

Random Dates from the History of St. Patrick's Church

Sunday, September the twentieth, nineteen hundred and fourteen, will ever be an eventful day in the annals of St. Patrick's Parish, being the occasion of the laying of the corner stone of the New St. Patrick's Church on Grande Allee, which, when completed will be the pride of the parishioners, as it will rank second to none in Quebec.

ITS ORIGIN:—The credit of this enterprise is due to the zealous efforts of the very Rev. Father Woods, C.S.S.R., the present Rector.

Realizing the necessity of larger accommodation for the ever-increasing number of parishioners now attending St. Bridget's Chapel, Father Woods took the only practical means of having the matter rectified.

He had plans made for a large and beautiful Church, together with the estimated costs of same. These he submitted to the ecclesiastical superiors for approval. Permission having been obtained for building the basement of the new Church, Father Woods began the work immediately on the magnificent site chosen on Grande Allee.

This site, owing to the large number of parishioners residing in the vicinity, and many others moving in annually, is an ideal one.

Father Rector is to be congratulated on the splendid manner in which he has carried out his plans, as also upon the means he has taken to raise the funds necessary to meet the great expense of building.

The "New Church Fund" is the principal means he is employing. The conditions governing the fund are as follows:—

To become a "Perpetual Member" necessitates the deposit of twenty-five dollars for each adult, payable in full or part payments, while children may become "Perpetual Members" by a contribution of five dollars. Names of all "Perpetual Members" will be inscribed in a silver heart, this heart to be placed in the Altar of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

The following "Random Dates," taken from the History of St. Patrick's Church, will no doubt prove very interesting.

The first meeting of the Irish Catholics of Quebec, for religious purposes was held in March, 1819, when it was resolved that efforts be made to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, by a High Mass. A subscription was taken up to defray the necessary expenses, and the festival was celebrated in the chapel of the Congregationists, on the Esplanade Hill.

A sermon was preached by the Reverend Michael Dufresne, vicar of Quebec.

This gentleman took a deep interest in the temporal and spiritual affairs of the Irish Catholic emigrants, then arriving in Quebec, where there were very few of their nationality, in a position to render them any assistance.

From this time the celebration of St. Patrick's Day has been con-