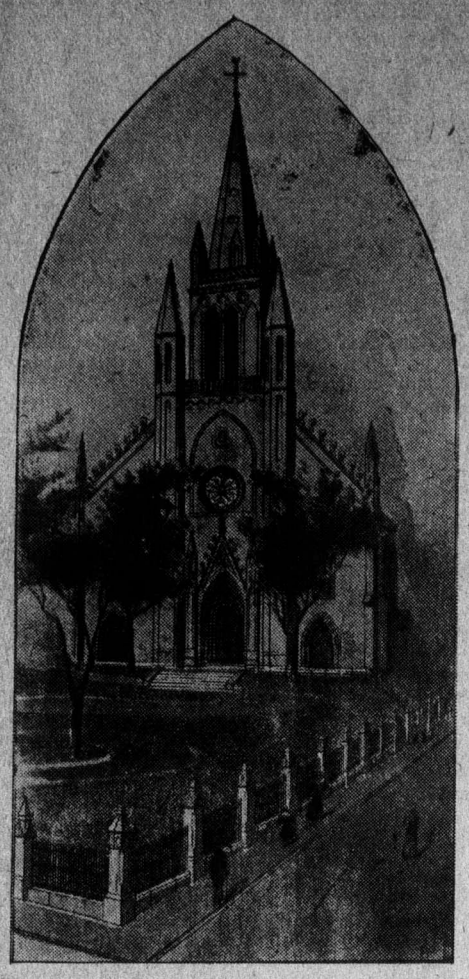
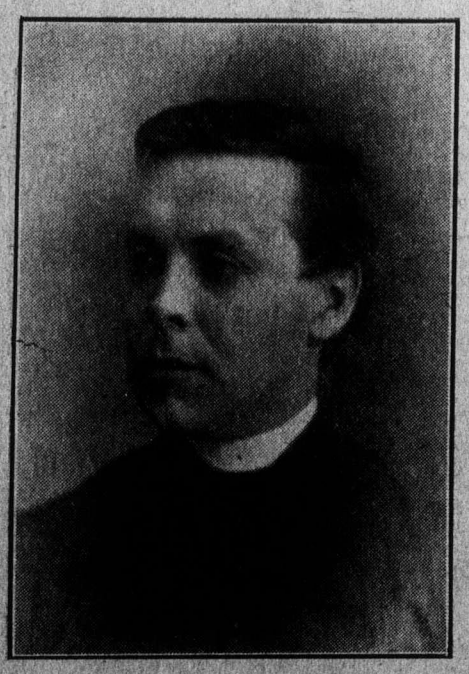
The Re-Organization of St. Patrick's Parish.



ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH.

THE PAST.—The connection of St. Sulpice with St. Patrick's parish dates back over half a century. In the ranks of those zealous Sulpicians the old parish has found spiritual fathers, true guides, noble priests.

As long as the spire of that temple points to the blue vault beyond, as long as the solid foundations rest on a soil that holds the ashes of all—but one—of the saintly priests of that Church's past, as long as a generation exists that shall cherish the traditions handed down from parents to children, so long shall the memory of the spiritual direction of all the clergy survive in the affections of the Irish race in this city and province, who have been associated with the struggles, the sacrifices, the labors, the successes and the glories of triumph that dot the record of St. Patrick's parish. This is not the hour to write the story of the long and fruitful connection of the Seminary with the olden Church and parish. We have no hesitation in saying, that whatever its future prosperity, under God, will be but the embelishment of a parochial edifice, the foundations of which have long ago been solidly laid down, and the superstructure of which has been raised by the zeal, the devotion, and the unremitting fidelity to duty, and to the Irish people, which marked the life of the pastors, and their assistants, during the years that are gone.



REV. MARTIN CALLAGHAN.

Last Pastor under the direction of the Seminary of St. Sulpice: First Pastor under the new regime of the Archbishop which began on Sunday last.

