dunstan's University and has written a book entitled: *Le Clergé français dans l'Île du Prince-Edouard. 1721-1821*. Father Pineau recently received an award from the government of France.

A new altar constructed by Aeneas Poirier was erected in the church on April 12, 1942. A new tabernacle was placed on the altar later that year on September 24th.

As the church was not large enough to accommodate the congregation, it was decided to enlarge it by raising it. The raising of the Chapel and then adding the wings was quite an engineering feat. In fact it is said that Father McNeill could not get any architect to authorize it. But Father McNeill and the head carpenter, Tom Doucette were not to be deterred by overcautious architects. Tom Doucette is supposed to have said, somewhat irreverently, "I could raise it up till I saw the angels drawers." George Farrell, George Paynter, Murray Cassidy and Jerome Peters were also workers on the project.

On April 20, 1945, the work was started with the excavation for the new foundation. This work was done by the Curran and Briggs Company assisted by the school boys. The old tower was torn down in June of that year. On July 10th, the cement foundation was completed and the church was raised 10½ feet and two towers joined by a front vestibule were added with an addition of 10 feet on each side of the church, making the outside measurements of the church 50 feet by 110 feet including sacristy. Peter Leander Gallant remembers cutting the trees for the posts for the new towers, in his wood lot on St. Patrick's Rd., Hope River. They had to be 8 x 8's twenty five feet long. It was Murray Cassidy that Father McNeill sent to contact Peter and he wanted those posts in very quick order. "When can you have them," said Murray. Peter said, "I could get some of them tomorrow but I can't get you eight posts cut and sawed in a few minutes". The long logs had to be hauled to Bagnall's in Hunter River to be sawed. "Never fear", said Peter. "We got the trees, and Father MacNeill will have his posts." Within two days the eight posts were landed at Father McNeill's door in North Rustico. On the feast of the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8th), Bishop James Boyle came to Stella Maris to bless the cornerstone for the enlarged church. A new organ was also purchased.

Father William McCabe, chaplain with the army in Vancouver during the last year of the war, was appointed assistant priest at North Rustico on October 19, 1945. Stella Maris parish is indebted to this good priest for his innumerable acts of kindness. His great sense of humor was a real therapy when spirits were low and indeed at any time.

On January 5, 1946, Reverend Patrick Gallary opened the weekly devotions of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and blessed the picture which was placed near the side altar of the church. These devotions were carried out every Saturday evening. A box for intentions was placed in front of the Blessed Virgin's altar and these were read before the prayers to Our Lady.

New lighting fixtures were installed early in January, 1946, and a door was opened between the choir section and the left tower as a storage place for hymn books, etc. The walls of the church were cleaned and varnished. The first building had been finished in Douglas Fir but as this wood was too expensive, the inside walls of the wings were finished in cedar and marbolem.

The total cost of the newly enlarged church was \$25,506.77. An anonymous donation of \$10,000.00 made in 1946 was, no doubt, greatly appreciated by the parishioners.

Father McNeill continued the parish societies that were already in existence when he became parish priest: Altar Society (1920); League of the Sacred Heart (1925). He began a number of new societies: Holy Name Society (1936); Children of Mary Soldality (1936); Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (1937); Confraternity of the Most Blessed Sacrament (1938); Saint Thomas Aquinas Society (1937); Canadian Catholic Students Mission Crusade (1936); Association of the Holy Childhood (1943); same as C.C.S.M.C., League of Mary (1945), Mortuary Society (1946).

Because of grave illness, Father McNeill who, unknown to many, had been suffering from cancer for years, had to retire from parish work in 1948. It might not be out of place here to recall some points of the eulogy spoken by Monsignor J.P.E. O'Hanley at Father McNeill's funeral only three years later:

"If any priest in this diocese whom I have ever known might make his own the words of Christ, 'I have come that you may have life, and have it more abundantly,' that priest, I venture to suggest, was the late Joseph Douglas McNeill as pastor of Stella Maris Parish, North Rustico"

"Do you know the conditions that obtained in North Rustico in the early thirties? Do you realize that the North Rustico of today possesses assets, material and spiritual, such as are not found in any similar community in this province? Think of its school, think of its parish organization; the organization of its fishermen, co-operative store, its community hall, its electric power, its church and convent and, above all, think of its

phenomenal educational and social improvement. The transformation that took place in North Rustico during the decade immediately following 1937 was truly extraordinary, indeed phenomenal!"

One of the advantages we have in writing this history of the parish is that many of the pioneers are still living and we are able to gather eye witness accounts.

Celia Gallant was the first housekeeper and her husband Vincent was the first janitor. Celia writes:

"I, Celia Gallant, was Father McNeill's first housekeeper and cook, and Vince was caretaker. It was in 1937. While there, a dentist came when needed to do the school children's teeth right in the kitchen. It was a place that was always busy as Father liked company and would take two or three priests for meals and overnight. When we went there first, there were only oil lamps but electricity was put in shortly after. I would say Father was the first one that got Maritime Electric going to have electricity in the village. He also had a cow and hens and we made butter for household use. While there, a new sunporch was erected and Governor Doiron's father Dolph helped to build it."

Father Eric Robin succeeded Father McNeill on June 6, 1948. This good priest was kindness personified. The health of the little ones of his flock was a great concern of his and zeal for their welfare was manifested on every occasion that presented itself. In 1952 when sickness kept many pupils at home, it



Fr. Eric Robin

was very edifying to note the solicitude of this good pastor. Many children and some older parishioners developed pneumonia, and since storms were at their worst and the nearest doctor available lived at Hunter River, he left medicine with Father Robin who, along with Zita Gallant, were ready at any hour of the day or night to visit and comfort the sick. In 1984, Zita Gallant was given the outstanding contributor award for her long service to the community as mother, nurse, social worker, friend and community leader.

The extraordinary development that had taken place under Father McNeill could not have been accomplished without considerable expenditure. The Diocesan Year Book of 1950 shows the parish debt of North Rustico as follows: Church Debt - \$24,736.28; School Debt - \$8,000.00; Father Robin worked tirelessly to lessen this debt.

On August 2, 1950 the first Eucharistic Congress was held at North Rustico. For months, preparations were being made for this beautiful day. Five immense arches had been built on the grounds of the school. An elevation surrounded by a railing was marked off as a sanctuary with a beautifully arranged altar, and another, as a stage for the choir. Both these elevations were decorated with bunting which gave a festive air to the site.



North Rustico Eucharistic Congress, 1950 - Holy Year.

At 10:00 a.m. Bishop James Boyle of Charlottetown officiated at the open-air Mass. Father John F. Buote, a native of North Rustico, delivered sermons in English and French. At 5:00 p.m. the solemn procession of the Blessed Sacrament took place. The Rosary was prayed continuously during the march. Bishop Boyle then gave Benediction from the outdoor altar.

To accommodate the nearly five thousand who took part in the day's celebration, dinner and supper were served in the school, in the convent, and in a prepared dining room above the church sacristy.

Marian Congress

In 1954 the hundredth anniversary of the Proclamation of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary was celebrated by Roman Catholics throughout the world. Accordingly, at Stella Maris on July 7, 1954, another great event was prepared with unusual joy. Much activity had been going on for days in anticipation of a celebration in honor of Mary, the Mother of God. This was the Marian Congress. An outdoor altar, beautifully situated in the highest part of the field next to the cemetery, was erected by Mr. Aeneas Poirier, and was a very real tribute to his generous and skillful handiwork.

The following article regarding our Congress appeared in the *Charlottetown Guardian*.

"Upwards of 4,000 people attended the Marian Congress at North Rustico yesterday. The impressive ceremonies opened at 3:30 p.m. with Marian Prayers in the church followed by a procession in which was carried a large statue of the Blessed Virgin to an outdoor altar. This statue was crowned by Monsignor Patrick McMahon after which Solemn Mass was celebrated by him with Reverend William Simpson as Deacon, and Reverend Francis Corcoran as Sub-deacon. Reverend Charles McCarthy of Lot 65 delivered an eloquent sermon on Mary, Blessed Mother of God."

At one time during the day there was a sudden downpour but spirits were not dampened even if clothing got wet.

In the spring of 1954 Bishop Boyle died in London, England while on a voyage to Rome and our diocese had no bishop until 1955. Bishop Boyle was succeeded by Bishop Malcolm A. MacEachern on Feb. 11, 1955.

There was genuine sorrow in the parish when it was announced in the summer of 1955 that Father Robin, who had served Stella Maris with the greatest devotion, was to leave the parish to take up his new mission in Morell.

In July, 1955, Father Leonard Ayers became pastor of Stella Maris Parish. Shortly after Father Ayers' arrival, an anonymous benefactor donated a good



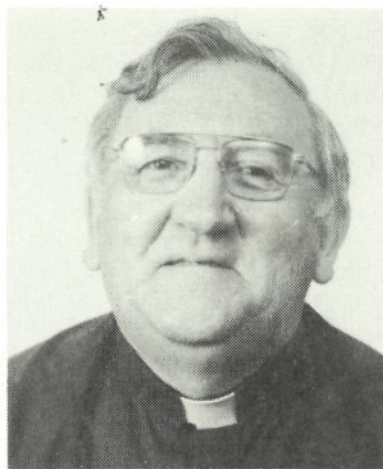
Fr. Leonard Ayers

sum of money to the parish. With the consent of the trustees, Father decided to use it to finish the church. The walls and ceiling of the two wings that had been erected nine years before were finished. New pews and a tile floor were added in 1958. Work was also done on the basement of the church.

Father Ayers is well remembered for his two special hobbies: the collection of guns of every type and period, some 200 on his walls and in his halls; and the study and employment of a "ham" radio, for which he received several awards. He was a familiar figure at the school's annual field day with his pistol marking the start of each race. The firing of a cannon, brought by him from St. Peters Bay, always signified the opening of the lobster season. People wonder what became of his guns. All disappeared. We were told by Theophilus Blanchard of South Rustico, that they were purchased by the War Museum in Ottawa. The cannon is now placed at the cenotaph.

This good pastor kept up the splendid spirit of co-operation that had been evident in the parish since its beginning. He always showed great interest in his people, in education, and his fishermen. His sudden passing in June, 1963 at the early age of 49 shocked and grieved his parishoners and his many friends. Father Thomas MacLellan became the administrator until a permanent appointment was made.

The Second Vatican Council officially opened in the fall of 1962 continuing each fall until the solemn closing on December 8, 1965. "Renewal" is the word most frequently associated with this Council. The people were invited to take a more active role in the liturgical celebrations especially the Mass. Father Francis Corcoran, whose appointment became effective in August, 1963,



Fr. Francis Corcoran

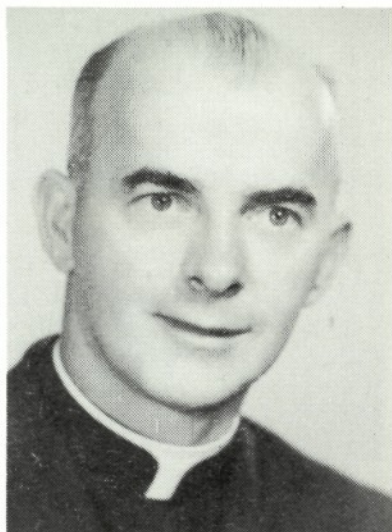
carried out the many changes suggested by Vatican II in the document on the Liturgy; for example, the change from Latin to English in liturgical services, saying Mass facing the people, and readings done by lay people.

It was a time of rapid change and some opposed the necessary changes, while others wanted to change as quickly as possible. The essentials, of course, have not changed and the people of the parish are called upon to worship God regularly through offering the Holy Sacrifice of the mass. And with our parish being dedicated to Mary, Star of the Sea, a strong devotion to Our Lady is fostered, which inevitably leads to devotion to her Son, Jesus.

In 1967 a number of alterations were made in the sanctuary. The temporary altar, made so that the priest could face the people, was replaced by a permanent one. The communion rail was taken out and a new floor was put down. The Ambo and Processional Cross are fine examples of Father Corcoran's handiwork. He also made several wooden plaques symbolizing the feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary which were affixed to the edge of the choir gallery. A shelf was placed between the symbols upon which was placed a statue of the Blessed Virgin.

The Parish Council was organized on March 10, 1968. Under many circumstance the laity is more aware of both the spiritual and temporal needs of their fellow parishioners than perhaps the priest himself. The Church, through the Parish Councils, is hoping to bridge the gap between the mission of her clergy and that of her laity.

Father Corcoran did not have to worry about debt on the parish. Father Leonard Ayers had negotiated the sale of the Parish Hall to the school. This was finalized shortly after Father Corcoran's arrival bringing the church debt to practically nil. The parish bought a new organ in 1968 and a sound system was set



Fr. Pius Murnaghan

up the following year. Bingo profits were given to the Recreation Commission for a few years to aid in the construction of a natural ice arena but Father kept on working at Bingo, looking after the finances.

The last annual parish lobster supper was held on July 10, 1968, charging \$2.50 a plate for adults and \$1.50 for children. What a difference from today's prices! Since so many women had gone out into the work force during the tourist season and because of competition in the area, it was felt that an annual parish collection would be better.

There was no problem having entertainment at any social gathering; Father was sure to have brought along his guitar. He was one of the famous Singing Padres who made their rounds in 1969. Our "Singing Padre" moved on to Kinkora and was replaced by Father Pius Murnaghan, who was appointed pastor by Bishop Francis J. Spence, in August of 1973.

Father Murnaghan continued the liturgical renewal begun by his predecessor. In September of 1974 lay ministers were appointed for the distribution of Holy communion. The sign of peace was introduced in 1978. Jesus said if you have anything against your brother or sister go and be reconciled before you come to offer a gift to God. By a handshake or other sign we try to fulfill his command.

In May of 1975, a Receiving Vault was built in the Cemetery at the cost of \$1,500.00. Although it is a good idea, eliminating the need for digging graves at the height of the winter, it took a few years for people to get used to the thought of using it. In fact it is most useful in the Springtime when heavy machines cannot enter the Cemetery.

In 1963 the Parish had sold the Hall to the School District, and from then onward was obliged to rent the School Hall for any functions such as, suppers, bingos, etc. In January of 1977 work got underway to renovate the church basement as a Parish Centre. Aided by an L.I.P. Program the cost to the parish was kept down to \$29,000.00. A large bingo fund at that time provided the amount of \$21,000.00.

A contract was signed between the Parish Council and the Recreation Commission to divide the bingo money as follows: 10% of the gross receipts to be set aside as a sinking fund and all the other expenses to be deducted from the remaining 90% before dividing the net profits equally between the Parish and the Recreation Commission. Like Father Corcoran, so, one could also find Father Murnaghan working at the Wednesday evening bingo. The official opening of the new Parish Centre took place on Nov. 27, 1977.

Renovations to the Parochial House were also carried out in the Spring of 1978. The kitchen and two bedrooms were remodeled, closets put in and carpets laid. An open house was held on June 4, 1978 so that parishioners could view the improvements.

Almost at the same time major repairs to the Church were undertaken. The lightning rods were re-installed, the church was painted and roofing and shingling were done.

A generator was purchased in Dec. of 1977 for the parish house. Mostly because of freezing rain or "a silver thaw" as it is poetically called, there may be considerable damage to power lines. If one pole breaks under an immense weight of ice on the lines, a number of poles are likely to go down, somewhat like dominoes. This can cause power failures that last for weeks.

Pre-School religion classes for 3, 4, and 5 year olds were begun in the Fall of 1980. These are held every second Sunday in the church basement or Parish Centre during the 10:00 A.M. Mass. Great appreciation is owed to the teachers and young people who help them, for their patience, kindness and love, shown to our little ones.

Father Murnaghan is well remembered for his numerous visits to the sick of the parish. His presence at these very trying times brought spiritual comfort to many.

A parish retreat given by Father Robert Coady was planned for the Spring of 1981. Instead of the scheduled two evenings he was able to come for only one, but the Family Life Committee got him to promise to come back in the Fall for another session. He came back sooner than anticipated! In August of 1981, Father Robert Coady, better known as Father Bob, was named parish priest of Stella Maris.



Fr. J. Robert Coady

Under Father Bob's guidance many old traditions were revived: The blessing of the boats, the crowning of Mary in May, the Corpus Christi Procession from the church to the cemetery, the parish variety concert and the Upper Room Play. A number of other practices were introduced: The book of Mass Intentions, the candlelight carol service near Christmas, the all-night prayer vigil on Holy Thursday and the communal penitential service, not to mention the lay ministers bringing Holy Communion to the sick and shut-in and the communal celebration of the anointing of the sick and aged.

