

But how many have been received and added to the Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood! The community in Toronto alone numbers 38. How it has pleased God to multiply those souls so eager to gather up every drop of that Precious Blood spent so lavishly; so jealous for its proper recognition, its praise, honor and adoration; so ambitious to share for very love in the sufferings that sent the Redeeming Stream.

As early as 1869 the first mission, consisting of six Sisters, with Mother St. Joseph superior, was sent from the Mother House to Toronto at the earnest solicitation of His Grace the late Archbishop Lynch, who was convinced that their advent among his people—their holy life of contemplation, prayer and penance, joined to their arduous labors, would bring down upon his people God's blessings. They arrived in Toronto on the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, September 8, and so celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary this year ('94). A solemn High Mass, at which His Grace Archbishop Walsh and many of the clergy assisted, was offered up by the chaplain, Very Rev. Father Marijon, Provincial of the Basilians, for the benefactors of the Community. This date marks also the jubilee of Mother St. Joseph, who has been superior in Toronto of the community ever since its foundation, whose fostering care has nursed and cherished its infancy, and whose wise government directs its flourishing maturity.

The Rule of the Community has been submitted to Rome and was approved for five years. This term of five years expires in December, 1894, when the Sisters expect final approbation. It was a cause of great joy among these holy nuns that their severe rule suffered so little alteration.

The first home of the Order in Toronto was in the old Loretto Convent on Bathurst street. Within a year four of the six died. The building was found damp and unhealthy.

Through much poverty and much privation this heroic community, happy in sufferings, struggled. Kind friends helped them, and in 1872 they moved to a more comfortable home on the corner of St. Joseph and St. Vincent streets, where the writer first saw them. Here they were given work and thus relieved from utter destitution.

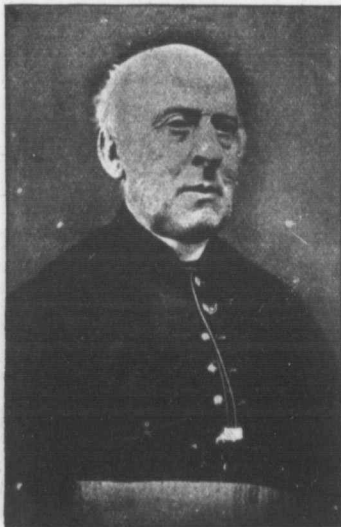
In 1879 the Novitiate was opened, and the house becoming too small the community, through the timely gift of a generous benefactor, were enabled to purchase a larger one farther west on the same street. To this a very large addition was made, the corner stone being laid by His Grace Archbishop Walsh May 28, 1891, and in this Monastery of the Precious Blood, built to suit the cloister, the Sisters are at last in a home where their health does not suffer from overcrowding, and where they can live their life in accordance with the rules and directions of their Institute.

True, they are laden down with a heavy debt—the improvements costing \$24,000—but even as they are generous in their offerings for our souls, so can they hope for a like generosity from us in their needs. The building possesses a handsome exterior, is built of red brick with stone facings. High up over the principal entrance is a statue of the Blessed Virgin, a gift from Mr. John Murphy of Guelph—father of one of the nuns; two niches on either side are still vacant, awaiting like thoughtful and generous benefactors.

In the middle of the summer of '92, knowing that soon the new building would be finished, and desirous to see once more without the grate a friend, I visited the new Monastery and was shown through all the building, out even to the garden, with its useful and ornamental vegetation, whose limits are the nuns' outdoor world. It is kept in a high state of cultivation, being cared for entirely by the nuns, whom I have seen doing all kinds of labor in it—a straw hat, looking oddly over the veil, protecting them from the hot sun.

Let me tell you what I saw and a little of what I learned in the intimate and unconstrained chat with my friend, a Sister Adorer of the Precious Blood.

The Convent may be divided into two parts, that portion open to the public outside the cloister, and the cloister. Outside the cloister are the parlors separated by a grate from the corresponding parlors, the dining-room for guests, the rooms for the chaplain or visiting priest, and the exterior chapel where the public are free to attend and join in the nuns' devotions.



MONSIGNOR J. S. RAYMOND.