Father Martin's record as curate and pastor is known to every member of the vast parish of St. Patrick's. His whole life in the holy ministry has been spent in the mother Irish parish. No words of appreciation of ours can equal the sincere expressions of congratulations with which the announcement of his re-appointment as pastor has been received by the congregation and our people in other parishes.

The "True Witness" sincerely wishes Father Martin long life, health and every success in his new career.

THE FUTURE.—Long prior to the happy day, when Rome, in her wisdom, selected the youthful but learned Canon Bruchesi, to succeed to the archiepiscopal throne of Montreal, that kindly and gifted prelate had shown tangible evidence of his marked sympathy for the Irish-Catholic Canadian element, and had proven how truly and deeply he appreciated their aspirations. The sermon preached, by him in St. Patrick's Church, on the national and patronal feast that followed his consecration, was indeed a touching tribute to the fidelity of our race, and an eloquent evidence of his careful study of Ireland's sorrowful history. When, subsequently, the newly consecrated Archbishop paid his first visit, in his Episcopal capacity to Rome, he went by way of Ireland, he knelt in Glassnevin, at the tomb of O'Connell, he gathered shamrocks from the sacred spot, and inspiration from the memories recorded of the great Catholic leader, he placed the Irish faithful—of his future jurisdiction—under the care of St. Patrick, St. Bridget, and all the army of saints that Ireland had given to the Church Triumphant, and he came away with a deeper love for and a more intense desire to watch over the temporal and spiritual well being of such an important section of his flock. That spirit has actuated him ever since, its presence is visible in his every act, and if it has at all changed, it was merely to increase in fervor and strength.

THE NEW REGIME.— Thus animated His Grace penned the following touching letter, which was read with much clearness and expression by the Rev. George Gauthier, on Sunday last, at High Mass.

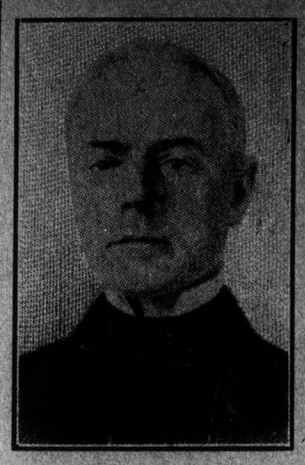
The Archbishop was present, and was attended by Rev. L. W. Leclair and Rev. Father Gauthier, while Very Rev. C. Lecoq, Superior of the Seminary, was the celebrant of the Mass, assisted by Rev. Thomas Reilly and Rev. Father Ouellette as deacon and sub-deacon. The letter of His Grace is as follows:—

"Dearly Beloved Brethren:—

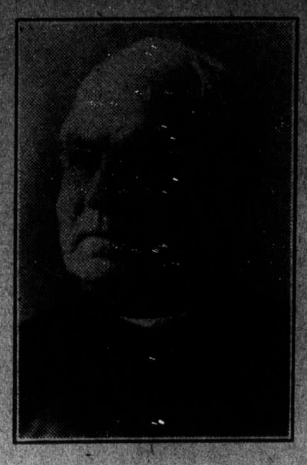
"Owing to a passing indisposition I have been unable until now to pay you the promised visit to which you have been so anxiously looking forward. I am glad to meet you today in order to give you from this pulpit official intimation of the importants events which have recently transpired in connection with your parish, to allay all apprehensions, and to put an end to the many reports which have been in circulation far and near during the past few weeks. That you are deeply interested in St. Patrick's parish is unquestionable. Hence, it is but natural that your chief pastor should bring to your notice a few facts and details about its future.

"On my return from Rome last January I was called upon by the Superior of St. Sulpice, the Rev. Father Lecoq, who came to acquaint me with a decision which had been taken by his predecessor, the late Father Colin, and by his advisers, concerning St. Patrick's parish. Uncontrollable circumstances, he said, had imposed upon the members of the Sulpician community the necessity of transferring to the Archbishop of Montreal the direction of the parish, and accordingly, I was urged to accept its administration. For similar reasons in days gone by they had to hand over many of their parishes, and in fact a few years ago they had been compelled to abandon the direction of St. Ann's and St. Joseph's. I had but to abide by their decision.