Many renovations to the church building took place. In 1981 a Family Room and a Vesting Room were added near the entrance to the Church. Book brackets were installed on the backs of all the church pews. In 1982 the sanctuary was remodelled. The old altar was taken down and the tabernacle was moved to the left side of the sanctuary. The red runners were replaced by a complete carpeting of the sanctuary, the aisles and the church entrances. New chairs were bought to match the blue carpet. The vestry was set up for weekday masses. A new Reconciliation Room or Confessional Room was built off the vestry so that people could go to confession either behind a screen or more openly and face to face. The church steps were repaired and carpeted. Work was done on the choir loft for the seating of any overflow. This space was now free, since the choir had been downstairs for a number of years. A new entrance from the Parish Centre into the church, was made. Now the Parish Centre and the Church were connected so that one did not have to go out into the weather to get from one to the other.



Stella Maris Church 1986

Bishop Spence was named Archbishop of Kingston in the spring of 1982 and was replaced by Bishop James H. MacDonald C.S.C. who was installed as Bishop of Charlottetown on October 7, 1982.

A great moment in the history of Stella Maris Parish took place on November 19, 1982, when Bishop James MacDonald ordained Floyd Gallant to the holy Priesthood. This was the second Ordination to the Priesthood to take place in our church; the first being Father John F. Buote in 1938. At Father Floyd's Mass of Thanksgiving on Nov. 21st an address was read, and a purse presented to him. As the fall of 1986 comes along we hope to celebrate the ordination to the Diaconate of Brendon Gallant. Brendon and Father Floyd are brothers. They are the sons of R.E. (Earl Bob) and Bernadette (Blacquiere)

Gallant. Their mother died in 1960, with several young children left to be raised. A note in the burial register says, "largest funeral in years."

At the Parish Council meeting of Dec. 1982, Albert Gallant presented a chart of the cemetery and a register indicating where burials had taken place in the cemetery. This is a valuable parish record and will be very useful as times goes on and people wish to know exactly where the remains of their loved ones are buried.

For a number of years there had been discussion regarding the finishing of a room in the church basement to serve as a meeting room for parish groups and organizations, and also to be used as a wake room in the event of the death of a parishioner. In Oct. of 1983 the Parish Council decided to go ahead with the project. The name "McNeill Room" was adopted in memory of the founder of the parish. It had already been used for meetings and once for the wake of Joseph Augustin LeClair, before the official opening on Jan. 8, 1984.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Front L. to R: Eugene LeClair, Paul Gallant, Earl Gallant, Ray MacNeil.

Middle: Peter Leander Gallant, Leo Gallant, Ernest Buote, Ferdinand LeClair, Douglas Buote, Leroy Sherren, Peter J. Gallant, Albert Gallant.

Back: Vincent Gallant, Andy Turner, Derrick Blacquiere, Paul Fleming, Father Art Pendergast, Richard Mullally.

Missing from photo: Joe Perry, Leo leClair, Rene Doiron, Vincent Blaquiere, Brendon Gallant, Douglas Gallant.

On June 9, 1985 an organizational meeting for the formation of a Knights of Columbus Council was held in the Parish Centre. Men from the parishes of St. Ann's Hope River, St. Mary's Hunter River, St. Augustine's South Rustico, and from Stella Maris elected a committee to spearhead the formation of a new council, to be called the J. Douglas McNeill Council. This new Council will soon complete its first year and gives great promise of being a force for the spiritual growth of the whole region.

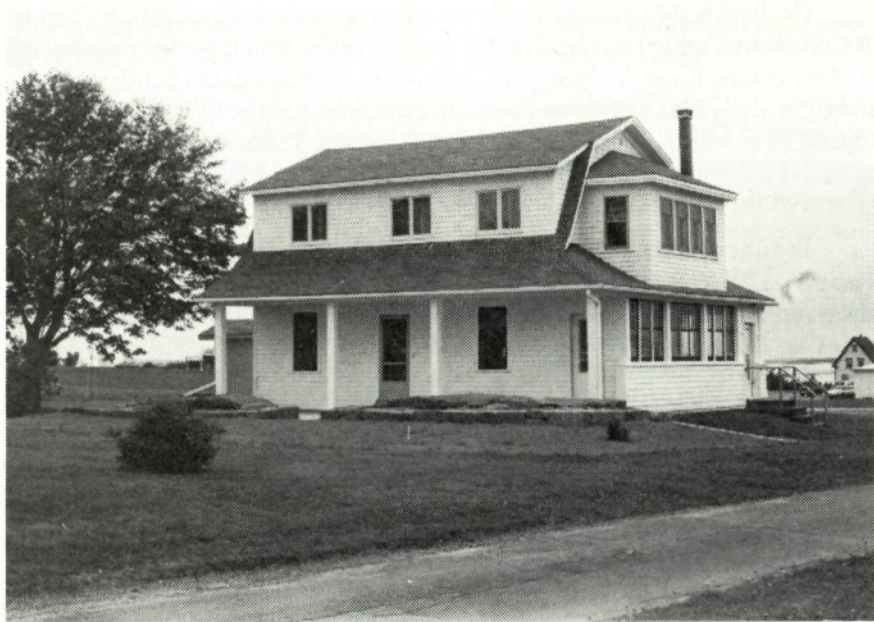
In June of 1985, Father Bob was named Pastor of St. Pius X in Parkdale. There is no doubt that Father Bob is a gifted speaker. His liturgical services were always enhanced by his inspiring homilies. Our loss would be gain for the people of St. Pius X.

After taking a one year sabbatical from his post at St. Dunstan's Basilica, Father Pendergast became pastor of Stella Maris. He has continued the pastoral work of his predecessors, encouraging a great deal of involvement in the various ministries by the people of the parish.

There had been a number of meetings prior to the coming of Father Art concerning the Parochial House. Two options were discussed: the building of a new house or repairing the existing one. It was decided to repair the existing house since it was in fairly good condition and blended in with its surroundings. Albert Doiron, Art Buote and Francis LeClair were the workers on this project. Father Art too, rolled up his sleeves and took part in the repairs; replacing the windows on the second floor at the front, pouring concrete for the basement wall on the north corner, insulating, and placing patio stones where the wooden verandah had been.



Fr. Arthur Pendergast



Parish house as it is today.

Father Art is a very active and vocal member of an anti-pornography committee. If pornography is allowed to proliferate, the effect on young and old will be devastating. All morality, respect and decency will disappear. The parish supports him fully in his efforts against pornography. It is unbelievable to people who have respect for themselves and for one another, that such material is supposed to be entertaining.

The name 'Pendergast' is quite often associated with 'sports'. Father Art is no exception in this regard as he is deeply involved in the project to put artificial ice in the North Star Arena. This is a big project and requires the cooperation of all the surrounding districts. A fund raising appeal in the Spring of 1986 has shown a wonderful unity of purpose by the whole area with the raising of more than one hundred thousand dollars toward the project. It is expected that the total project will cost approximately \$225,000.00 and the Building Committee is hopeful that it may be possible to raise even more funds to cut down on debt.

The people of today realize that priests are not a separate race. They are human like us. Like all individuals they are quite different, one from the other. In the last fifty years each of our parish priests has left his own particular mark on the history of our parish. We thank God for the priests who have served in our parish and pledge to do our part to make our parish a community of faith and love.

CHAPTER II

STELLA MARIS SCHOOL

The first mention of an Acadian School in the North Rustico area was made in the Annual Report of the Board of Education in 1855. A variety of spellings were used for this school: Gouckett's Creek (1855); Gauchet's Creek (1856); and Gaultier's Creek (1858). In the 1865 report, this "Creek" school disappears but "St. Andrew's" school appears. It stood at what is known as the "Mill Brook" which had also been called "Gauthier's Creek." It is assumed that the Gauthier's Creek School was re-named St. Andrew's School between 1862 and 1865.

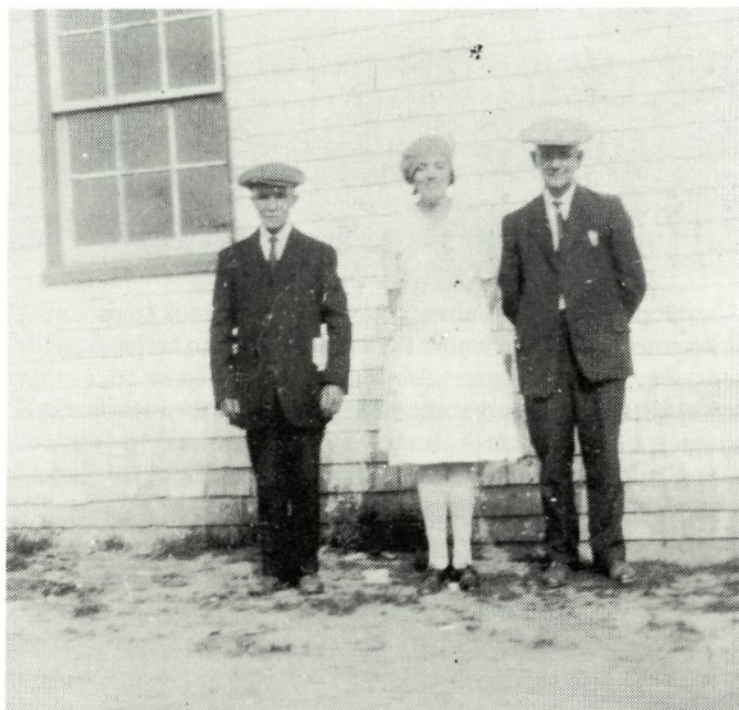
By 1901 St. Andrew's had grown from a one to a three-room school; the enrollment had grown from 41 to 120. The school inspectors continually reported the attendance as poor and intermittent. The winter months were a hardship for the younger children while the older ones went to work in factories in May and June.

As early as 1910, the inspector reported that there was insufficient playground for the school. The inspector continually recommended that the schoolhouse be moved to a more suitable site. In his report in 1931, Inspector Gallant reports on the efforts made to improve the situation:

"The ratepayers of St. Andrew's, North Rustico, took steps during the summer months to remove their schoolhouse to better grounds but could not secure a more convenient site. It is to be hoped that their efforts will be more successful next year as the present site is too small and not to say the least, very dangerous for the safety of the pupils owing to the increased motor traffic passing by the school?"



St. Andrew's School Pupils and Teachers 1930.



*Angus Buote, Emily May LeClair and Zacariah Buote in June 1930
outside St. Andrew's School.*

The student population for 1936-1937 took a big jump, no doubt due to Father McNeill's influence. The day was split up with some students coming in the morning and others in the afternoon. A fourth teacher was hired for the next year and a classroom for the higher grades was opened up in the sacristy of the church.

Providing a good Christian education for the youth of the parish was at the top of Father McNeill's priorities; he worked unceasingly towards that aim. Land facing the church was donated by Cornelius Pineau for the school and grounds. This new location was closer to the largest number of students, the village children. Through an intermediary, Father McNeill was able to purchase at a very reasonable price a fine, large fish-packing warehouse from the Portland Packing Company. In March, 1939, Wes. Coles, with the help of the people, took charge of hauling the building from the harbour to the new site. This school was ready for occupancy in February of 1940.



First Stella Maris School.

Father McNeill had been trying for some time to get some Sisters of Notre Dame to teach in the school and finally on August 15, 1940, the Feast of the Assumption, Father McNeil received a telegram from the Montreal headquarters confirming that his petition had been granted, "provided that two Sisters could be spared from the convents in P.E.I." Not long after on September 2, 1940, Sister St. Catherine of Louvain (Edna Pitre) and Sister St. Marie Eugenia (Louise Gallant) came to Stella Maris.

Leo Gallant bought the old St. Andrew's School and moved part of it up the road where it was renovated to make him a home.

At the annual meeting in June of 1940, the name was changed from St. Andrew's to Stella Maris. The fact that another district in Queen's County bore the same name, and caused much confusion, induced the ratepayers to change the name.

The new Stella Maris School opened on September 3, 1940 with 140 students lined up ready for attendance. The official opening took place on September 10th. His Excellency, Most Reverend J.A. O'Sullivan blessed the new school at 9:00 a.m. One hundred and forty-two school children formed the line of march headed by the boy Scouts and Girl Guides. After asking God's blessing on this new building, the Bishop, assisted by Reverend McMahon and Reverend Eric Robin, proceeded to the church where he celebrated Holy Mass following which His Excellency spoke very eloquently on the great need of the recognition of Christ in our schools and in public life. In the afternoon a meeting was held in the auditorium of the new school where a number of prominent speakers were present. A supper was served by the ladies of the parish in the basement of the school.

The school was concerned with not only the academic development of the child. Many and varied opportunities were provided such as: membership in the Holy Childhood, annual retreats, rhythm band, singing, piano, concerts, domestic sciences, carpentry, handicrafts, visual education, sports, lectures on co-operatives, savings in the school bank operated in conjunction with the Credit Union, Junior Red Cross, and Public Health. In this way, they hoped to better prepare the children for the future.

To encourage regular attendance at school, perfect attendance certificates were issued for the first time at the closing exercises in 1942. Parent and teacher meetings were also encouraged. Study periods for higher grades from seven to nine were introduced along with the 7:00 p.m. curfew.

The first annual Field Day was held on September 10, 1943. A cup donated by Father Wood was presented to the best all-around athlete. Ice cream, candy and soft drinks were sold. The highlight of the day was a giant bonfire prepared by the Boy Scouts.



Original Stella Maris School with Three Storey Addition.

After only two years of operation, the number of classrooms was already inadequate. At the end of 1947, two extra classrooms were being used; one above the sacristy of the church and the other in a little room behind the auditorium.

Construction on an addition 40' x 80', to the rear of the school, was begun in 1947. It was a three storey building with a basement. Space was provided for two classrooms on each floor, with space for domestic science, handicrafts, music and a dining room for children who brought their lunch to school. By January 13, 1948, two new classrooms were ready for use. Parts of the interior were completed gradually depending on necessity and finances.

On October 6, 1947, the school nearly went up in smoke. On that night, Cassidy's Restaurant located where the cenotaph now stands, burned to the ground. Sparks actually caught on parts of the school.

A school paper, "Stella Maris School Highlights," was first published in 1950 and continued for a few years.

The first grade eleven class opened in September of 1949 with nine pupils enrolled. Permission was granted in the following year to have grade eleven all by itself provided there were at least 12 pupils. The Sisters began to take in boarders to fill this number.

— SCHOOL BURNS DOWN —

Disaster struck on Saturday morning, March 20, 1954. Stella Maris School went up in flames. An entry from the annals of the Stella Maris Convent give the following account:

“At 5:20 a.m. the ringing of the church bell awakened us. We were stunned! For days after the fire, we seemed to be walking in an awful nightmare but the bleak-looking sight across the way spoke only too vividly of the reality.

“In less than an hour our beloved school had burned, with everything it contained as if it were just a house of cardboard. We stood looking utterly helpless in our misery.”

Eric MacEwen recalls the time the Stella Maris School burned down — he was in Grade III at the time. His home was near where the arena is situated. Eric writes:

“It’s funny the things you remember from your childhood, especially those that make the most impression. Like the night the school burned down. For me, the adventure began at 8 a.m. on that Saturday morning, March 20th/1954. Now, a Saturday morning brings a welcome feeling at any age, but none more so than when, as a school kid, you realize upon awakening that you have no school that day. Nothing to worry about, only fun to face the whole day ahead.

As I walked downstairs to a warm kitchen, I was greeted by a nervous mother who told me to sit down and make sure I had my breakfast before I set foot outside the house. I sat down to the kitchen table and glanced outside to see what kind of day was in store. Something strange was happening. There were huge black flakes falling to the ground. I immediately fired off a string of questions to my mother and grandmother who eventually admitted to me that during the night the school had caught fire. I also learned that all the men in the village, my grandfather Wally Pursey included, had spent most of the night fighting it.

With this news I was gone like a shot. It was a perfectly still morning and the air smelled of smoke while all around pieces of soot and ashes were floating to the ground. Arriving at the bottom of the school hill, I could see smoke billowing from what was left of the four storey structure. The village was galvanized into action. All around me, men were busy dousing the nearby homes and the Convent with water in an effort to keep the fire from spreading. Half-frightened, half-excited, I stared at the flaming, smoking remains

of what had once been our school. The prayers of those present must have been answered for it remained calm throughout the day allowing the fire to be brought under control. Had the winds quickened the disaster would surely have been much worse.

When the danger passed over the weekend the village had to consider how to continue the school year. As it turned out, the village itself became the school as any room large enough to hold a class was quickly used for this purpose. We were taught in everything from living rooms to the Church basement, even up above the fish factory. It was, on reflection, an exciting time to be in school.

