
REV. MOTHER TERESA DEASE

Father W. P. McDonnell his Vicar General. Toronto was blessed in its first Bishop, "for in him were united the piety of the recluse and the zeal and ability of the missionary, and as the event proved, the patience and courage of the martyr."

On coming to Toronto Bishop Power found himself in the midst of difficulties of no ordinary kind. His diocese covered an immense territory, and the members of his flock, in many sections, were inadequately fulfilling their duties as true children of the Church. In his own episcopal city, out of about thirteen thousand six hundred inhabitants, the Catholics numbered only three thousand, with but one priest, Rev. Father Kirwan, (Uncle of Rev. Mother Stanislaus Liddy, the present Superior General of the Institute in America), to administer to their spiritual wants.

St. Paul's was the only Catholic Church in the city and on the Bishop's arrival it became his temporary Cathedral. One of His Lordship's first cares on coming to the city was to secure a suitable site for his Cathedral, and with this end in view, he instituted a weekly penny collection at St. Paul's, the beginning of a Building Fund. He finally succeeded in purchasing a piece of land on Church St. on which the Cathedral, Palace, and the former Loretto Convent now stand. The excavation for the new Cathedral was commenced on April the seventh, 1845, and on the eighth of May, the corner stone of the present St. Michael's Cathedral was laid by the Bishop in person. Concurrently with the Cathedral was erected St. Michael's Palace which was blessed in December, 1846. The good Bishop, who was noted for his childlike faith