

350 th anniversary of the conversion of the 1st Micmac Chief

Membertou on the 24 th of June I6IO.....

---I--- Around the year 950

The story of the Micmac Indians is one of the most fascinating studies studies that a person can make. His legends carry you back from the 1st sight of the Big Canoe, as they called the white man's ship.....to the dawn of Creation when Gloscap, the ideal of the Micmac, lay prone on his back, head to the rising sun, feet to the setting of the sun, left hand to the south and right hand to the north.

But independently of the various legends, what is the origin of the Micmacs? The Indians came from Asia, by way of the Bering Strait, at a date very far back... The migrants from Asia were of Mongoloic stock. The mongoloic stock includes the Chinese, Japanese, Tibetans, Magyars, Turks, and American Indians. The migration took many centuries and those who came were hunters and fishers exclusively.... Cf: Colliers "the Indians of the Americas" p. 30 seq.

The Micmac belong to the Algonquin tribe. According to their traditions they held 3rd rank in the original distribution of land among the confederation of the Eastern Algonquins....the 1st place was to the Ottawa tribe, which received as its share the land of its origin; the 2nd called Wapanakiag, the country of the dawn fell to the lot of the Abenakis, while the 3rd, known as Micmakig, was allotted to the Micmacs.

If we can say that the Micmacs come from Mongoloic stock, which explains certain characters of their p hysionomy.....this is not the complete truth.... because if we study their language, we must recognize that they owe a lot to the Vikings. We know from history that many tribes of the Vikings, (the ancestors of the Norwegians) came on the eastern coast of Canada to settle... r around the year 950.....They had a great influence on the inhabitants, as we can see by lots of words used in the Micmac language which have certainly a Nordic origin..... v.g. the word "Niskam" (God) "Nogumow" which means "relatives" the word "Nootch" meaning father.....the word "dabou" meaning two....the word "negum" meaning the pronoun He....the word "negumo" meaning "they" etc. there are hundred and hundred words that way coming from the Vikings....which denotes a great influence if not a complete mixing, of the Nordic people...the Vikings...We may imagine easily how the Vikings who were nearly only men on their expeditions, married the Indian women, and soon became only one people, called the Micmacs. Cf: Sherwin who has made an exhaustive study of the Micmac language in his book "The Viking and the Red man" even says about the word "Ootal'egem" which means "estate" "This word deals with rights in land, the most important in any civilized society.. This word would tend to prove that the Micmacs were not Indians at all but pure Norsemen." But what is proven, is that the Micmacs are a complete mixing of the 1st inhabitants with the Norsemen.

The Micmacs have always lived in the same places we find them to-day...the Eastern part of Quebec, around "Baie des Chaleurs", New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island...When the white men came they were numbered around 4000....

(You may see on the stage the meeting of the Wikings with the Micmacs..... They are a little frightened at first...they try to understand each other by signs... they receive presents...they will soon be friends.....

According to the last census of Canada in 1954 the Micmacs are 7013 people... as follows: 3002 in Nova Scotia, 2629 in New Brunswick, 1110 in Quebec and 272 in Prince Edward Island... Ristigouche is the most populous center with 872 souls. Their number is increasing rapidly

--2--

I534.....Arrival of Jacques Cartier.....

Such were the Indians when Jacques Cartier came from France in I534....We know by the relation of Jacques Cartier himself; that the 1st of July I534, he landed with his ship at the Bay of Richmond in Prince Edward Island and that once there, he met a few Indians, among whom was Membertou, then a young child. Many years later, before his Baptism, Membertou, who had become the great chief will remember to have been the first one to see the white man.

You may notice now the Micmacs on the stage meeting Jacques Cartier..He gives them presents, asks them permission to put a cross on the land, and reads on one sick child the Gospel of St-John....

After landing in Bay of Richmond, Jacques Cartier will go to Port Daniel.. and from there he will explore the Bay of Ristigouche...hoping to find a passage to the West Indies. Seeing the high mountains closing the Bay at Ristigouche, he returned to Port Daniel. This was exactly the 10 th of July I534.....