The village was a tremendous place to grow up in. There was a nice sense of spirit. Everyone knew and respected each other. During most of my early education I was the only student of Protestant faith attending our school. This was not an uncomfortable experience however, since the Sisters were just as determined to have me respect the Almighty as any other student. The only time I felt somehow different was on Sunday morning when I walked a different route to Church. But church was church, and it was part of everyone's life. To be sure, one was conscious of religion because we were mostly taught by Sisters but the lasting impression was not of religious differences but a reverence for Christian values and ideals.

It was the time of kerosene lamps and saying the Rosary after supper. No matter whose home I called into after supper I would more often than not arrive during the Rosary. I would politely sit down until this spiritual event was completed before going outside to play. There was nothing like a little daily discipline to make you enjoy your free time that much more."

The loss was estimated at \$100,000.00, a great loss for a small community of only 150 families, the greater number of whom depended entirely on fishing for their livelihood. Everything was lost, including all the books, school records, two pianos, three 16 mm projectors, a stove, dishes and other kitchen utensils. The school at that time had an enrollment of 256 with nine well-fitted classrooms and an auditorium which seated 300 persons. There were also two bowling alleys, a recreation hall, a sewing and home economics room, a manual training room, a Grade XI laboratory and a library.

The feeling of despair was soon followed by one of determination. A meeting was held the very next afternoon to form a plan of action. In the meantime, temporary classrooms were set up in a variety of places in the community; the sacristy of the church, above and below the sacristy, above the co-operative hardware store, the Legion, the factory of the North Rustico Packing Company, at the homes of Mrs. McNeill and Mrs. John L. Dorion. Missing only one day of regular classes, school resumed on March 23, 1954.

The school that burned had been the property of the Stella Maris Parish; the district had been paying a rent for its use. The parish certainly could not afford to rebuild! They decided that they would build their own separate hall on part of the school grounds and deed the rest of the land over to the school district so that they could get government assistance to rebuild.

Sister St. Hildebert (Annie White) was soon making plans for the new Parish Hall. It was completed in time to hold the school closing on June 18, 1954. The 85' x 40' building was contracted by Aenaes Poirier and Francis Doiron with eight local men assisting. The hall had a seating capacity of 450 with 200 fixed seats, a stage 28' x 14', two dressing rooms, and a projection room for 15 mm films at the back. The basement was outfitted with a kitchen, dining hall and rest room facilities with provisions for two bowling alleys.

In 1954 the Board of Education agreed to make North Rustico a centre for the writing of Provincial Examinations. On June 24th forty students gathered to write in the temporary classrooms above the sacristy and in the sacristy with Mr. Wilson Ross presiding. The first grade XII class opened in September of 1954. It is interesting to note that in 1957 Lionel Gaudin led the Island in the grade X provincial examinations, obtaining the highest mark ever attained in these exams. In 1959, he repeated this feat by leading the Island in the grade XII provincial exams; his brother Urbain did the same in 1960.

Sister St. Hildebert (Annie White) and Sister St. Mary Eugenia (Louise Gallant) spent long hours trying to come up with a design for the new school that would keep the costs down to a bare minimum. At one point the design included finishing classrooms in the basement but investigation convinced them that this was a poor solution to the problem. A comment is reported to have been made which went like this: "You'll be six feet under long enough; try to keep above ground as long as possible."

The final blueprints prepared by architects Downie, Baker and Ahearn of Halifax were ready on June 8, 1954. The business manager for this undertaking was Joseph Gaudin. The contractor, Mr. Earl Gallant, began work on July 7th of that year; costs were cut by the use of some voluntary labour. This modern one-storey building was made up of three divisions; the central division was flanked by two wings: a grade school wing with six classes each 31' x 22'; a high school wing with four classes each 31' x 22'. In addition to these ten regular classrooms, there was a science lab, a library, a music room, a home economics and domestic science room. The basement had a playroom and a lunchroom. A comment from the Guardian of October 6, 1955 is as follows:

"Not only were the people of the parish able to erect the most modern fourteen room school in the province but their being able to do so at a cost of only \$75,000 (fully equipped) represents a stroke of financial wizardry which has left builders and others dumbfounded to know how it was done."

Although the school had been occupied in January of 1955, the official opening did not take place until October 5, 1955. At 9:00 a.m., Monsignor J.A. Murphy offered the votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin to call down God's blessing on the school. After Mass the pupils lined up in two single files outside the school. The clergy and altar boys entered the school for the blessing while the pupils sang the beautiful "Ave Maris Stella." The school was officially opened in the afternoon by Neil A. Matheson, MP for Queens, assisted by Patricia Gauthier and Allison Gallant. Representatives from the church and state were present.

The first North Star Yearbook for Stella Maris High School was published in 1957. It was published annually until 1978 with the exception of 1970. For a lovely trip down memory lane, simply flip through its pages. In a few moments you will be able to recall the many teachers, friends and events of the years spent at your Alma Mater. Toward the end of this chapter lists of teachers of St. Andrew's School and Stella Maris School are given.

In 1960 the following school districts met separately to discuss the making of Stella Maris High School into a regional one: Stella Maris; St. Mary's; St. Ann's; St. Patrick's; Toronto; St. Ignatius; St. Augustine's; Doiron's Creek; Grand Pere Point; and Rustico Cross; all ten districts voted in favor. On September 3, 1960, Stella Maris High School was officially declared regional with a separate regional board of trustees.

With a total enrollment of 330 for the school year 1961-62, added room became necessary. The construction of four new classrooms, two to each wing, and a teachers' room was completed in 1962.



Stella Maris School (1986)

A physical education program was introduced in the 1962-63 school year. Instead of building new facilities, the Parish Hall was purchased in 1963. An Allied Youth post was organized in 1962. Stella Maris had the distinction of having two of its members elected international presidents of A.Y.: Garnet Gallant 1968-69 and Brian Blacquiere 1970-71.

The Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the founding of Stella Maris School and Convent took place in North Rustico on October 24, 1965. A Mass of Thanksgiving was offered by Msgr. J.P.E. O'Hanley at 4:00 p.m. followed by a delicious turkey supper served to 200 persons by the Stella Maris Alumni which had been formed in 1958. The guest speaker, Bertram Blacquiere, helped all present to recall the past.

Overcrowding was an often repeated theme in the history of this school. Construction could not keep up with increasing enrollment. In 1969, three mobile units were received to take care of this problem.

Local school boards disappeared in 1972. The Island was divided into five administrative unit boards with Stella Maris making up one of the many schools in Unit 3.

North Rustico hosted a day-long reunion of former students and teachers of Stella Maris on May 20, 1978. A variety of events took place: in the morning, Bishop Spence celebrated Mass; in the afternoon, there was a student-teacher tea, an interfaith program, athletic activities, and a banquet supper for 350 people; in the evening, there was a variety concert followed by a dance.

The year 1978 marks the end of Stella Maris as a regional high school. On June 18th, the final grade XII graduation took place. This historic event took place in the Stella Maris Church and Centre. Because of the large class of 35 graduates and of the large number of relatives and guests expected to be in attendance, it was felt that the hall would be too small to meet fire regulations. In the fall of 1978, our grades 10, 11, and 12 made their way to the newly constructed Bluefield High School. In 1979-80 school year, one principal was put in charge of the North Shore schools of Stella Maris, St. Augustine's and St. Ann's, in the person of Mr. Tom Wilkinson.

In recent years the Stella Maris Home and School Association has sponsored a ten week grade one preparation program. It began in the Spring of 1980. Making use of a room in the school, the children are introduced to a variety of experiences so that they will be better prepared for Grade I in the Fall. This program is financed by a tuition fee, the Annual Valentine Tea and Bazaar, and by donations from various groups and organizations in the area.

Father McNeill's goal of providing the children of Stella Maris School with a good christian education has been achieved and the tradition passed down through the years. Pastors, teachers and parents have worked together to achieve

this purpose. In a world becoming increasingly materialistic the occasion of our golden jubilee serves to recall the original goal to our minds and hearts.

On Sunday, June 1st, 1986 at the Lions Club of North Rustico, an appreciation reception was held for Marjorie Doucette and Tom Wilkinson. Marjorie is retiring after many years of teaching Grades I and 2, and Tom is moving on to be Principal at Colonel Gray High School in Charlottetown. Both Marjorie and Tom will be greatly missed.

At the reception Tom sang the song called "Fill My Cup Lord" by Richard Blanchard. The first verse goes like this:

Like the woman at the well I was seeking
For things that could not satisfy.
Then I heard my saviour speaking,
Draw from my well that never shall run dry.

Chorus-

Fill my cup Lord, I lift it up Lord,
Come and quench the thirsting of my soul,
Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
Fill my cup, fill it up, and make me whole.

It is not unlikely that Father McNeill would smile down on Tom and on the assembly as he heard those words so beautifully sung on this occasion.

ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL

1856	Isidore Gallant
1858	Isidore Gallant
1861	Alphonse Gallant
1865	Felix Buote
1869	Martha Gallant
1873	L. Cleary
1874	L. Cleary
1875	Florence Peters
1877	J. Gaudet
1878 (Jan-July)	J.E. Buote
1878-80	Paul Thibodeau
1880-82	Domitian Gallant
1882-85	Jerome Doiron
1885-89	Domitian Gallant
1889-91	Andrew Cullen
1891-93	Andrew Doiron
1893-94	Alfred Doiron, Mos. N. Pineau
1894-95	Marian Gallant, Alphonse DeRoche
1895-96	Joseph S. Gallant, Alphonse DeRoche
1896-97	J.H. DeRoche, Alphonse DeRoche
1897-99	Isidore Buote, Alphonse DeRoche
1899-00	Isidore Buote (changed to Cyriac Buote), Fabiola Doucette
1900-01	Cyriac Buote, (changed to Joseph S. DeRoche), John Gauthier, Fabiola Doucette
1901-03	Joseph S. DeRoche, John Gauthier, Fabiola Doucette
1903-06	Fabiola Doucette, John Gauthier, Angus Buote
1906-07	Cyriac Buote, John Gauthier, Angus Buote
1907-08	Peter Gallant, John Gauthier, Angus Buote
1908-09	Peter Gallant, John Gauthier, Josephine Gallant
1909-10	Benj. A. Doiron, (changed to Joseph A. Gallant), John Gauthier, Josephine Gallant
1910-11	Peter Gallant, John Gauthier, Josephine Gallant
1911-12	Angelina Buote, John Gauthier, Gertrude Pineau
1912-14	Denis D. Arsenault, John Gauthier, Gertrude Pineau
1914-16	Cyriac Buote, John Gauthier, Gertrude Pineau
1916-17	Cyriac Buote, John Gauthier, Angus Buote
1917-18	Cyriac Buote, (changed to Loretta Whalen), Emma Pineau, Angus Buote
1918-19	Loretta Whalen, Emma Pineau, Angus Buote
1919-20	Albina Gaudet, Emma Pineau
1920-21	Albina Gaudet, John Gauthier, Angus Buote

1921-22	Mary Pineau, John Gauthier, Angus Buote
1922-28	Zachariah Buote, John Gauthier, Angus Buote
1928-33	Zachariah Buote, Emily LeClair, Angus Buote
1933-34	Wilfred Pineau, John Pineau, Allan Gauthier
1934-35	Wilfred Pineau, John Gauthier, Allan Gauthier
1935-36	Bert Blacquiére, John Gauthier, Isidore Gallant
1936-37	Bert Blacquiére, Isidore Gallant, Delphine Arsenault
1937-38	John E. Doucette, Edward Blanchard, Andrew LeClair, Delphine Arsenault
1938-39	John E. Doucette, William Doucette, Andrew LeClair, Marie Ann Gallant
1939-40	Lawrence Doucette, William Doucette (changed in May to Francis Gaudet), Andrew LeClair, Thomas A. McNally

PRINCIPALS OF STELLA MARIS

1940-41	Lawrence Doucette
1941 (until Oct 3)	Alphonsus Keefe
1941-42	Francis O'Keefe
1942-44	Thomas Johnston
1944-51	Sister St. Mary Eugenia (Louise Gallant)
1951-53	Sister St. Hildebert (Annie White)
1953-56	Sister St. Mary Eugenia (Louise Gallant)
1956-66	Sister St. Mary Sixtus (Vera MacLellan)
1966-67	Lionel Gaudin
1967-68	Sister Vera MacLellan (St. Mary Sixtus)
1968-72	Desmond Gallant
1972-73	Lloyd Gaudet
1973-76	Adelbert Roche
1976-77	Desmond Connolly
1977-86	Tom Wilkinson

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS

1961-63	Sister St. Leonard Maureen (Geraldine Handrahan)
1963-65	Sister St. Daniel of the Redeemer (Helen Hughes)
1965-71	Sister St. Michael Bernard (Ann Brockerrick)
1971-72	Frank Peters

TEACHERS AT STELLA MARIS SCHOOL

* indicates previous or later years of service at Stella Maris.

1940-41	Lawrence Doucette
1940-51	Sister St. Mary Eugenia (Louise Gallant) * 1953-56
1940-56	Sister St. Catherine of Louvain (Edna M. Pitre)
1940-41	Helen Gallant *1950-53
1941 (Sept.)	Alphonsus Keefe
1941-42	Francis O'Keefe
1941-49	Sister St. Linus (Margaret Jane Murphy)
1942-44	Thomas Johnston
1942-43	Sister St. Francis Claire (Florence Morrissey) *1965-67
1943-46	Sister St. Anthony Daniel (Hilda MacEachern)
1944-49	Sister St. Emma Marie (Alfreda Rogers) *1967-75
1946-63	Sister St. Joseph of the Saviour (Helen Smith)
1946-52	Sister St. Gemma Marie (Marie Fernande Arsenault)
1948-49	Elsie Doyle
1949-52	Sister St. Cecilia Metella (Cecilia Doiron)
1949-57	Sister St. Catherine of Sienna (Martha Sark)
1949-50	Alice McCloskey
1950-53	Sister St. Hildebert (Annie White)
1950-52	Sister St. Adrien of Mary (Dina Gaudet) *1953-55
1950-53	Helen Gallant *1940-41
1951-53	Joan Arsenault
1952-53	Sister St. Ignace Martyre (Edna L. Pitre)
1952-60	Sister St. Cecilia Ann (Teresa McCarron)
1952-58	Sister St. Patricia Ann (Georgina Hughes)
1953-55	Sister St. Adrien of Mary (Dina Gaudet) *1950-52
1953-56	Sister St. Mary Eugenia (Louise Gallant) *1940-51
1953-54	Louise Doiron
1953-55	Nora Doyle
1953-54	Jean Gallant *1958-62
1954-57	Sister St. Elizabeth of Portugal (Mary Olive McInnis)
1954-55	Yvonne Doiron *1963-65
1954-55	Marina Gallant
1955-57	Sister St. Daniel Of the Redeemer (Helen Hughes) *1963-65
1955-57	Olive Gallant
1955-86	Mrs. Marjorie Doucette
1955-58	Mildred Gallant *1964-65 *1968-70
1956-62	Sister St. Rosalia (Hermina DesRoches)
1956-66	Sister St. Mary Sixtus (Vera MacLellan) *1967-68
1957-60	Sister St. Clementina (Elizabeth Mahar)
1957-60	Sister St. Peter Mary (Elizabeth McQuaid)

1957-66	Sister St. Catherine of Sweden (Rita Martin)
1957-59	Mary C. Gallant
1958-62	Jean Gallant *1953-54
1958-60	Sister St. Brendan Mary (Mary Gillis)
1959-60	Rose Marie Doiron
1959-63	Gregory Gallant
1960-65	Sister St. Bridget of Sweden (Angela Kenny)
1960-61	Sister St. Mary Isabel (Mary MacKenzie) *1971-75
1960-66	Norman Gallant
1960-68	Sister St. Ignatius (Teresa MacKenzie)
1960-64	Sister St. Thomas of the Angels (Pauline Dalton)
1961	Sister St. Wilfrid (Marie Clarkin)
1961-62	Sister St. Alma Marie (Joan MacKenzie)
1961-67	Mrs. Mary A. Gallant
1961-66	Sister St. Leonard Maureen (Geraldine Handrahan) *1974-78
1962-71	Sister St. Loretta (Joan Marie Chaisson)
1962-70	Sister St. Cyrille (Marguerite Richard)
1962-	James D. Gallant
1962-63	Lorraine Gallant
1962-63	Mrs. Ralph Crockett
1963-65	Sister St. Daniel of the Redeemer (Helen Hughes)*1955-57
1963-65	Mrs. Yvonne (Doiron) Gallant *1954-55
1963-64	Ida Gallant
1963-71	Sister St. Berthe Therese (Teresa Sampson)
1963-65	Norma Gallant *1970-72
1963-66	Mrs. Joan Gallant *1968-70 *1971
1963-67	Mrs. Hermine Gaudin
1964-65	Mrs. Mildred Gallant *1955-58 *1968-70
1964-67	Lionel Gaudin
1964-67	Sister St. Mary Patrick (Irma Hogan)
1965-70	Sister Eleanor Ethier
1965-67	Sister St. Francis Claire (Florence Morrissey) *1942-43
1965-71	Sister St. Michael Bernard (Ann Brockerick) *1972-77 *1978-83
1965-74	Marie (Cullen) Peters
1965-67	Mrs. Elsie Pineau *1968-73 *1975
1966-67	Hubert Morrison
1966-78	John E. Gallant
1966-69	Sister Elizabeth McCarron *1983-84 *1985-
1966-67	Theresa Gallant
1966-70	Sister Patricia Smith
1967-68	Sister Vera McLellan (St. Mary Sixtus) *1956-66
1967-75	Sister Alfreda Rogers (St. Emma Marie) *1944-49

