

The first Roman Catholic curé's house in Shédiac was built in 1886 under the direction of the Rev. Antoine Ouillet. Previously, the curé of Grandigue came to Shédiac to hold service every fourth Sunday. For a long time the Grandigue priests found hospitality at the home of Simon Poirier and after his death, at that of his son, Fidele. Probably the first mass (date uncertain) in Shédiac, was celebrated at the house of Augustin Landry, situated a little north of the brick building in which the Bank of Montreal is now housed..

The first chapel was erected about 1859 by the Rev. Antoine Gosselin, Curé of Grandigue. Thaddée Gauvain was the Architect. It was demolished some years ago. The first Church was erected in 1872 by the Rev. J. M. Donnelly, who succeeded M. Gosselin as Curé of Grandigue in 1863.

At first at irregular intervals M. Donnelly came to Shédiac to celebrate services; afterwards regularly every fourth Sunday. On other Sundays and on special fête days all who had conveyances went to church at Grandigue. Many poor people walked by the road in summer or across the bay in winter. This continued until 1884, when the Rev. A. Ouillet, from the diocese of St. John, but a native of Madawaska, became resident curé of Shédiac.

The mission of Scoudouc, for a long time dependent on Memramcook, was joined to Shédiac in 1892. On this occasion Mgr. Sweeney appointed M. P. P. Dufour vicar under M. Ouillet. In 1907 Scoudouc became an independant parish.

M. Ouillet was responsible for the erection of the commodious Presbytery which now houses the Curé of Shédiac. He also wished to have a convent, as did a number of his parishioners. But as Mgr. Sweeney did not favour the establishment of any community of French sisters except Sisters of Charity, it was not possible to realize his ambition.

Father Ouillet resigned his charge in 1907 on account of bad health, and was succeeded by the Rev. D. J. LeBlanc. He proved to be a very efficient administrator and extended the work of his parish. Through his instrumentality a branch of the Home of the Providence of St. Joseph was established and administered under the parent organization of Montreal. It carries on the beneficent work of caring for orphans, as well as the aged and infirm. For this purpose the property which once belonged to the Hanington family was acquired and greatly enlarged. Father LeBlanc deserves great credit for his attention to the entire property of the church, which was kept in perfect order, and continues today to be a model of neatness and good taste.

M. LeBlanc, in 1914, erected a large and commodious stone church on the site of the old one. He died in 1925 and was succeeded by the Rev. J. J. V. Gaudet.

All the land on which are situated the church, presbytery and convent was given by Nanette, wife of François Vautour, who inherited it from her father, Raphael Poirier. She also gave the cemetery lot, and, curiously, was the first to be interred therein, April 13, 1871.