--3--

Around I550.....Ristigouche and Chief Tonel.....

The village of Ristigouche established on the south shore of the Baie des Chaleurs, at the exact place where is now the Company " Boom and Log Driving" at Atholville.....was called from time immemorial " Tjigoug" which means "land of the greatest men" title that our Indians gave themselves in all modesty. How it came to be called Ristigouche, here is the story: While a big group of Micmacs were fishing peacefully on Long Island near Flatlants, a band of Iroquois from Caughnawaga, came suddenly and killed them all except the chief Tonel....This one jumped in the water... and as he was very skilful to swim under water, he succeeded to cross the river and escaped this way to the Iroquois. The young Iroquois Chief who had ordered the massacre had formally disobeyed his father who had recommended him not to kill any of those Micmacs who were peaceful.....

When Chief Tonel all wounded came back to his village, he organized a big expedition in revenge....and they came to Caughnawaga. The big Chief in Caughnawaga instead of sustaining the war, abandoned to the Micmacs the group of Iroquois warriors who had massacred the micmacs without authorization.....Tonel killed them all with this cry: "Listougoutch" which means " Desobey your father" in other words: You have disobeyed your father, you die for it...And on his way back to Tjikouk, the chief Tonel changed the name to Ristigoucheas a souvenir of this victory..

See on the stage, the Micmacs fishing peacefully while singing micmac songs.....hear suddenly the war cry of the Iroquois, the massacre of the Micmacs,,, Now look at the chief Tonel all wounded, organizing the revenge...and the people making the war dance.

--4--

I610.....Conversion of Chief Membertou. ...

Membertou, the principal chief of the Micmac Indians of Nova Scotia at the time of the establishment of the French colony under De Monts..His name Membertou, is the French form of his real name Maopeltou...which means chief of all" On St-John's Day, June 24, I610...he was solemnly baptized with 20 others of his family by the secular priest, Father Fléché, at Port-Royal, now Annapolis, Nova Scotia. The colonel Poutrincourt and his son acting as sponsors, for the King and Dauphin of France...He was given the name of Henry after the king Henry the 4th, of France, his wife was named Mary after the name of the Queen Regent, while his children and relatives were called after members of the royal family. Then very old, although vigorous mentally and physically, he claimed to remember the 1st visit of Jacques Cartier in I534...For many years the acknowledged Chief and war captain, medicine man and priest, of tribal ceremonies, in the midst of paganism he led a temperate and moral life, even before baptism, limiting himself to one wife, where polygamy was the rule among the great men, one chief having as many as eight. He became strongly attached to the Jesuit missionaries Biard and Massé, who came in I611, and proved to be an earnest and practical Catholic. Towards the end of August, I611, seized with his last illness he was brought at his own request at Father Biard's house, where he died a week later, after receiving the sacraments, among his people exhorting them to remain faithful to the French, and to turn Catholic. Father Biard writes of this great Chief:"He was the greatest and most formidable Indian within the memory of men....of splendid physique, taller and longer limbed man, than is usual among them; bearded like a French man although scarcely any of the others have hair upon the chin; grave and reserved

having a proper sense of dignity....He was really a great man...

During all this time, Membertou and his wife and children walk upon the stage.....

--5----

I610 Baptism of Membertou...

On the stage, we may see Poutrincourt and his son acting as sponsors,.... Father Fléché, a secular priest is baptizing....Membertou and 20 of his family are being baptized..

This great scene is represented on a beautiful monument outside the church at Ste Anne of Ristigouche.. We can see Father Fléché baptizing the great Chief.....with an inscription in 3 languages: Micmac, French and English.. This glorious monument was erected in 1910 for the 300 th anniversary of the conversion of Membertou..

--6----

I629First Chapel at Ste Ann....

We must be proud to remember that the very first church built in honor of Ste Anne in this country was built in Bay Ste Anne, in Cape Breton for the French and for the Indians.....by Captain Daniel, brother of the saint martyr Daniel... It was built in 1629.....about 30 years before the Basilica of Ste Anne de Beaupré in Québec....