1967-78	Desmond Gallant
1967-77	Sister Catherine Smith
1967-78	Rupert Stewart
1967-68	Mrs. Yvonne LeClair *Dec. 1970-72 *1979-
1967-82	Mrs. Edna Gallant
1967-68	Judy Sirois
1968-70	Mrs. Joan Gallant *1963-66 *1971
1968-70	Margaret Stewart
1968-70	Mrs. Mildred Gallant *1955-58 *1964-65
1968-71	Sister Doreen Walsh
1968-73	Mrs. Elsie Pineau *1965-67 *1975
1969-78	Patricia (Broderick) McArthur
1969-70	Sheila Doyle
1969-	Frank Peters
1970-71	Sister Janet Malone
1970-72	Sister Norma Gallant *1963-65
1970-Feb. 1972	Arthur Buote
1970-	Leo Peters
1970	Mrs. Anita Gallant
1970-73	Sister Margaret Bernard
Dec. 1970-72	Mrs. Yvonne LeClair *1967-68 *1979-
1971-75	Sister Mary MacKenzie (St. Mary Isabel) *1960-61
1971-73	Alfred Morrison
1971-73	Lee Crane
1971-73	Patricia Proctor
1971-72	Sister Anne MacDonald
1971-73	Mrs. Betty Doucette
1971	Mrs. Joan Gallant *1963-66 *1968-70
1972	Mrs. Marion Murphy
1972-73	Lloyd Gaudet
1972-77	Sister Ann Broderick (St. Michael Bernard) *1965-71 *1973-83
1972-81	Mrs. Christine Burdette
1972-77	Mrs. Cathy Gallant
1973-76	Adelbert Roche
1973-74	Mrs. Patricia Crossman
1973-74	Reg Waite
1973-79	Sister Esther Clarkin *1984-
1973-74	Alexandra Clarey
1974-78	Sister Geraldine Handrahan (St. Leonard Maureen) *1961-66
1974-76	Joanne Lajeunesse
1974-	Vincent Angelini

1975-78	Philip Connolly
1975	Mrs. Elsie Pineau *1965-67 *1968-73
1976	Bernadette Egan
1976-77	Desmond Connolly
1976-78	Bill Loughheed
1977-86	Tom Wilkinson
1977-78	Irene Garth
1977-81	Susan Linkletter
1977-	Sister Carol McManus
1978-83	Sister Ann Broderick (St. Michael Bernard) *1965-71 *1971-77
1979-	Mrs. Yvonne LeClair *1967-68 *Dec. 1970-72
1981-84	Sister Margaret Murphy
1981-82	Mrs. Cindy Southwood
1981-82	Mrs. Avonna Stevenson
1982-	Sister Rebecca McKenna
1982-83	Mrs. Elsie Adams
1982-	Mrs. Debi Murphy
1982	Mrs. Lois Olive
Jan. 1983-85	Mrs. Elaine Driscoll
1983-84	Sister Elizabeth McCarron *1966-69 *1985-
1983-84	Mrs. Margaret McKay
1984-	Sister Esther Clarkin
1984-	Lori Ann (Friesen) Carragher
1985-	Sister Elizabeth McCarron *1966-69 *1983-84

CHAPTER III

THE FOUNDING OF STELLA MARIS CONVENT

Pioneer Sisters, Superiors and non-teaching Sisters

The preface to the Annals of Stella Maris Convent was written by Sister St. Mary Aloysius (Margaret MacNeil) Provincial Superior of the C.N.D. convents in the Maritimes. Sister tells the story of the founding of this new mission:

“For three years the devoted pastor of Stella Maris had pleaded for Sisters to take charge of his school but the dearth of subjects made it impossible for our Community to accede to his wishes. On my arrival in Charlottetown as Provincial in 1938, Father McNeill begged me to put his case before our General Council.

“At his request I went to North Rustico to look over the possibilities of a future mission. On my arrival there I confess my enthusiasm somewhat waned when I visualized all that would have to be done before the venture would materialize. “Where is your school?” I asked Father McNeill as we stood in front of his church. “There”, he answered, pointing to a dingy building on the opposite side of the road. And then, in moving words he went on to tell how he had, in a miraculous manner, obtained the building which had once been a factory.

“I ventured to point out the difficulties of transforming this building — standing on stilts — into a habitable school and urged that, since there was no residence for the Sisters, prudence would demand delay, but my words fell unheeded. Like the poet, Father had seen a vision: “Souls were to be saved so why should obstacles stand in the way? These would be conquered.” And Time proved the wisdom of his words.

“A year later I again visited North Rustico. What a transformation had taken place! A cement foundation had replaced the stilts, the roof had been raised, windows added, and now resplendent in white paint the old factory had assumed a youthful and gracious appearance. Within were four classrooms, a library, and assembly hall and a spacious basement. And there, on the wall of the first classroom we entered was a picture of our Venerable Foundress, Marguerite Bourgeoys! It was my turn to see visions, and I could easily picture the number of young people who, through the years here, would be formed according to the philosophy of education bequeathed to us by this heroic woman who, at the request of the Governor of New France, had left a comfortable home in France to become the first teacher in Montreal.

“Another year followed during which Father McNeill never relaxed his efforts to have our Community grant his request. He made several trips to our Mother House in Montreal where he pleaded his cause in person. Finally, on the feast of the Assumption, 1940, permission was granted provided that two Sisters could be spared from their assignments on the Island. And so it was that

Sister (Edna Pitre) St. Catherine of Louvain from Notre Dame, Charlottetown, and Sister (Louise Gallant) St. Mary Eugenia from Our Lady of the Angels' Convent, Tignish, were the privileged pioneers selected to become the first religious teachers at Stella Maris School." (It is interesting to note that a MacNeil from Cape Breton was able to assist a McNeill from P.E.I. in authorizing the founding of Stella Maris Convent.)

When the school-bell rang at 9 a.m. on September 3, one hundred and forty pupils lined up at the school entrance. After the organization of the classes, Father McNeill, noticing that some pupils were absent, set out like a good shepherd to look for them. Within a half-hour he returned with a goodly number to swell the ranks of the already well-filled classrooms.

Since as yet there was no residence for the Sisters it was arranged that they would live in the school, their sleeping quarters in a little dressing room off the stage. They would have meals at the rectory where the other two teachers, Mr. Lawrence Doucette, principal, and Miss Helen Gallant, were boarding.

There was no heat in the school from 4 p.m. until 8 a.m. and no hot water available there. However, part of the weekends were spent at the convent in South Rustico and there the two Sisters found the solace and guidance necessary to sustain them during the trying days of foundation and organization.

In late October, the cold in the school at night was becoming a health hazard so two rooms in the rectory were set aside for the Sisters' use until Christmas.



Stella Maris Convent just moved to site.



Convent In 1940's.

It was in September, 1940, that the home of Mrs. Simon Pineau was bought by the Congregation of Notre Dame. This house had been built on a beautiful location overlooking the river and it was a heartache to realize that it must be moved. It was too far from the school, particularly in winter. Therefore, on October 2, feast of the Holy Angels, the transportation of the building was begun. It took six days of very careful manoeuvring to land it on its prepared foundation, on land donated by Cornelius Pineau.

On January 2, 1941, the Sisters entered their new home for the first time. Most of the rooms had not been used for years so considerable renovations had to be made, some occasioned by the moving of the building when plaster was damaged, etc. Many Sisters from Notre Dame and South Rustico convents came to help. Sister Provincial remained to help for the first two weeks and she was ever an example of Christlike kindness and zeal. From Charlottetown, Sister St. John of Meda (Mary Margaret Hughes) sent one after another of her household to assist with housekeeping through those first six months.

Early in January, 1941, Father McNeill asked Sister Provincial if the Sisters might take on two months of night classes. This would include sewing and different kinds of handiwork for interested women, and general classwork for another group of men and women who had not been privileged to attend school for more than very few years in their youth, and who now wished to avail themselves of such an opportunity. Each of the two Sisters would teach three nights per week.



Pioneer Sisters — Louise Gallant and Edna Pitre.

Classes were organized on January 14. Sister St. Mary Eugenia (Louise Gallant) welcomed twenty-five women and young girls who assembled for sewing class. From the Mount St. Bernard Home Economics Class, Antigonish, Sister St. Mary Aloysius sent a large carton containing enough material to make a beautiful quilt besides a supply of other material for the sewing class. The following night a second group came together for general classwork. There were nine men and four women all eager to learn again to read and write and to get a general grasp of Arithmetic and Geography, apart from a lesson in Religion. These students were under the direction of Sister St. Catherine of Louvain.

By the end of two months all the good people who had attended these night classes, unlike the students of a younger generation, did not seem at all eager for holidays.

February 24, 1941, was a red letter day in the life at Stella Maris Convent. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was celebrated in the little chapel for the first

time. This was the great privilege that had been longed for and, as if to show how much He shared the Sisters' joy, the dear Saviour added another blessing to prove His great love and protection. In the evening approximately sixty-five of the ladies of the parish assembled at the convent to partake of another spiritual gift, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Afterwards all met in the community room. Those who could not enter it because of lack of space looked in from the kitchen or hallway. These women had prepared an address and a short program which the Sisters enjoyed and deeply appreciated. Father McNeill then spoke very earnestly of the great events of this day. To quote him at length would be very edifying but space does not permit. Two sentences may reveal a little of the spirituality of this exceptional man. "Until today I did not feel that the convent was truly established here, for a house is really not a convent until Jesus is living under the same roof with the Sisters. Now the daughters of the Venerable Marguerite Bourgeoys who have come to live among us will have the Divine Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament continually with them here and I fervently hope that He will remain under this roof for many, many long years."

On May 12, work was begun on the convent grounds: paths were cut, trees planted and the front lawn graded. Much was still to be done in preparation for the ceremony of the blessing of the convent.

At 3 o'clock on June 22, 1941 after a reception in the school, Bishop J.A. O'Sullivan, accompanied by five priests proceeded to the convent for the ritual blessing of the house. About five hundred people had assembled for this occasion. Entering the convent, the Bishop recited the prayers of the ritual for the Blessing of a House, then he went from room to room sprinkling each with holy water. Immediately afterwards, His Excellency proceeded with the assistant priests to the outside altar which had been prepared for Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. He was assisted by Father Clarence Pitre and Father Earl Dalton while Father McNeill directed the congregational singing.

Father Francois Buote, a native of this parish, delivered sermons in English and French. He particularly stressed the favor the parish had received when the Congregation of Notre Dame opened a convent in North Rustico, and he asked the people to show their gratitude by cooperating with the Sisters in every way they could.

His Excellency, in turn, in his intangible manner, spoke again of the noble work of the Sisters and urged the parishioners to cooperate with them in thanksgiving for the convent that had been established in Stella Maris.

As for the Sisters, they felt that their praises for God's infinite goodness should be continual, and they asked our Blessed Mother, Star of the Sea, to watch over them that her Divine Son would delight to dwell in their little home, so that many souls might be helped to know Him better and to love Him more.

As their first year in North Rustico came to an end, it was with sincere gratitude that the Sisters acclaimed the good people of North Rustico. Although none was blessed with an over-abundance of earthly goods, they assuredly had a spirit of generous co-operation and helpfulness which were indeed admirable. United in mind and heart with these parishioners, the Sisters felt that they belonged with them in a happy parish family.

The first Sister Superior of Stella Maris Convent, Sister (Catherine Wilson) Saint George, came from Summerside in July, 1941, and she received a most heartfelt welcome. All the Sisters of South Rustico came over to greet her, and Sister of the Resurrection of St. Joseph's Convent, Charlottetown, saw to it that the house would be well supplied to begin housekeeping again since the convent had been closed for the summer. There was even a box of kindling wood to assure a quick fire. What thoughtfulness!

Things were beginning to look very bright. At six o'clock, August 26, 1941 the benefit of electricity was extended to North Rustico. There was free lighting for two weeks; moreover, Maritime Electric requested that all lights be turned on every night during that period as an advertisement for their Company.

In October, 1941, a second hand piano in very good condition was installed in the convent parlor and a month later Sister St. Catherine gave the first piano lesson. More and more pupils, as many as could be taken after school and on Saturdays, took advantage of this opportunity so that, in 1948, there were seventeen boys and girls learning that Music is a most enjoyable art. It is a gift of God and its mission is to make mankind and the world better, to charm, to brighten the grave routine of life.

In 1944, Mr. Johnston, principal of Stella Maris School, was asked to become full-time secretary for the Fishermen's Union in North Rustico. After many ineffectual efforts were made to secure a capable person to replace him, the trustees pleaded with Sister St. George, Superior, to take up this task. With characteristic generosity Sister consented to assume the duties of Principal which included the teaching of Grades 8, 9 and 10. She continued this work for five months and, under her direction, the three Grade 10 pupils successfully passed the Entrance Examinations.

In July, 1947, Sister St. George's term as first Superior of Stella Maris Convent was ended. During those six years, when there was so much scope for her wisdom, energy and ability, she lost no opportunity for the improvement of the convent, for the good of the school, and indeed of the parish.

Sister St. Margaret of Paray (Ethel Foley) came from Villa Maria Academy, Montreal, where she had successfully taught High School students, to take up duties as the new Superior.

In the summer of 1948 a neighbor and very capable carpenter, Mr. Aeneas Poirier, with his assistants, began the cement foundation for a new wing which

was to be added to the convent. With the increasing school enrolment the staff likewise had been increased and the convent needed much more space. A new chapel and more sleeping quarters became an urgent need. Many delays in the delivery of necessary materials kept the carpenters from advancing more quickly, but there was great satisfaction in knowing that these conscientious and excellent workmen could be depended upon entirely. Another fine workman, who cannot fail to be remembered, was Jerome Peters, a neighbor and general handiman. His personal interest and devotedness all through the years were admirable. He could always be relied upon not only in his regular work but in any emergency; in one such instance he saved the convent from what might have been a destructive fire.

On April 11, 1950, the new wing was entirely completed. The lovely chapel and the additional rooms will stand as a testimonial to the untiring and utterly unselfish dedication of Sister St. Margaret of Paray.

In August of that year the Sisters heard that Sister St. Margaret was unexpectedly called to Charlottetown to take charge of Notre Dame Academy. The extracurricular work in the school and parish will relate some of Sister's accomplishments for the benefit of Stella Maris.

The Sisters then welcomed another great woman in the person of Sister St. Hildebert (Annie White) who succeeded Sister St. Margaret. For the past thirteen years Sister had been Dean of Women at Mount St. Bernard College, Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

Less than a week after her arrival she was already working hard in the interests of the school. An interview which she held with the Superintendent of Education resulted in having Grade Eleven as a class by itself, provided that there were at least twelve pupils in the class. In order to accomplish her purpose the Sisters decided to take student boarders and there were three that first year.

Sister St. Mary Eugenia (Louise Gallant) continued as principal of the school while sharing with Sister St. Hildebert (Annie White) different subjects in Grades XI and X.

Apart from the blessings already mentioned another great one was the arrival of Sister Lillian Blacquiere (Sister Benoit des Agnes) who was welcomed with open arms. She was loved and appreciated as the first Sister cook at the convent.

In December, 1950, Sister St. Catherine of Louvain returned from Montreal where she had spent five months recovering from illness. After that Sister taught music only, with as many as twenty-eight piano students, and continued as church organist and directress of the girls' choir.

