

Notes from an interview with Deacon Ron Boyer and wife Sheila Jacobs - July 19th 2021

Fr Léon Lajoie

- Jesuits sent him to serve in Caughnawaga (Kahnawake) in 1961
- Was sent by Jesuits to the Mission replacing his predecessors who usually lasted only 3 years
- Deacon Ron & Former Chief Joe Norton took care of the burial request – The Chief would say that **<Father Lajoie is one of us>**
- Desired to be buried in Kahnawake among the people whom he served
- Involved in the Kateri Youth Center
- Involved in the Rotary Club & Canada Manpower
- Was considered to be the *heart of Kahnawake*
- He was a Criminal Justice Lawyer
- Freed many people unjustly condemned
- Once a month he would visit prisons – Kingston, Ontario
- Before a bank was established in Kahnawake, he would bring stacks of money so that the locals can cash their cheques: family allowance etc...
- Was connected with General Foods: brought food and eggs to the community – FREE
- Was considered by many to be a **living Saint**
- His sister was the director of the Hospital
- Initiated the Kateri Food Basket
- Steinberg (food chain) would provide him with weekly food filling 2 to 3 trucks
- Man of God, close to the people
- Acted also as a family counsellor
- Spent much time going in and out of prisons, verifying unjust cases
- Was member of the Justice Board
- Treated several people from alcoholism
- The **United Church** also knew him well
- An honest man who cannot be reproached anything
- Inspired Deacon Ron in Catholic ministry
- Frequent visitor at the Golden Age Club – Hall was packed when he was present
- Was Chaplain of the Daughters of Isabella & Knights of Columbus
- Many living persons who knew him well and still alive should testify on his behalf
- Son of a wealthy family who never refused any of his requests for financial assistance in order to help the community
- Was considered to be the 'Defence Attorney for all'