--7----

History of Ristigouche from 1620 to 1755.....

As Ristigouche is the main settlement of the Micmacs we should be glad to know the story of this Indian village...

In 1620...about 10 years after the Baptism of Chief Membertou....Father Sebastian recollet, brought the Gospel to the Indians of Ristigouche. Father Sebastian was precisely a recollet of this monastery of Brouages in France. He came to Ristigouche without thinking that, 300 years later, the big well of his own monastery of Brouages would be carried to the very place he stood at Ristigouche....Everybody can still see this well in the church yard. This well is a very precious souvenir as the founder of Quebec Champlain used to drink water and play at this well when he was a child at Brouages, before he ever thought of coming to this new country and found Quebec...it is also a relic because hundreds of martyrs of the French revolution were imprisoned near this well....it is finally a very old piece of museum as it dates back probably from the year 1500.....

After the death of Father Sebastian, the Indians of Ristigouche were deprived of missionaries till the coming of Father Richard in 1635. When this priest came, he was surprised to find a great cross before the house where the Indians were gathering, although they were still pagans. The first baptism in Ristigouche took place in 1644 when Chief Nepsuget was baptized. He received the name of Joseph. In 1647, three years later, 40 Indians were baptized....and the first Chapel was built....in 1647 in honor of St-Joseph.....

In 1648 the Capuchin Fathers succeeded to Father Richard and worked hard because a few years later, Father Leclerc, then visiting Ristigouche will write that in Ristigouche nearly all the Indians are Catholics and baptized... The Capuchins will come back again in their old mission, in 1894 and this time to remain.

In 1659 Father Richard came back again and will be happy enough to lead at Percé a big group of 75 Indians to be confirmed together with 70 white people by Mgr. de Laval on his first episcopal visit in Percé...Our Micmac Indians will therefore be the 1st ones to be confirmed by Bishop Laval on his arrival in Canada in 1659... Let us salute them...and the great Bishop.....

In 1676 it will be Father Leclerc who will become the missionary of the Micmacs of Ristigouche. He will be also the first one to use hieroglyphs. Hieroglyphs are a special system of teaching the catholic truths by use of characters. V.g. Two indlined lines with a cross above means "alasoutdjouogoum...the church....Each picture, every character meant a word ...a little like stenography in our modern times. Hieroglyphs have played a very important role in the maintenance of religion among the micmacs.. The Micmacs of Ristigouche have been happy enough to have nearly always a missionary with them. But it was not the same for the Micmacs of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick..It is this Micmac book of hieroglyphs that has preserved their faith during more than hundred years when they were deprived

of the presence of the missionary. Each Sunday in the absence of the priest, the Chief of the place gathered the Indians about him in the church, took with profound reverence the Micmac book, deciphered the hieroglyphs, and then with great fervor impressed the main truths in the minds of its hearers. This great system has been made in Ristigouche.

Father Moreau, another Recollet as Father Leclercq, took his place in 1687. We have a census at that time...there were in Ristigouche, 60 Indian families with 400 souls and 3 French families with a house and a store belonging to Richard Denys.

From 1700 to 1755 the Micmacs of Ristigouche will continue to live in peace under the leadership of their Recollet missionaries:

Father Brulé in 1706

Father Gélase from 1720 to 1730

Father Luc from 1730 to 1745

Father Ambroise from 1740 to 1755 when the Indians will go to the North side where is now Ristigouche.

We will find them very soon.....their history changes in coming to the North Sidetill that time they had lived alone....now they will be in contact with the French....and will dwell with them.....

ON THE North side.....1755....

—8— Building of the French Fort of 1740....

In 1740 the French and the English were at war, in Europe...with the consequence that in Canada also French and English were enemies to one another. No time must be lost.....Safe means of protection must be taken against the unavoidable future attacks of the enemy.....French soldiers from Quebec are sent by boat with all the things necessary to build a fort at Ristigouche...Ristigouche in fact is a strategic place where the English may come and bombard. On one side, transatlantic ships can sail up the Chaleur Bay where Ristigouche now stands... on the other side, Quebec can be reached easily through the Matapedia river, lake Matapedia and other small rivers... The place was well chosen.