In September of that year we were fortunate to obtain the services of Sister St. Elizabeth, one of the Music teachers at St. Joseph's Convent, in Charlotte-

town, and many pupils took advantage of her presence to take music lessons and to learn many beautiful choruses. Unfortunately, Sister was recalled just before Christmas as the need in Charlottetown was greater than ours. However, Sister very generously returned the following June to help with the program for the Closing Exercises.

The following September (1951) one of the foundresses of Stella Maris Convent and a very precious member of the staff, Sister St. Mary Eugenia, was relieved of her teaching that she might continue further studies at St. F.X. University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

The Sisters spent one whole week of this month of January, 1952, visiting pupils who were ill. Almost every home had a sick child either because of measles or pneumonia, and it was hoped that these encounters with the children would bring them and their good parents the assurance of the deep concern and love of the Sisters.

In May of 1953, the Sisters welcomed Sister St. Mary Eugenia home from Antigonish, where she had graduated with distinction. Sister then resumed her duties as Principal of Stella Maris School.

In July 1953, a very important meeting for Stella Maris School took place. The board of trustees, Father Eric Robin, the executives of the Home and School Association, The Legion, the Catholic Women's League, and St. Thomas Aquinas societies, together with Sister St. Mary Eugenia and Sister St. Hildebert, assembled to take steps to petition the Government to have Grade XII established in the school. A brief was prepared which was to be presented to Premier Matheson and to the Minister of Education, Mr. Keir Clark.

March 20, 1954, will be a day not easily forgotten in North Rustico. The destructive fire which consumed the first and well-loved Stella Maris School brought overwhelming sadness to all concerned. Even some of the pupils were in tears! This sad story was told in more detail elsewhere in this book.

A few days later Sister St. Hildebert was busy making plans for a new Hall which was to be erected as soon as possible. In this hall there would be an auditorium, a kitchen, a bowling alley and a basement large enough to be used for suppers and bazaars.

The hall was ready for the Graduation Exercises the following June, 1954, and it was at that special yearly event that Father Robin proudly made the announcement that Grade XII would be added to the school curriculum in September of that current year.

In April, 1955, carpenters marked off the ground for a new wing to be added to the convent. It was to consist of a dining room for boarders and three bedrooms. At the end of July the wing was completed.

It was indeed with sorrow that the Sisters said goodbye to their superior, Sister St. Hildebert, whose term of office had come to a close this July, 1956. Her virtue, her deep religious spirit, her total self-forgetfulness were admired by all. Her concern for others was evident when Sister accidentally broke her arm while helping to put up the crib in the church on Christmas Eve. Her first words were: "Thank God it was I who fell and not one of my companions!" Her rich intellectual resources, as well as all these qualities were aptly noted by her companions: "We will forever remember with love and gratitude our incomparable Sister St. Hildebert!"

The two founding Sisters of Stella Maris Convent also left North Rustico this summer. Sister St. Mary Eugenia was transferred to Miscouche High School and Sister St. Catherine of Louvain to Sydney Mines Convent, Cape Breton.

There is never a shortage of good, capable women in this land of ours. A heartfelt welcome was extended to one of these, Sister (Hermine DesRoches) St. Rosalia, who succeeded Sister St. Hildebert. Sister had spent many years teaching in the High School in Caraquet, N.B. She was a most successful teacher and was well-equipped, too, as a Music teacher.

In August, 1957, Sister Lillian Blacquiére left Stella Maris for a convent with the same name in Pictou, Nova Scotia. The services Sister rendered during her eight years in North Rustico, her spirit of joy and friendliness, were truly greatly appreciated.

Sister St. Daniel of Mercy (Philomene Gallant) came to replace Sister Lillian. She was surely a great blessing to Stella Maris Convent.

After two weeks of constant work the insulation of the convent was completed and this increased the comfort of all. Many items, all very necessary, were added to the house in 1958. A new organ was bought for the chapel. During the summer of 1961 the entire roof of the convent had to be repaired.

Sister St. Rosalia, besides her efficient care of her household, contributed a big share to school programs. She organized a women's choir who generally sang once a week in church. Sister also gave piano lessons to a number of students who continued to bring honor to North Rustico at Music Festivals.

It might be added here that, because of sufficient local enrolment, the decision was made not to take boarders any longer. Through the years from 1950, when three boarders made it possible to open a special class for Grade XI, their numbers increased until, with thirteen girls, the peak of convent accommodation for boarders was reached. These students were loved and enjoyed.

After six years of generous service and inspiration here Sister St. Rosalia was named to take over the duties of Superior in Tignish Convent.

Sister St. Helen of the Rosary (Sister Ida Reid) came to North Rustico from Notre Dame Academy, Charlottetown, when she left the leadership of that

house to become the head of Stella Maris Convent. Throughout her years in this parish Sister was noted for her concern and thoughtfulness, her great-hearted love for everyone. Many came to her for advice and went away comforted. She was warmly loved especially by the Senior Citizens whom she visited regularly.

When they had to say goodbye to her in 1968, there was sorrow in many hearts. Sister St. Helen was most grateful when Sister Viola Ryan (Sister St. Christine of the Angels) was named bursar for the convent for the years 1969-1971. With a wealth of experience as teacher, superior and bursar, Sister Viola helped in many ways to promote the happiness of those she met. Her many visits to the Senior Citizens brought them hours of joy and entertainment.

However, it was not long before those good people found another interested friend in Sister Winnifred MacDonald who succeeded Sister St. Helen. The Sisters will always be particularly grateful to Sister Winnifred for a much needed alteration in the convent. Due to noise from the main entrance and kitchen it was decided in 1970 to place a false wall on the inside of the chapel and to change the door leading to it. When this was accomplished it most certainly helped to make the chapel a much more peaceful place of prayer.

Sister Winnifred saw to many other improvements and, like her predecessors, gave of her very best in concern for both spiritual and temporal matters, endearing herself to the people, especially to the aged, the lonely and deprived.

When Sister's term of six years as superior ended in 1973 it was not easy to say farewell to one who had been a devoted leader and a most considerate and congenial companion.



Convent as it is today.

In 1973 Sister Catherine Smith was appointed Superior. Together with her new duties and full time teaching position, Sister continued to travel to Hope River every Sunday for Religion Classes. Sister Catherine left Rustico in 1977 to finish her Master's Degree in Library Science.

Sister Catherine was replaced by Sister Elizabeth McCarron as Superior. Sister Elizabeth held a teaching position in St. Augustine's School, South Rustico as well as teacher of Adult Religion Classes in North Rustico. Sister Elizabeth completed her term as Superior in 1983. She left the following year for a years study in Rome, Italy.

In September, 1983 Sister Carol McManus was named new Superior, and is the present Superior of Stella Maris Convent. For the past few years Sister Carol has held a full time teaching position at Stella Maris School. She is also involved in both Youth and Senior Church Choirs at Stella Maris Church.

Sister Patricia Arsenault and Sister Phyllis are two sisters presently residing at Stella Maris Convent who are not working within the Rustico School system. Sister Patricia is a nurse at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Sister Phyllis is art/math teacher at Bluefield High.

Sister Esther Clarkin and Sister Becky McKenna are also, presently residing at the convent and teaching at Stella Maris School.



JUNIOR CHOIR STELLA MARIS

Back Row L. to R: Chad Gallant, Sister Carol McManus, Lane Pineau, Corey Peters, Christopher Gauthier, Sherry Pineau, Stacey Gauthier, Denise MacFarlane, Tania Gallant, Sister Becky McKenna, Trena Gallant.

Front Row L. to R: Michelle Blacquiere, Christopher Buote, Richie Gallant, Marsha Doucette, Jennifer Gallant, Bobby Jo Dow, Maria Gallant, Margo Doiron.

Missing from Photo: Nicole Costello, Raquel Buote, Peggy Doucette, Trevor MacPherson.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The initial work in this category undertaken by the Sisters in North Rustico was the preparation of the first Christmas Concert held in Stella Maris School. It might be interesting to those who were involved to read over the program presented on the night of Dec. 23, 1940. It ran as follows:

Chorus:	The Birthday of a King (Neidlinger)
Playlet:	The Light in the Window
Chorus:	English Carols
Song:	The Santa Claus Express
Dialogue:	Les Orphelins a L'Enfant Jesus
Chorus:	French Carols
Playlet:	Santa's Toys (animated)
Recitation:	A Child at the Crib
Dramatization:	The Christmas Spirit
Chorus:	Beautiful Star of Christmas

The pastor, Father Douglas McNeill, was always greatly interested in the cultural as well as in the religious and academic development of the students. Had funds been available he would have done his utmost to provide a director and have a school band formed at Stella Maris. Not to be entirely thwarted he asked Sister St. Catherine (Edna Pitre) to organize a rhythm band with the younger boys. In the spring of 1941 a group of twenty-five boys from Grades I to IV were happy to be chosen for this novel experience. A good friend of the pastor's saw to the expenses of the necessary instruments.

These pupils were taught the basic rudiments of Music, and soon they were able to follow their scores with ease. Mr. Aeneas Poirier very generously made light wooden stands for the score sheets. Some time later, the younger girls were given the same instructions and the Rhythm Band became a looked-for item on many programs.

Toward the end of the same year, knowing that the church organist and nearly all the choir members had to leave the village immediately after Christmas for winter work elsewhere, Father McNeill made the request that a boys' choir be prepared to replace their elders. Fortunately they had been singing the "mass of the Angels" with the congregation, but for these twenty boys it required many hours of practice in order to be able to sing it with some assurance. The huge task was to master the Latin for the different parts of the "High Mass." However, the enthusiasm and self-confidence of these boys together with much work would excuse the defects in their performance that first day of January, 1942. When the men returned a few months later the boys were proud to be kept on as members of their choir. A year later a girls' choir was formed. They sang at

the early Sunday Mass and on many other occasions. Their interest and beautiful spirit of co-operation made it a joy to work with them.

For over fifteen years several of the piano pupils participated in the Music Festivals conducted in Charlottetown. They regularly brought honor to North Rustico, often winning first place awards. Later, when choruses were entered there was similar success.

God had blessed many of the children of North Rustico with more than ordinary talent for Music and Art. A very special gift in Art Work has been remarkably exhibited by one of the early pupils of Stella Maris School who is known today over several countries for the many books he has written, illustrated and has had published with outstanding success. As a young pre-schooler Mark Gallant, escaping the vigilance of his good mother, made his way more than once to the convent, timidly rang the door-bell and pleaded: "Could I have a little drawing paper?" Who could resist that appeal? Certainly not Sister St. Hildebert! With her own natural talent and her great appreciation of the beauties of nature she sensed the yearning for expression in this little budding artist and always sent him home with a supply of the material he so much desired.

Sister St. Margaret of Paray (Ethel Foley) had reason to remark the talent and co-operative effort among the adults as well. Under her inspiration and direction they staged many beautiful plays. Hours and hours of night work were spent in the auditorium but the outcome was always rewarding. Who could forget the truly sublime drama, "The Upper Room" & The packed auditorium was in intense silence all through the performance revealing the appreciation that so beautiful a subject can arouse.

Under Sister's direction, too, the play, "Anne of Green Gables", was staged. This lovable play was so well done and the cast entered into their parts with such enthusiasm and realism that the audience was astonished at the capability shown by this young group of teen-agers.

For the cultural benefit of the High School Students Sister St. Hildebert, in turn, gave courses in public speaking with remarkable results. Her experience in coaching students at Mt. St. Bernard College was now to contribute to the advantage of the pupils of Stella Maris who, in their rural school, were indeed fortunate to be taught the techniques of good debating.

For three summers Sr. St. Mary Eugenia (Louise Gallant), principal, spent most of the holidays at St. Pascal's College, Quebec, studying Home Economics for the sole purpose of helping the students of Stella Maris. At the same time Sr. St. Joseph (Helen Smith) followed similar courses at U.N.B. In April, 1951, they began a series of three lessons per week for the girls of Grades VIII to XI included. Throughout the following twelve years (Sister St. Joseph continued by herself after Sr. St. Mary Eugenia's departure) these devoted Sisters taught this important subject after a full day's work in school. Working within a limited

budget the girls learned cooking skills and many necessary household duties while enjoying each other's company and helping to make life easier.

The boys were not forgotten by any means! Three volunteer carpenters gave them a short but practical course in carpentry and samples of their work showed that they profited well from the instructions. Some time later Sister St. Catherine of Sweden added great interest to the boys' work with her expertise in crafts and hobby interests as well as lessons in 4-H Forestry.

In 1947 another benefit was added for the sake of the students. Study periods after school from 4 to 5 and at night from 7 to 9 assured a quiet and helpful atmosphere for the accomplishment of assignments. This work was carried on for approximately fifteen years.

For many years there were sewing classes after school for the Red Cross and the 4-H Club. (See list of teachers of Stella Maris School at end of chapter on school for family names of sisters.) Sisters St. Anthony Daniel, St. Joseph, St. Emma-Marie, St. Mary Eugenia, St. Adrien of Mary, St. Linus and St. Catherine of Sweden took turns carrying on this valuable work. As an example of the sewing accomplished, the school report as of June 23, 1946, reads: The annual exhibition of the pupils' sewing brought many visitors and appreciative comments. This year's work surpasses any that the school has so far exhibited. The older girls made beautiful dresses; there were knitted sweaters, socks, caps and mitts, little Dutch Skirts, jumper dresses, aprons, bonnets, shopping and knitting bags, runners and cushions displayed by all the junior grades, and finally, but not least were the bed socks and scarfs of Grades II and III and the basic embroidery and little items of Grade I.

In 1949 Stella Maris School joined the Women's Institute Sewing Club. In October of that year there came the joyful news that two of the Grade XI students, Alvere LeClair and Louise Doiron, won the distinction of leading the Island in the sewing contest. This honor brought with it the grand award of a two weeks' visit to the Toronto Fair with all expenses paid.

For six years the Provincial Branch Library was under the supervision of Sister St. Gemma Marie in Stella Maris School. Adults came for books at a stated time on Sundays and the children were served after school. Later, and for nine years, Sister St. Catherine of Sweden (Sr. Rita Martin) was Librarian for both Elementary and High School Students.

Soup was served in the school for many years at noon. At first some of the village women came to help but, after Home Economics Classes opened in the new school, Sister St. Joseph generously saw to the making of this lunch. The same Sister took charge of the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, Brownies and Cubs for two years, and during that time she somehow managed to make money to help buy uniforms for the younger members.

A new venture was undertaken in Dec. 1950 with the publishing of a School Paper, "Stella Maris Highlights". This paper was prepared twice a year and was very well received by parents and pupils. It was one way of having the children of junior and senior grades express themselves in writing, both in prose and poetry.

After the destructive fire of 1954 Sr. St. Mary Eugenia (Louise Gallant) and Sr. St. Hildebert (Annie White) spent hours during many days making plans for the new school. Mr. Downie, Architect from Halifax, who was overseeing the plans, hearing that funds would not be available for the cost of erecting a two-story building, decided that there would have to be only one story and basement classrooms. The principal, Sr. St. Mary Eugenia, wisely objected to having teachers and pupils spend day after day in a basement. Suddenly the architect had a new idea. "How much land does the school district own?", he asked. With the answer came the decision to spread the building over a much larger area, thus avoiding basement rooms and providing a fine, bright school for the ever increasing enrolment.

From the opening of the first Stella Maris School and all through the following years the spiritual welfare of the students was always of greatest concern to their teachers. For close to thirty years the School Board allowed the teaching of Religion Classes to be carried on during the first half hour of school at Stella Maris, and this privilege was deeply appreciated. However, many hours outside of school time were spent working for dialogue participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, in training altar boys, looking after the sacristy and the decoration of the sanctuary. The Sisters tried by various means to instill into the hearts of the children true devotion to our Blessed Mother, Mary, Guardian of the Parish under her beautiful title, "Star of the Sea." The Living Rosary, processions, special hymns, encouragement of family rosary and prayer, meetings with the older students, were among the spiritual activities undertaken.

Care of the poor was a very rewarding work during the "hard times" of the parish when large cartons of clothing, new and almost new, were sent by friends of the Sisters, from Montreal. One Sister was named to distribute the clothing privately so that no one but the recipient knew where the gift came from, and in this way many deserving good people, whose hard work brought them little remuneration, were helped.

In 1955 the High School boys and girls were given the privilege of attending a retreat under the direction of Father William Simpson of Saint Dunstan's University. The convent chapel was given over to them during these days of prayer and direction. Thus was initiated a precious advantage that was to become a yearly event.

In August 1956, Sister St. Mary Sixtus (Vera MacLellan) replaced Sr. St. Mary Eugenia (Louise Gallant) as principal. Sister had spent thirty-two years

in Miscouche where she had succeeded in establishing the first rural Grade Eleven Class on the Island. A few years later she opened a Grade Twelve Class in Miscouche.

