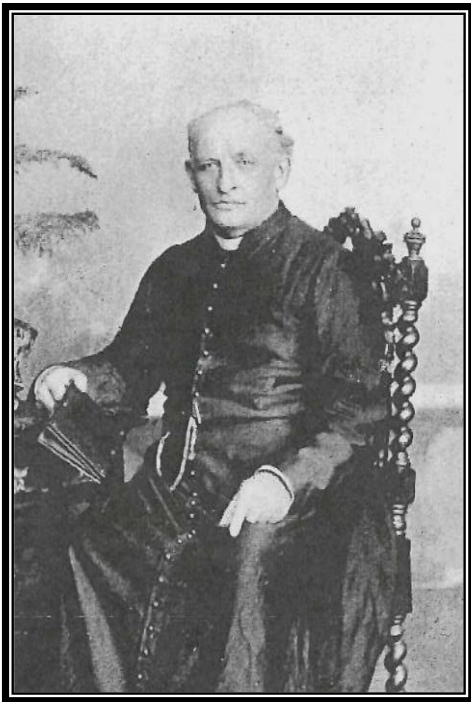


THESE
are our brothers



Reverend Bartholomew Boubat

Bartholomew Boubat was born October 21, 1832, in Eglise-Neuve-de-Liards, France, the son of Francis R. Boubat and Pauline Volumard. He studied Classics with distinction at the College of Prades and studied theology in Clermont — with such an education, it is no surprise that he would be remembered as a ‘cultured gentleman’. He became a subdeacon in December of 1856, and was shortly thereafter recruited by Bishop Charbonnel of Toronto and came to Canada in February 1857. By October of that same year he was made deacon. He was ordained on December 6, 1857 by Bishop Pinsonneault of the newly formed Diocese of London, in Sandwich, Ontario (now Windsor).



Father Boubat’s long and storied ministry took him all over the diocese, and he began by becoming pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish in Pain Court in April 1858. By 1859 he was at St. Peter’s Parish in Tilbury, before being transferred to Simcoe in April 1859; he blessed the church there. From sometime in 1859 to 1860, he was pastor at Ste. Anne’s Parish in Tecumseh, as well as Rector of the Cathedral in Sandwich.

From 1860-1864, he was pastor at Moore, and during this period he erected the church at Corunna; 1864 saw him as pastor of St. Patrick’s Parish in Kinkora; 1865 brought him to Sacred Heart Parish in Ingersoll. While at Ingersoll, he worked ceaselessly at his ministry, building a school and procuring lands for a cemetery. He was then in St. Marys from 1866-1869, and then pastor at St. Peter’s Parish in Goderich from 1869-1874. During his tenure at Goderich, he built a convent for the Sisters of St. Joseph, and they took up residence in February 1874. A mere few days after that, Father Boubat was off to Sarnia to be pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish; during this time he kept busy by erecting a school, building a pastoral residence and beautifying the grounds; when he left to return to Ingersoll, the parish was debt-free.

In 1881 he erected a new church for Sacred Heart Parish in Ingersoll. In 1884 he became the first pastor at Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Walkerville. Such a varied career would have been enough, but it did not stop there: from 1886-1889 he was pastor of Ashfield; in the 1890s he was conducting baptisms at Raleigh; and from 1900-1906 he was pastor at St. Michael's Parish in Ridgetown. Late in life he made a return visit France and then came back to retire in Windsor, where he celebrated his Golden Jubilee.

The immense geographic range of his ministry has ensured Father Boubat's legacy is present throughout the whole diocese. His priestly devotion, industry and zeal helped shape the diocese in its early years, and ensured that he will always be remembered.

*Tiffany Champagne, M.L.I.S.
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