The fort is built with spruce logs found around the place..Look at them... they are planting the logs...they will install cannons and place shells. They provide the necessary food supply for the attack. From there on, Ristigouche is a well protected and safe place in case of war...

--9--..... 1755.....Arrival of the Indians.

The Micmac Indians had been established since an unknown date at "Indian Point" now Atholville. They had a Chapel there since 1629, which is 110 years before the foundation of Ste Anne de Ristigouche....But war conditions are getting worse and worse every day. In 1755, Acadia and part of New Brunswick is falling into the hands of the English. The Micmacs who dreaded the English, decided under the direction of their missionary, Father Ambrose, Récollet, to cross the river, in order to put themselves under the protection of the French fort, at Ristigouche.

This is a scene of 1755..See them around their tents, expressing their joy by songs and dances...

They receive the visit of their missionary priest who has converted them, to the Catholic faith to which they have always remained faithful. Let us acclaim them.....

-----10----- 1758...Arrival of the Acadians...

Acadians were prosperous and peaceful people. But the Bostonians envied their properties. Governor Lawrence arrived in Grand Pré, Acadia, and called for a meeting of all the inhabitants. Once they were gathered they were seized and made prisoners. Families were separated and sent to opposite directions never to meet again; but many families succeeded to run away through woods, and by water and sailed along the St-John river. Others reached the Northern part of New Brunswick at Nipisiguit, now Bathurst,.....Most of them, numbered 800, continued farther north, till Ristigouche where they knew was a French fort, to put themselves under the protection of the French fort. The only belongings they had were what they had time to snatch in a rush. Some carried a loaf of bread, other blankets, axes, others some clothing in bags and boxes packed in a hurry. See them pass by; Greet them warmly: They are the Boudreaux, the Bujolds, the Bernards, the Goulets, the Labauve, the Vincent, the Allards, the Pitres, the Martins, the Poiriers, the Richards, the Dugas, and so many others who have lived and prospered all along the Gaspé coast...

--II ---- 1759...Foundation of the parish of Ste Ann de Ristigouche.....

In 1759 is the official opening of the parish of Ste Anne de Ristigouche. Do you see these two young girls ...they look like two angels holding the book of life..But this evening, they are holding wide open the first church register of the parish. Let us read from it..How interesting it must be..so old 1759... It reads thus: Register of Baptisms, marriages, and burials of the parish Ste Anne de Ristigouche on Baie des Chaleurs, Diocese of Quebec, Canada....1759...and they are signed thus: Father Etienne, récollet, parish priest of Ste Anne de Ristigouche... Let us notice how he is proud to sign; "parish priest of Ste Anne de Ristigouche.. It is the official opening of the 1st parish on the Gaspé coast.. Let us read the 1st Baptism: On May the 9th, 1760, I the undersigned, Father Etienne, récollet, parish priest of Ste Anne de Ristigouche, have baptized François-Marie, son of François Vigneau and of Marie Cormier, born on May the 3rd....Godfather: Jean Cormier....godmother: Elizabeth...who declared of being unable to sign.. Father Etienne, récollet...

---I2--- Last war events between French and English in 1760.....

Here is the war....the terrible war. We know how Montcalm had been defeated on "Plaines d'abraham" in Québec during the fall of 1759...On the spring of 1760 Lévis on turn was obliged to capitulate in Montreal. In Ristigouche the French fleet had only 3 small vessels when the English came with a powerful armada..about 5 big vessels.. The battle became very hard on the 9th and 10th of July...the French were obliged to abandon their ships...to take refuge in the fort...The English dare not attack the French fort...and left the place during the night...The French were victorious in the fort...but alas, orders came from Quebec to cease fire...and to return to France...They are the last defenders of the French flag on the Canadian soil: Hail them as they pass by; they are: François d'Angeac, Commander of the Ristigouche fort, Chénard de la Giraudais, Bourdon d'Ambours, Donat de la Gamde, LeBlanc de Richibouctou, acadian, Dubois Berthelot, Lartigue and the 2 récollet Fathers: Father Etienne and Father Ambroise...