In her first year at Stella Maris Sister St. Mary Sixtus lost no time in preparing with her students and having published the first **Year Book** of the School. The *North Star* was dedicated to Rev. Douglas McNeil. This book, with each one that followed, was treasured by students, parents and friends.

Allied Youth was a subject which was being discussed at this time. When Mr. David Boswell interviewed Sr. St. Mary Sixtus concerning the formation of a branch of this "Allied Youth" in Stella Maris School Sister gladly consented to have it established. She fully understood the aims of this group and the good that would come from the adoption of the program for the youth of the village. Throughout the following years the appreciation of this first attempt was so general and it proved so beneficial that a group of Allied Youth was also formed for the Elementary school pupils.

Sister St. Mary Sixtus introduced the Physical Education Program to Stella Maris. Sensing the need of more facilities for the teachers she also set up sales of different kinds and several activities which enabled her to procure encyclopedia, radios, tape recorders and records.

In 1966 Sister St. Frances Claire (Florence Morrissey) directed the "Casket Scenes" from *The Merchant Of Venice* with Grade XI and presented this entry at the Drama Festival in Kensington. This play won the prize for Best Visual Presentation, and all with speaking parts received honorable mention.

In May of the same year, the second annual fashion show under the direction of Sister Berthe Therese (Teresa Sampson) was a huge success. The girls proudly modelled dresses, suits, etc. all of which showed remarkable achievement and were surely a great credit to both teacher and pupils.

In 1967 Community School Sessions were held for the first time in North Rustico. Three Sisters offered their services: Sr. Marguerite Richard for French conversation, Sr. Theresa Sampson, Home Economics, and Sr. Joan Marie Chaisson, Typing. Through the years different Sisters continued to contribute their aid to this worthy enterprise; among them Sister Phyllis Gallant and Sr. Carol McManus with their Art Work were greatly appreciated.

Sister Eleanor Ethier and Sr. Norma Gallant, both competent Music teachers, were in turn, gratefully recognized for their contribution to the cultural development of the students by their efficient and regular lessons in Singing. These Sisters divided their week's work between three schools: Stella Maris, St. Augustine's and St. Anne's.

The Allied Youth program continued to flourish under the leadership of Sister Joan Marie Chaisson, who was tireless in giving her time, interest and

encouragement together with invaluable advice to the young people she guided.

In 1973 Sisters Mary MacKenzie, Anne Broderick and Phyllis Gallant accompanied forty-six boys and girls to Oak Acres on an A.Y. local workshop.

Over the past nine years the Sisters residing at Stella Maris Convent have been involved in the following extracurricular activities: Work with Youth and Senior Choirs, Song Leader for the Eucharistic celebrations, Eucharistic Ministry and Readers, Co-ordinator of Catechetics in Stella Maris Parish, Teaching of Catechetics, Grades 2-9, Local Parish Council Member, as well as the following: Teaching Art and Home Economics in Community Schools, Membership on the Diocesan Pastoral Council, Membership on the Diocesan Communication Committee, Participation in Diocesan Vocation activities, Hospital and Home visitation, Adult Religious Education courses in Prayer, in Scripture, in Teachings of the Church and the Living Room retreat together with other retreats for Adults. A Prayer Course was given also in St. Augustine's, St. Anne's and Lot 65 parishes. Art Work on Parish and Diocesan levels was another important contribution.

All in all, the Sisters of Stella Maris Parish have been very much alive and concerned in all that pertained to the spiritual, mental and physical welfare of God's people.

EARLY DAYS AT STELLA MARIS

REMINISCENCES

It was one of the wildest wind and rain storms we had ever experienced. Stella Maris Convent in North Rustico was as yet non-existent as a convent, although a nice home was waiting to be moved to a suitable location not too far from the school, for the Sisters' residence. This was in 1940.

We lived in the school-building and had our meals at the rectory with the Pastor and two lay teachers who boarded with him.

On this special evening in mid-September, as we were preparing to return to the school after supper, there was some consternation as to how we were to get back in the rain-storm that had suddenly come up. Rain we could easily face, but the accompanying wind was terrific! There was no question of our walking. The wind would have made "Mary Poppins" out of us, and we had no desire to be "flying nuns".

The Pastor Fr. McNeill and the Principal, Lawrence Doucette, after seeing one of us decked out in the former's confessional cloak — a warm garment for cold churches — and the other well-covered and buttoned in Miss Helen Gallant's long raincoat, led us carefully out to the car. When we arrived at the school the car had to be left quite a distance from the front door. This was the old Stella Maris School with a narrow walk up to its front entrance. We got out of the car in the downpour, but one of the Sisters, forgetting the strength of the wind, neglected to hold on to someone and away she flew! Her companion, determined not to lose this precious little person, flew after her. While both Sisters now seemed destined to land somewhere in the village, they suddenly went bang! into the post and they clung to it and to each other with the determination that it would have to give way before they would. (Sr. Edna Pitre and Sr. Louis Gallant or as they were known in religion Sr. Catherine of Louvain and Sr. Marie Eugenia).

The two still more determined men soon rescued them, led them up the steps and into the school, the front door of which had been battling the wind all this time. The keen competition could not last much longer. Since the lock had given way, every gust of wind pulled the door open and slammed it back. Having deposited the rather shaken Sisters, and well aware that nothing could hold the door from the inside on such a night, the rescuers found a strong board and nailed it against the door from the outside. Thus well-guarded from the ravages of wind and rain the Sisters relaxed, trusting that the Lord would calm the wind and waters before morning, when the Principal would come to "let them out" in time for Mass.

On our very first night in Stella Maris School, which was our residence for the time being, we were awakened by a crashing sound. What could be

happening? Books seemed to be falling by dozens off the roof a few feet over our heads! Was this just a part of our inheritance, and would this recur each night for our late entertainment.

Thank goodness, whatever it was, it was on the outside, so we decided to go to sleep and let our good angels perform their appointed task.

The following morning the janitor informed us that the ladder had fallen off the roof during the night. Was this strange and untimely salute in honor or in horror of our installation in the school??

While we lived in the school-building for the first seven weeks there was no heat except during school hours. The furnace was lit at 8 a.m. and allowed to die out at 3 p.m. We rose at five o'clock in those days, according to our Rule.

Mass was at seven o'clock each week-day morning. Whether we remained at the school for the two hours or spent most of that time in the church, we were cold, very, very cold at times. Yet through all these weeks neither of the pioneers developed the slightest cold, a clear and heart-warming proof that a loving Father in heaven was mindful of His children.

North Rustico has a very special place in the hearts of these two pioneer Sisters. It might well be that the unusual hardships endured, the deep sharing of poverty, of the family joys and sorrows of the beloved people, united all hearts as nothing else could have done.

Electricity was not brought into the village of North Rustico until a year after our arrival there in 1940. There was running water in the school, but cold water only. In mid-October our morning ablutions were not really anything to look forward to so one of our greatest joys was to get to the convent in South Rustico on week-ends. One Friday evening, as we were departing for "South", Miss Gallant, a companion teacher, compassionating our plight, vowed that, upon our return, we would enjoy heat in the evenings. It happened that after the summer Parish picnic a small stove had been left in the little room on one side of the stage opposite our bedroom. This heater, she promised, would henceforth be lit every evening for our benefit. There was coal in the cellar!

We left for this particular week-end with very happy anticipations of the "homey" atmosphere that would greet our return. Alas, it was on this very week-end that the owner of the stove decided that his own house could stand more comfort, so he removed the heater, unwittingly shattering our hopes for cozy evenings.

However, much better things were in store. The next day our good Pastor invited us to come to his rectory where a bedroom and living room were put at our use until the Christmas holidays after which the convent would be ready for occupancy. The parish house was quite filled up with Fr. McNeil, Germaine Doucette, the housekeeper, along with Helen Gallant and the principal, Lawrence Doucette, and the two sisters.

The slightest joys were very great in our estimation. Who, in these days of fast travel, would consider the coming of a visitor as a special occurrence? We, however, treasured these unexpected visits, particularly from members of our own community. So, one Wednesday evening after school we were delightfully surprised to greet the Superior of South Rustico Convent and her companion together with their kind Pastor who had brought the Sisters over for our mutual joy. It was 3:40 and time for lunch. But where to set this lunch? Our after school snacks were always a two-minute snatched-time period, eaten anywhere we could find a private spot. But, today it had to be different. There were roughwood card-tables in the auditorium so we carried one to the stage. Having covered it with two spotless pillows cases we were proud as queens that we really had a 'fitting' place for our guests.

Now, what to serve? The only thing we had was what we had brought back with us from their convent on the previous Sunday. On this occasion, however, it looked different somehow, and I believe that no feast-day dinner ever tasted more delicious than that little snack partaken of with our dear Sisters whose unexpected arrival brought us so much true joy.

Already four months had gone by and now we looked forward to the Christmas holidays which we were to spend at Notre Dame Academy, Charlot-tetown. Travelling on bad roads was nothing new to us, but we were a little skeptical when it was decided that the Christmas school-concert would be held on the night of December 23rd, not before! Visions of spending Christmas far from our Sisters were not comforting. However, as we gathered in the auditorium the weather looked good, and as the concert proceeded we had no time to worry about such extraneous things as our comfort. The dear children did their utmost to entertain their proud parents and we, too, were proud of them. It was close to ten o'clock when we left the hall in high spirits. But when we came to the door, back rushed the unwanted visions of Christmas outside the convent.

A real, old-fashioned blizzard had come up within the last hour. Our faith must not wane! The dear God, who had shown such love and care for us during the past four months, was Lord of the elements and we trusted Him to bring us safely to Notre Dame. His good and faithful agent, the taxi-driver, was at the rectory next morning at nine o'clock. He had come early although we had only seven miles to travel to meet the 11:30 train at Hunter River. The sun was shining brightly to match the joy in our hearts in going "home". The roads were next to impassible and it is a question if anyone but Mr. John James Gallant would have dared to take a car out. Our most kind and dauntless driver had to keep opening the car door to see where he was going since the snow was higher than the windshield. Having progressed all of **three** miles in one hour he realized that we could go no further by car. Unknown to us Mr. Gallant had asked another man to follow him with a horse and sleigh just in case the car couldn't make it to the station.

We changed from the car to the sleigh and once again were on our way, with the poor horse plunging through banks of snow. (Incidentally, older residents of the village told us that the winter of 1940 had a greater snowfall than any in the previous forty years.) Finally we came to Hunter River. "Sorry, the train to Charlottetown left about twenty minutes ago", the station-agent informed us. Back came the dark visions, even black ones this time!

Seeing our dejection the agent added cheerfully "There will be another train at 2:30". It seemed an eternity before we reached our haven where we were so warmly welcomed that all our little heartaches were forgotten and we only wanted to thank God for His continued love and protection.

It was January 2, 1941. Several Sisters including our Mother Provincial came out to Stella Maris to assist in the arrangement and cleaning of the house. What scrubbing and cleaning of second-hand furniture there was that day!

As the Sisters prepared for rest that night they had to dispense with lamps as the window blinds had not yet been set up. Around midnight we were awakened by a thumping noise. One of the Sisters became very nervous and called to her companion: "Did you hear that?" "Yes", came the sleepy answer from one of the pioneers who had become quite used to unusual noises, "but its nothing, go to sleep". Yet to sleep the frightened Sister could not or would not go.

Tiptoeing into Mother's room she whispered: "Mother, did you hear a noise?" "Yes, I thought I heard a thump across the hallway", came a quiet response. Then in sleepy and disgusted tones a Sister called out: "Oh, go back to your room, I just fell out of bed, that's all!" The dear soul happened to be sleeping on a cot much too narrow to take a "turn-over" from a strong and sturdy nun.

CHAPTER IV

PARISHIONERS - CENSUS (August, 1892) 1982

Children born to families as of June 1886 are added, with asterisk next to the name.

ALLEN STREET

- Blacquiere - Ferdinand and Eleanor (Peters): Janice, Leonard, Craig, Gerard
- Doucette - Eugene
- Doucette - Raymond and Doris (Gauthier): Donald
- Doucette - Regina (Gallant): John, Michele
- Gallant - Dennis and Mildred (Gallant); Irwin, Daniel, Ian, Paul, Wendy, Darren
- Gallant - Earl L.
- Gallant - James and Audrey (Gallant): John, Dean, Scott, James, Phillip, Brian, Michael, Nadine*
- Gallant - Margaret (Doucette): Gina, Scott
- Gallant - Maynard and Eunice (Gallant): Cheryl, Patrick, Lisa, Colleen
- Gallant - Vincent and Celia (Doucette): Thomas
- Gauthier - Lloyd and Maureen (Gallant): Emily
- Pineau - Willis and Jacqueline (Sanderson): Steven, Sandra

BEVERLY STREET

- Doiron - Aiden and Beverley (Francis): Karen, Paul, Cheryl, Denise, Douglas, Jamie*
- Doiron - Albert and Emma (Doucette): Glenn, Heather
- Doiron - Hilda (Doucette)
- Gauthier - Blythe and Catherine (Pineau): Jason, Natasha, Joshua*

CAVENDISH

- Cassidy - Irene (LeClair): Shane, Kimberley, Shanna
- Hornby - James and Jean (MacPhee)
- Molloy - Joseph and Gladys (Dewolfe)

CAVENDISH ROAD

- Allen - Gladys, Leo
- Blacquiere - David and Linda (Lee): Krista, Jamie
- Blacquiere - Paul and Shelly (Shaw): Dylan, Daniel*
- Blacquiere - Vincent and Georgina (LeClair): Joanne, Carl, Eric
- Buote - Douglas and Germaine (Doucette): Kelly, Lisa, Mary Lou, James, Ryan
- Coffin - Jean (Gallant)
- Doiron - Urban and Beatrice (Gallant): Robert
- Gallant - Alvin
- Gallant - Freda (Gallant): Valerie

Gallant	- Leo and Beatrice (Peters)
Gallant	- Wade and Jeannette (Doiron): Sarah, Stephanie, Shawn*
Gauthier	- Reuel and Ada (Gallant): Ian
Hayden	- Tina (Gauthier)
Mullins	- Mary (Saulnier): Shelley
Peters	- Mary Ann (Blacquiere)
Pineau	- Joseph and Gloria (Doucette): Randy, Judy, Dale, Shelley
Pineau	- Vincent, Eric
Saulnier	- Victor and Bertha (Gauthier): Joseph, Harold
Skinner	- Walton and Megan (Crews): Karen, Leonard, Jennifer

CHURCHILL AVENUE

Blacquiere	- Edna (Pineau)
Blacquiere	- Wilfred
Costello	- Beatrice
Doucette	- Alfred
Doucette	- Francis and Lucy (Gallant)
Gallant	- Errol and Rose (Gallant): Colin, Richie, Vickie
Gallant	- John
Gallant	- Justin and Marion (Gallant): Lori
Gallant	- Kenneth and Helen (Gallant): Karen, Colleen
Gaudin	- Gerard and Marie Anne (Gallant): Claire
Gauthier	- Alice (Pineau)
Gauthier	- Evelyn (Blacquiere): Terrence, Michael
Gauthier	- John and Thelma (Gallant): Darren
LeClair	- Leo and Elsie (Lawrence): Carrie
Mullally	- Mamie (MacDonald)
Peters	- Arthur
Peters	- Austin
Peters	- Roy and Eleanor (Doucette): Louis, Louise, Tracy, Russel, Kent, Jeffrey
Pineau	- David and Pauline (Gaudin): Sheldon, Dwayne, Aaron*, Shannon*
Smith	- Keith and Hazel (Doiron): Laura

CO-OP LINE

Buote	- Alyre and Clara (Pineau): Kevin, Della
Gauthier	- Joseph and Jeanette (Gauthier): Patrick, David, Catherine, Virginia, George, Barbara, Paul, Trevor, Michael, Keith, Stacey

GULF SHORE ROAD

Doyle	- Thomas and Doris (Meroth): Kelly, John, Kenneth
Sampson	- Cornelius and Edna (Gauthier)

