

About 1861 or 1862 an old-fashioned, little frame chapel stood on the site of the present church. The parish, organized about 1860, had no priest of its own, mass being sung by priests sent from the cathedral, and they had pastoral oversight of the parish.

In 1864 the little chapel was destroyed by fire. In 1867 the Reverend Father Laurent, afterwards of the Cathedral, took charge of the parish, and from that time its success was an assured fact. A school house was built, and this was used as a chapel on Sundays until the present church

gregation. He was their priest 14 years; during that time \$60,000 was spent on the land, the buildings and the various improvements which have not only enhanced the value of the property, but have aided to dignify and improve surrounding properties. When Father Laurent left the parish it had not one cent of debt.

The Redemptorist Fathers assumed charge of the parish in 1881.

The first Superior of this parish was Father Grim, who was removed in 1886 to become president of the House of Studies in Maryland. Assisting Father



ST. PETER'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, CORNER BATHURST AND BLOOR STS.

was erected in 1870. Then more ground was purchased and the presbytery south of the church was built as a residence for the priests. The bond of union between Father Laurent and his people was a very strong one. It has been learned on excellent authority that he spent large sums of money in improving the property of the parish and laboured earnestly and self-sacrificingly for the interests of his people. They loved him in return and cordially responded to his efforts to build up what has now become a large, influential and flourishing con-

gregation. Then came Fathers Hayden, Krein, McInery and Miller. Then came Fathers Henning (he was Superior), and Corduke, Rein, Miller and Thurnel, with others the Superior in January, 1901 being the Very Rev. Father Ward.

The territorial limits of the parish are from College street to the bay, from Spadina avenue to Elizabeth street, and on the latter as far as Queen, then York street on the east and Peter street on the west. There are about 2,000 souls in this limit with about 700 communicants. There is a