One of these French vessels, sunk in 1760 during the last battle, was hauled out of the water after 180 years and can presently be seen near the Capuchin monastery: "Le Marquis de Malauze" glorious relic of the last war of 1760...

What was the population of Ristigouche at that time? We have the report of Sieur Bazagier, kept in the Library of the Parliament in Ottawa ..dated from the 17th of August 1760..." There are in Ristigouche 3 big cannons of 12, 2 of 6 and 5 others... In the fort were 206 officers and soldiers, 150 Acadian families with a total of 800 souls, and about 250 Indians...With the sick people and the prisoners, Ristigouche had a total of 1400 souls...

I3-...1st Acadian marriage 1759

Do you hear the bells of the church of Ste Anne of Ristigouche? The first Acadian married couple is coming out from the church....They are Joseph Bourgoïn, an exile from Acadia who came to Ristigouche with his father and mother. His wife is an orphan..Her father and mother were from Grand Pré ...they have been separated, exiled...Where are they now? Why would we worry and think of the sorrowful past? The day is a joyful one....although home sickness overcomes the young couple...while at the wedding feast...for we know how to rejoice one's self in Ristigouche...

----I4--- 1761...Second dispersion of the Acadians..

Joys are short... On a cold foggy morning a three sail English ship is seen strolling along the Bay, bound for Ristigouche. What do the English want? The peace had been signed a year ago.. The people are beginning to clear out land and live happily...The English soldiers with Captain MacKenzie as commander, got off the ship, and called for a general meeting. 200 inhabitants are soon encircled and put on board the ship to be brought to exile....What was the cause of this 2nd dispersion..Nobody knew....The other Acadians were left in peace as there was no more place on the ship. They became the ancestors of all our Acadian families..

Witness the sorrowful state of those who saw themselves parted from loves ones.....

---I5--- 1776...Faithfulness to the British Government...

In 1776, there was war between England and America...The Americans wanted to be free from England...Admiral d'Estaing sent a letter to the Indians and the French people in Ristigouche asking them to join their rebellion... But both

of them refused to remain faithful to England...We have a very rare document, it is the letter of Admiral d'Estaing dated from Oct. 28, 1778

- I6----Arrival of the Scotch and American Loyalists..1778- 1783

The French Acadians and Indians had lived peacefully together from 1760 to 1778. But a great change happened with the arrival of Scotch people from Scotland from Prince Edward Island and American Loyalists. They did not speak the same language, they took their best lands which brought lot of complaints on the part of the Indians.. See the Scotch people rejoicing and dancing.....

--I7.... 1823.....Indian Reservation...

In 1823, the Indians brought lawful complaints in front of the Federal Government concerning their lands which were being taken away from them by the Scotch and American loyalists. Do you see the Indian Chief discussing with the civil engineer of the Government to set the limits of the 1st Indian Reserve at Ristigouche. He obtained a 3 by 10 miles land surface making an area of 9000 acres situated on both sides of the church lot granted to the missionary priests since 1821..Since that time, the Micmac Indians of Ristigouche live in peace on their reserve where no other class of people can establish their homes.

--I8--1856... The 1st school

In 1856 Father Dumontier opened the 1st school to replace the primitive Indian way of instruction which formerly was done by transmitting from father to sons, the prayer books written in hieroglyphs... But as soon as the alphabetic system became known they cleverly began to translate them in the micmac language and established correspondance between each other in alphabetic Micmac writings...The 1st man teacher was Mr. Resch from St-Alexis, with the enormous salary of \$150. a year. See our pupils of 1856 sitting on rustic benches, listening to their professor. Things have greatly changed since. Out of 120 pupils of school age, the daily attendance was only 20.. The family allowance was unknown then and the children preferred the freedom and sports of the wilderness.

-- I9 ----Arrival of the Irish immigrants 1840

In 1840 pieces of lands were conceded to Irish Catholic immigrants, near Ristigouche. The Geraghtys, the Forans, the Doyles, the Quinns....bought pieces of land and became the ancestors of our Oak Bay families..