GULF VIEW CRESCENT

- Blanchard - Olive (Pineau)
Corcoran - John and Annette (Blacquiere)
Costello - Lorne and Bernice (Peters): Christine, Alanna, Sherry, Nicole
Doiron - Bertha (Buote)
Doucette - Andrew E.
Doucette - William and Carol (Saulnier): Deborah, Linda, Terrence, Marsha
Gallant - Douglas and Anne Marie (Doiron): Krista
Gallant - Fileas and Cicely (LeClair): Karen, Laura
Gallant - Gary and Jeannette (Blacquiere): Victoria, Rochelle
Gallant - Harvey and Nancy (Gallant): Shawn, Jeffrey, Jason, Blair
Gallant - LeRoy and Marie (Pineau): Carl, Mary Lynn
Gallant - Peter and Edna (Trainor)
Jarvis - Brent and Elizabeth (Williams): Andrew, Tony, Allan
Mullally - Richard and Aletha (Avery): Sharon, Pamela, Barbara, Brent, Tanya
Peters - Evelyn (Doucette)
Peters - Louis and Doris (Pineau): Terry Lee
Pineau - Catherine (Gauthier): Cyril

HARBOUR

- Doucette - Donald and Beatrice (Egan): Linda
Doucette - Urban
Doucette - Vincent: Leith
Evans - Bill and Margaret (Gallant): Jimmy, Danny, Donnie, Jeffrey
Gallant - Edward
Gallant - Mark and Sandra (Publicover): Michael, Rhianon*
Gallant - Wayne and Gloria (Gallant): Rhonda, Vanessa
Pineau - Amos
Pineau - George
Pineau - Kenneth and Debbie (Heinhoff)
Sampson - Clarence and Marion (Gauthier)
Smith - Eldridge and Mary (Pineau)

HARBOUR VIEW DRIVE

- Blacquiere - Regina (Peters): Derrick
Buote - Edward and Mary (Malone): Brian, Debra, Patricia, Philip
Costello - Stephen and Tracy (Gallant)
Dempster - Marina (Gallant): Laurie
Doiron - Evelyn (Gallant): Janet, Karen
Doucette - Matilda (Gallant): Blair, Derrick, George, Carla, John Paul
Doucette - Stanley and Cecile (Gallant)

Fleming	- Paul and Dorothy (Blacquiere)
Gallant	- Allison and Jean (Gauthier): Jeffrey, Karen
Gallant	- Amos and Joyce (Blacquiere): Holly
Gallant	- Francis
Gallant	- Herbert and Marlene (Gallant): Curtis
Gallant	- Neil and Carol (Blacquiere): Eve
Gallant	- Vincent and Celina (Pineau): Desmond, Terrence
Gauthier	- Francis and Margaret (Peters); Lorna, Colleen, Marilyn, Theresa, Angela
Gauthier	- Richard and Jean (Lyons): Roger, Blaine, Peter, Raymond, Johanne
LeClair	- Marie (LeClair): Eric
Pineau	- Annie (Pineau)
Pineau	- Edward and Patricia (Gallant): Carl, Sally, Jo-Anne, Darren

HILLTOP AVENUE

Blacquiere	- Louis and Rosina (Buote): Terrence
Buote	- Cecile, Bernice
Doiron	- Roger and Diane (McQuaid): Adam, Cory, Nicole*, Ashley*
Farrar	- Gordon and Anne Marie (Blacquiere)
Gallant	- Cyril and Zelda (Gallant): Misty Lynn*
Gallant	- Edwin and Shirley (Gallant)
Gallant	- Gordon and Ann (Marchbank): Carrie, Stephen, Gordon*
Gallant	- Michael and Suzanne (Doucette): Chad, Darcy
Journeau	- Arthur and Rose (Peters)
Pineau	- Eric and Catherine (Gallant): Adam, Tyler*

LEGION STREET

Doiron	- Lorette (Buote): Michael
Gallant	- Alvina (Buote): Alyre
Gallant	- Martha (Gallant): Francis
Gallant	- Norman and Theresa (Gallant): Tania, Trena, Tara, Trent, Trisha, Trevor*

LINE ROAD

Banks	- Patricia (Gallant): Heather
Buote	- Arthur
Buote	- Edward, Clarence
Buote	- Michael and Kathy (Blacquiere): Nicole, Darryl, Robert
Doiron	- Rene and Joan (Peters): Margo, Marcie, Tyler, Bonnie Lea*, Deirdre*
Gallant	- Albert and Rita (Pineau)
Gallant	- Andrew and Florence (Pineau)

Gallant	- Giles
Gallant	- Louis and Sheila (Culleton): Nicole, Ryan
Gallant	- Velda: Joseph
Gallant	- Wayne
Gauthier	- Garry and Kathy (Doiron): Christopher, Launa, Nicholas*
LeClair	- Eric and Yvonne (Perry); Darlene, Anne
LeClair	- Ferdinand and Joyce (Gallant): Ronald, Gisele
LeClair	- Francis and Alvina (Doucette)
MacPherson	- Marven and Dolores (Peters): William, Robert, Trevor, Colin, Tammy
Pineau	- Adolph and Edna (Gauthier): Donald, Gary, Irwin, Blaine
Pineau	- Harry
Pineau	- Wayne
Saunders	- Evan and Gail (Gallant): Lisa, Christopher, Adam, Jonathon

MAIN STREET

Blacquiere	- Francis
Blacquiere	- Veronica (Gallant): Edwin, Vernon
Doucette	- Edward and Deanna (Gallant): Wade, Trudy, Dale, Jody
Doucette	- Lawrence and Marie (Gallant)
Dow	- Allan and Linda (Riley): Bobbi Joe, Albert, Tabetha
Gallant	- Alyre and Maud (Blacquiere)
Gallant	- Aubin and Evelyn (Pineau): Barry, Shirley, Sasha
Gallant	- Brian and Joan (Gallant): Jocelyn, Jodi
Gallant	- Douglas and Anne (Sweeney): Corinne, Janice, Jeffery, Kevin, Michael, Erin*
Gallant	- Earl
Gallant	- Edmund and Zita (Doiron)
Gallant	- Harold and Catherine (Curran): Scott, Maria, Steven, Ryan, Neil
Gallant	- Kenneth and Anne (Sullivan): James, John Paul
Gallant	- Theresa, Kathleen
Jarvis	- Angus and Ethel (Peters): Julie, Tammy
Leclair	- Armand and Gertrude (Gallant): Patrick, Ian, Kelly
Peters	- Norman and Marie (Cullen): Corey, Colleen
Peters	- Rene and Carol (Pineau): Rachel, Adam, Kimberley

MARSHALL STREET

Doucette	- Ferdinand: Melvin
Doucette	- Marjorie (Gallant)
Gallant	- Charles and Yvonne (Gallant)
Gallant	- Marion (Blacquiere): Paul
Gauthier	- Aubin and Bernice (Gallant): Gary

Gauthier	- Wayne: Jeffery, John, Scott
Peters	- Claude: Norbert, Frederick
Peters	- Jean (Gallant): Arliss, Brendon, Kenneth
Peters	- Regis and May (Beriau): John, Maria
Pettit	- Annette (LeClair): Anne Marie
Pineau	- Eva (Gauthier)

POND STREET

Doucette	- Emile
Gallant	- Oswald and Bernice (Moore)
Gallant	- Leonard
Gallant	- Paul and Bernice (Doiron): Dianne
Pineau	- Ruby (Publicover)

RIVER VIEW DRIVE

Doucette	- David and Pamela (Gauthier): Margaret, Darryl
Doucette	- Oswald and Sharon (Gauthier): Janine, Treena, Melanie
Gallant	- Alphonse and Ella Mae (Peters): Vincent, Louise
Gallant	- Cecile (Gallant)
Gallant	- Emily (Gallant): Ronald, Brian
Gallant	- Harold and Janet (Gallant): Jennifer, Lori, Rena
Gallant	- Leonard and Shirley (Hayden)
Gallant	- Ronald and Della (Doucette): Dwayne
Gallant	- Winnifred (Gauthier)
Gauthier	- Emile and Bridget (Mullally): Glen
Gauthier	- Genevieve (Blacquiere): Aurelia
Gauthier	- Ralph
LeClair	- Alphonse, Ferdinand
LeClair	- Leonard and Alice (Doucette): Diana, Ryan
MacLeod	- Ella Mae (Peters): Ian, Tanya, Mitchell*
Martin	- Richard and Heather (Doucette): Dean, Troy
McInnis	- Veronica (LeClair)
McKenna	- Betty (Gallant): Shane, Catherine, Heather, Jade
Peters	- Ethel
Whitlock	- Dale and Delma (Gallant): David

RUSTICOVILLE

Blacquiere	- Donald and Mary (McKenna): Robert, Scott, Michelle
Blacquiere	- Ronald and Irene (Evans): Ashley, Johanna*
Buote	- Ernest and Clarice (Peters): Trevor
Buote	- Wayne and Lise (Pare): Christopher, Patrick
Burridge	- Edward and Ida (Gallant): Paul, Melanie, Douglas
Costello	- Norbert and Theresa (Arsenault): Colleen, James, Annette, Martin
Doiron	- Eric and Lorraine (Costello): Melanie, Faith, Matthew, Sarah, Becky*

Dorion	- Leo
Doiron	- Roy and Helen (Kerwin): Linda, Cathy, Michael
Doiron	- Urbain and Estelle (Doiron): Edgar, Claudette, Denise
Doucette	- Bennett and Mary (Gauthier): Kimberley, Karen, Kerry
Flood	- Mary Irene (Monaghan)
Gallant	- Benjamin, Harold, Helen
Gallant	- Clarisse (Buote)
Gallant	- Francis C.
Gallant	- Frank and Hilda Gallant
Gallant	- James and Joan (Zimmer): Kim, Timothy, Jody, Jeremy, Krista
Gallant	- Leo and Irene (Gallant)
Gallant	- Peter and Eleanor (Blacquiere): Lana, Darren, Lisa, Dean
Gauthier	- Clarence; Sharon, Sandra, Darryl
Gauthier	- Dwight and Victoria (Reddin): Laura, Mikaela*
Gauthier	- Francis
Gauthier	- Herbert and Norma (Doucette): Dana, Kyra
Gross	- Helen (Gallant)
Heaney	- John and Susan (Brine): Joan, Jane
Larkin	- Lloyd and Patricia (Gauthier): Tony, June, Philip
LeClair	- Eugene
Pineau	- Arthur: Leroy
Sherren	- Leroy and Bonnie (Gauthier)
Somers	- Yvonne (Gallant): Francis

SIMON DRIVE

Doucette	- Barry and Kathleen (Pineau): Jason, Jamie
Gallant	- Alfred and Linda (Gallant): Joey
Peters	- Keith and Marie (Martin): Nicole, Ashley
Sampson	- George and Diane (Gauthier): Kenny, Garth, Stephen

SUMMER STREET

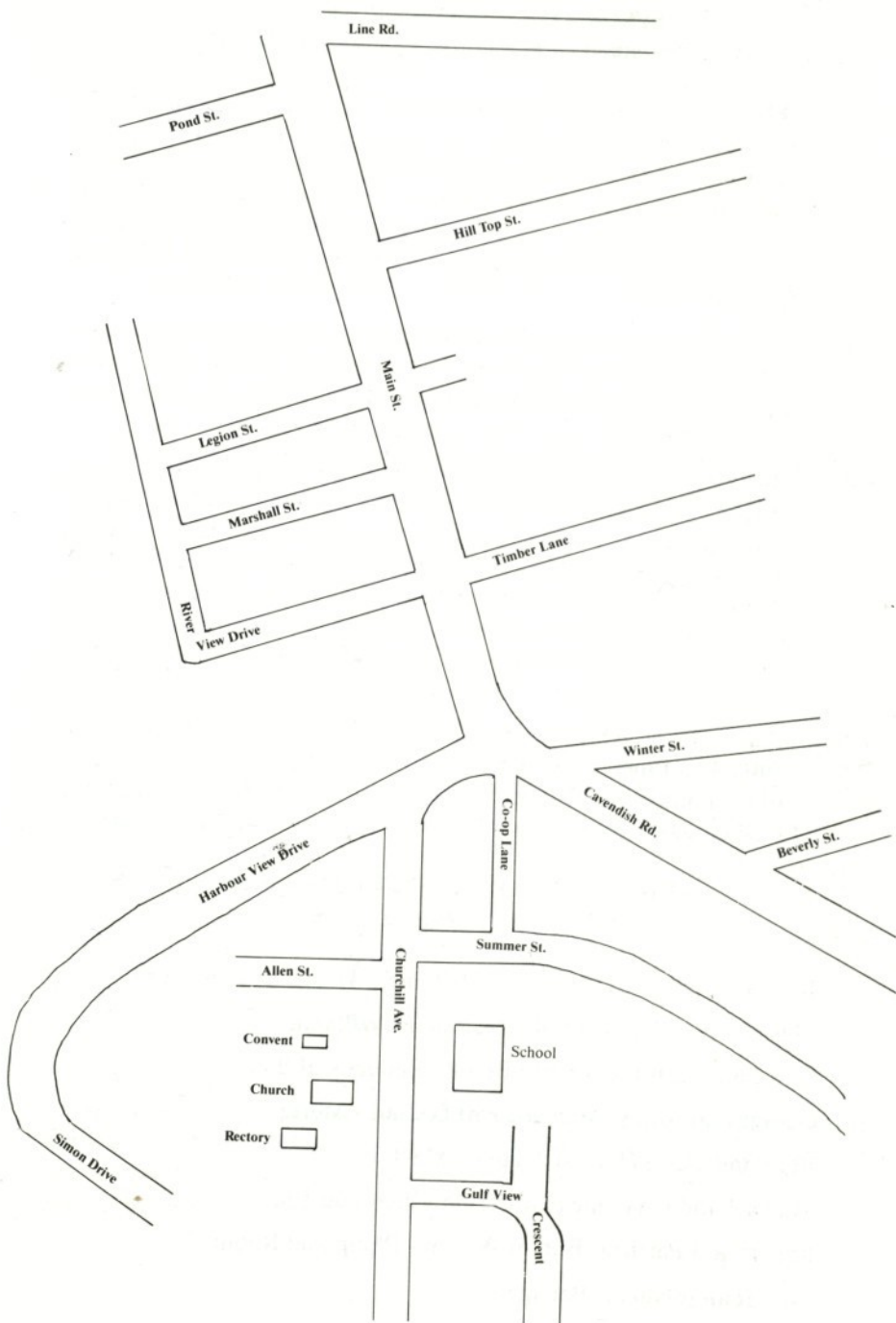
Doiron	- Bernard and Marie (Pineau): Keith, Wilma
Doiron	- Francis and Mona (Gallant): Anne Marie, Aletha, Michael
Doucette	- Albert
Gallant	- Augustine and Margaret (Peters): Michele, Robert, Denise, Andrew
Gallant	- Lawrence and Marie (Doucette): James, Robert, Lee
Gauthier	- Bertha (LeClair)
Perry	- Joseph and Margaret (Gallant): Tracey
Pineau	- Donald and Noreen (Gallant): John, Anna Marie, Dorothy, Tyler
Wilson	- Raymond and Frances Rose (Gallant): Shane, Stephen, Roger Gallant

TIMBER LANE

- Gallant - Andrew and Anna (Whalen)
- MacFarlane - Danny and Debbie (Gallant): Carla, Denise
- Peters - Augustin
- Pineau - Carl and Bonita (Pineau): Christopher, Carla, Sherry, Crystal
- Pineau - Joe A. and Rose (Gallant): Tony, Wade*
- Pineau - William and Eleanor (Gallant)

WINTER STREET

- Allen - John: Joseph, Howard
- Blacquiere - Edward
- Blacquiere - Urban and Rosina (Gauthier): Jeffrey, Chantal Gallant
- Doiron - Wade and Janet (Peters): Jeremy, Robbie*
- Gallant - Gary and Carolyn (Myers): Sheldon, Vanessa, Melissa
- Gallant - Martin and Gail (Gauthier): Dawn, Jane Marie*
- Perry - Randall and Mary (Gallant)
- Peters - Stephen and Marion (Gallant): Paula, Clifford, Floyd



MARRIAGES WHICH WERE CELEBRATED AT STELLA MARIS SINCE THE CENSUS OF 1982

(Those Who Remained In Parish Are Followed By An Asterisk)

- 1982 Harold MacLeod and Karen Gallant, Paul Blanchard and Susan Dempster, John L. Doiron and Teresa Lee Dempster, Lawrence Gauthier and Deborah Bennett, Stephen Costello and Tracy Gallant,* Karl Dunfield and Shirley Gallant,* Philip Gallant and Christine Costello, Stephen Raby and Imelda Doiron, Edgar Steele and Karen Doucette, Lester Roberts and Cheryl Gallant, Lee Gallant and Karen Gallant.*
- 1983 Gordon Gallant and Ann Marchbank,* Bernard J. Gallant and Michele Anne Doiron, Bruce Hall and Wendy Gallant, Eric V. Gallant and Frances Peters, Norman Nickerson and Holly Gallant, Allan Peters and Paula Peters, John Pineau and Dorothy Pineau.*
- 1984 Harry Baglole and Susan Hornby, Brendon Peters and Marie Lynn Gregoire,* Dale Gallant and Sherry Anne Gallant, Frazer Mullins and Anita Sampson, Stephen Yeo and Deborah Doucette, Allister Gerard Ryan and Gisele Marie LeClair, Eric Buote and Kimberley Gallant,* Vincinzo Angelini and Kathleen Buki, Boyd Hill and Karen Doiron, Robert Doucette and JoAnne Blacquiere,* Andrew Turner and Ada Gauthier,* David Buote and Carol Costello,* Robert Gallant and Lorna Gauthier.
- 1985 Francis Preston Stevenson and Charlene Peters, Robert Doiron and Sally Ann Pineau,* Kenneth LeClair and Kathleen McKellar, Arthur Pineau and Freda Gallant,* Scott Wakelin and Gina Gallant, Irwin Gallant and Karen Gallant,* Ian Gauthier and Pamela Mullally.*

NEW RESIDENTS OF STELLA MARIS SINCE THE 1982 CENSUS

John and Judy (Flesch) DeLima - Laurie, Diane, and Kathleen.
 Pius and Marilyn (Costello) Gauthier - William.
 David and Carol (Costello) Buote - Raquel and Blake.
 George and Kathy (Michalishyn) LeClair - Marta.
 Blair and Carla (Jarvis) Adams - Mark.
 Michael and Charlene (Court) Gauthier - Dustin.
 Robert and Patricia (Buote) Wilson - Philip and Robin.
 Mrs. Joan (Gallant) Berrigan.