-- 20 --1855.... First scene of the municipal council..

The Acadian and English families are more and more numerous.. Time has come to elect a municipal council. We are in 1855...Look....they are in session....

-- 21---- 1855...The first ferry boat crossing...

A ferry boat was needed between Cross Point and Campbellton. It was a rustic one..Let the captain and proprietor of our very modern present ferry give us some details.....I think he is having a very animated conversation with an American tourist on a Gaspé tour along the coast.

-22-- 1868...The Campbellton -Cross Point Bridge Committee.

In 1868 it was question of a bridge between Cross Point and Campbellton. On Sept. 28, 1868 Father Saucier, parish priest wrote to Bishop Langevin;;; It would be very important for us that a bridge should be built ...This project would have to wait till 1959 to see its realization...Let us see the 1st committee and its trials...

-- 23-- 1894...Arrival of the Capuchin Fathers....

The parish of Ste Anne of Ristigouche has already known many missionaries..since 1759 . Father Smith was the black robe priest which Father Pacifique replaced..Just, this morning he is looking at the ruins of the church and the rectory which had just burned completely. Anxiety can be seen in his face. He feels no courage to begin again..he has even written to Bishop Blais of Rimouski on that account..But no news yet..

Here is a Capuchin Father arriving. It is Father Pacifique..He presents a letter to Father Smith... He reads it..." André Albert, Bishop of Rimouski ..To our beloved...

Father Pacifique, of Valigny, Capuchin of the Province of St Louis of Toulouse, Salutation and Bénédiction in our Lord. "By the present letter we give you until revocation from our part or our successors, the care of the mission Ste Anne de Ristigouche. You will have in this mission the same powers that the other pastors have in their parishes... Given at Rimouski under our seal, the 22nd of September 1894...

Signed: André Albert, Bishop of Rimouski...

Rather Smith has finished the letter with a visible air of satisfaction. The situation is not very gay... it is pitiful... Both the church and rectory had been burnt down. There was not even a house to sleep in, not even a place to say the mass. He will have to stay at some charitable neighbors.. Father Pacifique kneels down, for an ardent prayer... before the crucifix... He prays for his future parishioners, and asks for himself the grace to rebuild from zero and convert all the souls. He rises. He re comes the little children surrounding him. How surprised they were to see a brown robe and that long beard. Already Father Pacifique feels himself full of love for these innocent souls.

-- 24-- Chaleur Bay Mills 1902.....

We are in 1902.. The 1st mill had been built by Mr. O'Leary in 1883... but he had burnt, after a few years. In 1902, the Champoux open a large wood-mill where hundreds of families will be able to derive decent living. In no time, our village is turned into a busy city, with its large store, different trades. It is the golden age of Ristigouche.. Here we see M. Champoux discussing with a foreman....

--25-- 1903...Arrival of the Sisters of Holy Rosary....

If it was the golden age for Ristigouche in the line of work, it is also the golden age for education.. which begins with the arrival of the Sisters of Holy Rosary.. For 50 years the different parish priest had been asking for Sisters. At last the 3 first Sisters arrive.... Here they are...

-- 26 -- An ancient Family Gathering...

Money did not always enter in abundance, poverty was sometimes close at hand but the pure joys remained in our Catholic homes... Just look how the family gatherings enjoyed themselves....

-- 27-- Trials.....

Ristigouche has had its great share of trials, as all worthy enterprises do.. First, in its churches... the 1st one built around 1750 for the religious needs of the French fort... When it was found too small, another was erected in 1791, by Father Bourg. In 1839, a 3rd church, 76 by 40 was put up. It burned down in 1893. The 4th, meant by Father Pacifique to be only a temporary chapel, but it was used until 1903.. The 5th, a real one was the 2nd stone church built in the Gaspé section by Father Maurice. This was also destroyed by fire in 1912... On the same foundations, it was rebuilt but destroyed again in 1926.. The 7th church at last, now stands on the foundations on 1903 and the walls of 1912.. It was blessed in 1927 and nicely decorated in 1959... Heavy were all these trials, but each time, thanks to the zeal of the pastors and courage of the faithful the church has come out more beautiful from the ruins of the preceding one and is now progressing rapidly....

--28 -- Depression scene of 1932...

The terrible financial crash of 1931 was sorely felt in Ristigouche. The mill had just closed; no work any where.... Some will go at L'Alverne, others to St-Fidèle... An old timer will tell us about that...

--- 29---First ordination.....Feb. 1958

In Feb. 1958, our parish saw its 1st priest ordained in the person of Rev. Fr. Paul LeBlanc. We all know that the LeBlancs were among the very first Acadians who came here in 1959... This bicentennial is honored to give to the Church, this 1st priest from among our own.. You see him here saying Mass for his family and parishioners.....

---- 30 ---The Angels of the parish.....

Narrator: Not only do we rejoice here on earth over this great celebration. Heaven is also in jubilation. The Lord sent the Guardian angels of 4 great missionary Fathers, whose venerable names, will always remain linked in our memory...

The 1st angel: Father Pacifique

Pacifique means Peace -maker..peace in souls. Four churches were destroyed by fire.. but the peaceful missionary continued none the less his apostolic task. With heroic courage he undertook to learn the Micmac language within a few years he spoke fluently, gave splendid sermons and even composed a number of books. Zealous preacher, he travelled from one parish to another on the coast, as well as to the different Indian reserves....keeping on at the same time his historical researches. Oh! Good Father Pacifique, through your powerful intercession, please communicate your genius of the beautiful micmac language, to all your successors, and keep peace among us. Blessed are the pacific, the sons of a peaceful Father.

The 2nd Angel: Father Placide....

Father Placide, peaceful and kind, good-tempered, without haste, easy-going, sees God in all things and in all people. Always hopeful, his motto seems to be "Don't finish up the dying fire but kindle it" 10 years of calm yet burning zeal. Through his care, parishes are opened at l'Alverne and St-Conrad. St Fidèle also increases with colonists. But his great virtue appears especially during the depression of 1932.. when his extreme kindness radiates the Infinite Love of God for whom alone he lives. Blessed are the meek, the merciful such as he....

The 3rd angel: Father Lucien...

Father Lucien: his name means light, therefore brightness and warmth. As pastor during the war of 1939, he instructs and comforts, his sympathy brings understanding, shows uncommon interest for the welfare of the Indians; with whole hearted devotedness he seeks their moral progress through material success and has unbounded generosity to the poor. His deep insight and sense of cooperation enlists the influence of the Sisters to maintain sewing clubs for both the Indian ladies and the white. Blessed the enlightened hearts, great and warm as sunlight. They see well...they do well..

The 4th angel: Father Armand...

Father Armand is as all the former pastors, the minute man, God's chosen tool for the needs of the moment. As our captain for the past 11 years, he has organized various militia for the church and grouped his soldiers for Christ into several Catholic Action units. Skillful administrator and clever doer, he proves himself highly practical with a true sense of know-how in the working out of intelligent plans thought out for the greatest interest of his people towards the house of the Lord. Brave and hard worker, he launches out for the protection of Catholic faith, at times so hard pressed.

By getting electricity into this parish, as soon as he came here, he showed us, immediately that he wanted for us all light concord and well-being.

The landscaping of the cemetery was a true deed of honor to our beloved departed.. while it recalls to our Catholic hearts one article of our Creed, the resurrection of the bodies.

Through the purchase of a modern church organ he has shown his true desire for his parishioners to participate fervently in liturgical worship.

The excellent bells placed in the steeple as well as the loud-speakers, are a constant reminder that all are invited to and welcomed at the Lord's...

The renovation of the church building and its artistic decoration, the upkeep of flower beds and gardens, for the beauty of the altar, entertain around the Sacred Mysteries an atmosphere favorable to the elevation of one's soul.

Blessed, blessed are the fearless, the daring, those who give all including themselves.

.....

.....