Lawrence Gallant - Jason.

Mary Perry - Darren.

Sheila Gallant.

Selwyn Buote.

Allan and Melvin Costello.

Jennifer Dempster.

John and Terri Lee (Dempster) Doiron - Jon Paul and Tanner.

Leonard and Ann Marie (MacPhail) Martin - Kenny and Mitchell.

Andrew Turner, Marie Lynn Peters, Kyle Gallant son of Lee and Karen Gallant.

THE ALTAR SOCIETY

The Altar Society was organized around 1920. These ladies, as the name implies, saw to the cleanliness of the church, and to the outfitting of the altar boys.

By means of their many card parties and church picnics, they were able to give financial assistance to the pastor, school and community. Yearly monetary donations were made to the church. They gave material aid to the school in the form of desks, etc. and prize money for the end of the year exercises. They also visited the classrooms on a monthly basis.

The Altar Society is perhaps best remembered for the numerous acts of charity performed in the community by the welfare committee. At Christmas they saw to the distribution of food baskets to the needy families. Used clothing was collected to be distributed or to be remade into clothing. Many quilts and mittens were made. We cannot help but be amazed at how these women could accomplish so much with so little.

This society remained active until 1949 when the C.W.L. was organized in the parish.

THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY

When Fr. McNeill arrived as Pastor of Stella Maris Parish, he recognized a need among the men, to have more respect for the name of Jesus. He organized the Holy Name Society, and encouraged its members to become actively involved in promoting its main objective: to use the name of Jesus only in prayer and always with the utmost respect.

The second Sunday of each month was designated as Holy Name Sunday. The members attended Mass and received Holy Communion as a group. Throughout the years the members put on concerts, and held them in front of the Sacristy basement, which was the only part of the church basement finished at that time. Each year a picnic was held on Robinson's Island for the members and their families. For quite a number of years the society continued to be active. With the liturgical renewal, however, more frequent reception of holy Communion was being encouraged, and the need for the Society was not so great and it gradually declined.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The Stella Maris Council of the C.W.L. was organized in North Rustico Nov. 27, 1949 under the guidance of Mrs. Austin Murphy, Mrs. Murray and Mrs. Dr. W.J.P. MacMillan. Fr. Eric Robin became the first spiritual director.

The first executive was:

President - Mrs. M.J. Doyle

1st Vice-President - Mrs. J.F. Doiron

2nd Vice-President - Miss Martha Gauthier

3rd Vice-President - Miss Matilda Pineau.

The C.W.L., with an average membership of ninety-five, has been involved in most parish activities over the years. In the beginning the League was primarily involved with the spiritual needs of the people, helping with First Communion and Confirmation, visiting the sick and helping those in need.

As time progressed the local councils took more interest in the needs of the church outside the parish boundaries. It donated to Mass for Shut-Ins, the Precious Blood Monastery, Our Ladies Missionaries, Latin America, Pro life, Development and Peace and the C.W.L. National Scholarship.

To improve the spiritual life of its members retreats were sponsored and members participate in the World Day of Prayer for Peace. Its members are active in the choir, serve as Readers and Lay Distributors, teach religion to the children, and take part in Adult Religion Courses. The C.W.L. is relied upon to provide receptions for First Holy Communion and Confirmation and other special celebrations.

Over the years the Catholic Women's League has been an integral part of our parish life, and at the present time continues to work For God and Country and for the good of our Community. On May 3, 1982 Mrs. Mona Doiron was elected Provincial President of the C.W.L. during the 60th Annual Meeting of the Organization.

THE LEAGUE OF THE SACRED HEART

The League of the Sacred Heart has been organized in this parish since March of 1925. The parish was divided into small areas and promoters were appointed to collect subscriptions and to deliver leaflets and Messengers. Through the years the number of promoters dwindled leaving the workload to a very few. In April of this year eleven new promoters were installed bringing the number to the original twelve.

Membership is open to all Catholics; men, women and children. There are only two simple requirements: enrollment and the Morning Offering. Other practices are also encouraged, namely Mass and Holy Communion especially the First Friday Observance, devotion to Mary by reciting daily at least one decade of the beads, the celebration of the Feasts of Christ the King and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Through the Morning Offering by which we offer up our prayers, works, joys and sufferings of each day to the Lord Jesus, our whole day is offered in prayer. This Morning Offering can be made quickly and easily as one goes off to work or to school. It seems most appropriate for today's world. And fortunately in Stella Maris Parish, this devotion is still very much alive and is enjoying a renewal at the present time.

BLESSING OF THE FISHING BOATS

The first blessing of the boats was held in Stella Maris Parish on May 2, 1937. For this occasion the fishermen decorated their boats and formed a circle in Rustico Bay. The Pastor then sailed around the circle blessing the boats and asking God's protection on the fishing fleet. People in large numbers from the surrounding areas, lined the wharves and stages to watch this event. On May 14, 1950, the parish was privileged to have Bishop James Boyle in attendance. This practice continued in the parish for many years with very little variance. It was discontinued for a short time during the seventies. However in May of 1982, Fr. Bob Coady revived the Blessing of the Boats and since that time it has been incorporated into the annual Canada Day Celebration on July 1st.



Blessing of Boats.

BELLS

Mrs. Adrien Peters donated two bells to Stella Maris Parish Church. One was blessed by Rt. Rev. G.J. MacLellan on April 25, 1937. A new and larger bell was installed in the tower in Dec. of 1943.

Through the years the sound of the bells has relayed many messages to the community. They called the faithful to religious services. They reminded the people to recite the Angelus at noon and at six P.M. They announced deaths in the parish and sounded the alarm in case of fire or other danger.

The sides of the Bell Tower had been vented to allow the sound to carry, but snow and rain coming in and leaking down into the church became a problem. To keep the elements out windows were installed. However in the late sixties it was felt that the increased vibrations had become a danger to the tower structure. Gradually the bells gave out fewer messages until they fell completely silent.

While work was being done on the lightning rods in the Summer of 1979, the bell was removed. The following year it was mounted in a bell tower near the church. By Nov. of 1981 the bell was ringing again. It seemed as if an old friend had returned.

There is some controversy as to whether there were two bells or only one bell. If Msgr. MacLellan blessed a bell in 1937 there must have been two bells. However when the large bell arrived in 1943 it could be rung in two ways, one by rotating the bell until the gong in the middle would strike the bell, and there was another rope which would allow a hammer like apparatus to strike the outside of the bell. This led to the belief there were still two bells but by this time, at least, there was only one bell. The present bell was made by Mears and Stainbank White Chapel, London, England, and was donated by Mrs. Adrian Peters in memory of her husband.

SISTERS OF NORTH RUSTICO

Sisters of Notre Dame

Rosaline LeClair (Veronica of the Redeemer), 1891-1956, daughter of Simon LeClair and Veronique Poirier.

Marie Angeline Buote (Jean de Galilee), 1892-1942, daughter of Felix Buote and Rose Pitre.

Lilian Blacquiére (Benoit des Anges), 1926- , daughter of Ben Blacquiére and Marie Pitre.

Phyllis Gallant (Zita of Mary), 1939- , daughter of Edmund Gallant and Zita Doiron.

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH

Edith-Alvina LeClair Marie-Germaine), 1905-1982, daughter of Simon LeClair and Thessalonique Doiron.

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF PEACE

Clara Pineau (Marie-Edgar), 1900-1984, daughter of Simon Pineau and Adeline Gallant.

SISTERS OF ST. MARTHA

Clara Pineau (Eric-Grace), 1924- , daughter of Albert Cornelius Pineau and Lucille Blacquiere.

PRIESTS OF NORTH RUSTICO

Msgr. Jeremie A.H. Blacquiere (1865-1941), son of Andre Blacquiere and Marguerite Pitre.

Pierre-Celestin Gauthier (1866-1929), son of Zacharie Gauthier and Marie Blanchard.

Dionel Buote (1902-1973), son of Ignace Buote and Priscille Pineau.

Msgr. Jean F. Buote (1908-), son of Ignace Buote and Priscille Pineau.

Wilfred Pineau (1911-), son of Felix Pineau and Marie Doiron.

Floyd Gallant (1955-), son of Earl Gallant and Bernadette Blacquiere.



STELLA MARIS STUDENTS OFF TO QUEBEC

Grade 9 A and B students from Stella Maris are shown as they prepare to leave for an educational tour to Quebec City. The students are, back row, from **LEFT**: Steven Ellsworth, David Dickieson, Shawn Buntain, Alice Dykstra, Carrie Marchbank, Maxine Doucette, Claire Doucette, Robin Pineau. Fourth row, from **LEFT**: Scott Peters, Tim MacEwen, Tena Nieuwhof, Lisa Peters, Philip Doucette, Tracey Herrell, Carla Pineau. Third row, from **LEFT**: Duane Gallant, Linda Gallant, Douglas Burrige, Treena Ford, Colleen Gallant, Christine Blanchard. Second row, from **LEFT**: Chris DeLima, Jenifer Gallant, Erwin Doucette, Carla MacFarlane, Leslie Fry, Mary Lynn Gallant, Angela Gauthier. Front row, from **LEFT**: John Peters, Arlen Arsenault, Faye Murphy, Arlene Arsenault, Wendy Gallant, Karen Skinner, Darren Toombs. Missing: Peter Gallant, Pam Deveaux, Tracey Rudgene and Debbie Buote.



BLUEFIELD GRADUATES

Front L. to R: Terry Lee Peters, Valerie Gallant, Lisa Saunders, Mary Lou Buote, Rochelle Gallant.

Back: Tanya Mullally, Darren Gallant, Philip Larkin, Michael Doiron, Timothy Gallant, Robert Blacquiery, Sherry Costello.



ALTAR SERVERS

Back Row, L-R: Jeremy Gallant, Scott Gallant, Philip Gallant, Jimmy Buote, Douglas Burridge, Corey Peters.

Middle Row, L-R: John Peters, Ryan Buote, Garth Sampson, Tony Pineau.

Front Row, L-R: Sheldon Gallant, Darren Gallant, Jeff Gauthier, Colin Gallant, Christopher Buote.

Missing from photo: Trevor MacPherson.



SENIOR CHOIR

Front L. to R: Edna Gallant, Cecily Gallant, Lucy Doucette, Estelle Doiron, Marjorie Doucette, Gertrude LeClair, Janet Doiron (organist), Sister Carol McManus (choir director).

Middle: Celia Gallant, May Peters, Beatrice Gallant,, Nancy Gallant, Germain Buote, Margaret Gallant, Mona Doiron, Jean Coffin, Yvonne LeClair.

Back: Floyd Peters, Armand LeClair, Regis Peters, Arliss Peters, Douglas Buote, Peter Gallant, Eric LeClair.

Missing from photo: Georgina Blacquiere, Margaret Gauthier, Louise Gallant, Ronald Blacquiere, Deanna Doucette.



PARISH COUNCIL

Front L. to R: Marjorie Doucette (secretary), Germaine Buote, Joan Doiron (president).

Back L. to R: Father Arthur Pendergast, Pius Gauthier, Ernest Buote, Norman Peters, Eric LeClair, Arthur Buote.

Missing from photo: Mrs. Margaret Gauthier, Sister Rebecca McKenna, Ronald Blacquiere.



SACRED HEART PROMOTERS

Front L. to R: Theresa Gallant, Alvina Gallant (54 years service), Mildred Gallant.

Middle: Celia Gallant, Rita Gallant, Bonita Pineau, Jean Peters.

Back: Suzanne Gallant, Beatrice Gallant, Mary Doucette, Ada Turner, Cecily Gallant.



CATECHISTS

Front L. to R: Edna Gallant, Mary Anne Gaudin, Mildred Gallant, Yvonne LeClair.

Back: Gertrude Leclair, Marie Peters, Sister Esther Clarkin, Eleanor Gallant, Sister Elizabeth McCarron.

Missing from photo: Sister Rebecca McKenna, Jeanette Gallant, Marina Dempster, Cathy Gallant.



LECTORS AND LAY MINISTERS

Front L. to R: Edna Gallant, Mildred Gallant, Aletha Doiron.

Middle: Mary Anne Gaudin, Estelle Doiron, Linda Dow, Norma Gauthier.

Back: Norman Gallant, Richard Mullally, Lucy Doucette, Gertrude LeClair, Gail Saunders, Eleanor Gallant, Joan Gallant, Sister Esther Clarkin, Louis Gallant.

Missing from photo: Shelley Gallant, Ronald Blacquiere, Floyd Peters, Joan Doiron, Annette Corcoran, Jeanette Gallant, Dennis Gallant, Georgina Blacquiere, Eleanor Blacquiere, Paul Gallant, Marie Peters, Marina Dempster, Ida Burridge.



C.W.L.

Front L. to R: Edna Sampson, Mona Doiron, Cecily Gallant, Margaret Gallant (president), Norma Gauthier.

Back L. to R: Joan Doiron (treasurer), Clarisse Buote, Father Arthur Pendergast, Sheila Gallant, Lucy Doucette, Celia Gallant, Ada Turner, Germaine Buote, Estella Doiron (vice-president), May Peters.

Missing from photo: Evelyn Doiron (secretary), Margaret Gauthier (past president), Georgina Blacquiere.



USHERS

Front L. to R: Derrick Blacquiere, Ferdinand Blacquiere, Leroy Sherren, Leo Gallant, Gordon Gallant, Eugene LeClair, Clarence Gauthier.

Middle Back: Louis Gallant, Darren Gallant, Francis Doucette, Herbert Gauthier, Vincent Gallant, Paul Gallant, Bernard Doiron, Timothy Gallant, Norman Peters (head), Richard Mullally, Pius Gauthier, Peter Gallant, Arthur Buote, Andy Turner, Peter Leander Gallant, Albert Gallant, Ernest Buote, Carl Pineau.

Missing from photo: Urbain Doiron, Albert Doiron, James Gallant, Charles Gallant, Wilfred Blacquiere, Ferdinand LeClair, Donald Blacquiere, Errol Gallant, Dennis Gallant, Harold A. Gallant, Douglas Gallant, Roger Doiron, Leo LeClair, Ian Gauthier, Vincent Blacquiere, Joseph Pineau, Harold Gallant, Wade Doiron, J. Gary Gallant, Augustine Gallant, Tom Doyle, Carl Blacquiere, Eric Blacquiere, Robert Doucette, Benny Gallant.

Junior ushers: Scott Blacquiere, Douglas Doiron, Ian LeClair, Robert Blaquiere, Kenny Sampson, Patrick LeClair, Michael Gauthier, Keith Gauthier, Jeffery Gallant.

CONCLUSION

With thankful hearts for all the blessings bestowed upon our Parish during its short history as a separate Parish, we conclude this book with a verse of the hymn to Our Lady, Star of the Sea:

*Hail Queen of Heaven, the Ocean Star.
Guide of the wanderer here below.
Thrown on life's surge, we claim thy care.
Save us from peril and from woe.
Mother of Christ, Star of the Sea.
Pray for the wand'rer, prayer for me.*

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