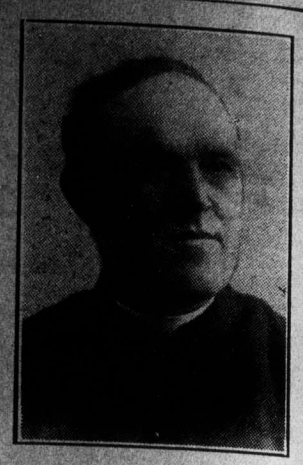
"As Archbishop, I could not do so without first discharging a debt of gratitude towards the zealous and devoted priests of St. Sulpice for all the good they had accomplished from the first moment of the foundation of your parish, and I deem it my bounden duty to-day to give public utterance to the expressions of my personal recognition which I conveyed at the time, by letter to the reverend superior of St. Sulpice. In doing so, I feel confident that I am voicing the sentiments of this vast congregation.



REV. JOSEPH CONNELLY, S. S.
FIRST PASTOR.

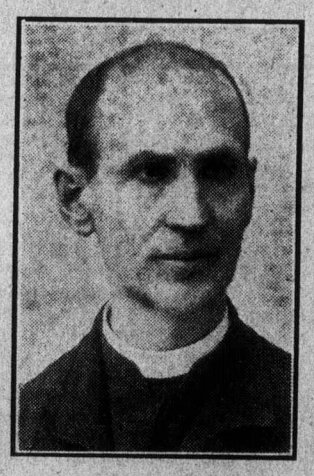


REV. PATRICK DOWD, S. S.,
SECOND PASTOR.



REV. JOHN QUINLIVAN, S. S.,
THIRD PASTOR.

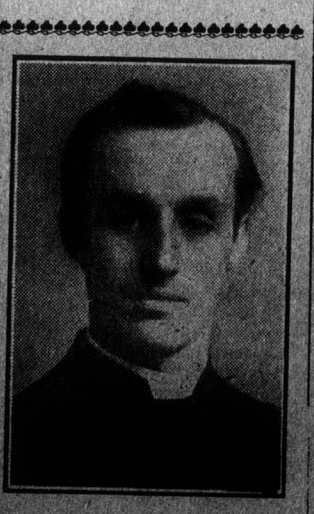
"The history of St. Patrick's parish is remarkable from many standpoints. It is fraught with the most pleasing memories. I shall not dwell at any length on the achievements of Fathers Phelan, Morgan, Connolly, O'Brien, O'Farrell, Bakewell, and others whose names are held in pious memory, especially by the older members of this congregation. Theirs was a very heavy task, indeed; undaunted they laid the foundations of the parish on a solid basis, and sowed the good seed which others were destined to nurture and reap. Then, on the scene appeared the good and learned Father Dowd, who, after a long life spent in your midst, left behind him this noble pile, St. Patrick's Church, St. Bridget's Refuge, the Orphan Asylum, and other works as so many standing monuments of his giant mind, and of his big warm Celtic heart.



REV. L. W. LECLAIR, S. S.

"His successor, the humble and pious Father Quinlivan, whose premature death about a year ago caused such consternation and grief, continued the good work which his predecessors had so happily begun. To your late pastor I may apply the words of the Royal Psalmist: "The zeal of thy house hath consumed me," for this artistically decorated church bespeaks the spirit of religion which prompted him to beautify the House of God. His interest in educational matters was unbounded. He displayed it as a member of the Board of Catholic School Commissioners, and as the originator of the Catholic High School idea. In the name of all, beloved brethren, I thank them and their zealous assistants, whether living or dead, for their signal services to the people of St. Patrick's parish, and, I may add, to the community at large. It would be unfair were I not to mention here those French-Canadian priests, such as Fathers Singer and Toupin, deceased, and dear Father Leclair, whom we still have the happiness of possessing in our midst, and others who vied with their English-speaking brethren in attending to your spiritual needs. That those pioneer priests who have departed this life are now enjoying in Heaven the reward of their labors and of their exemplary lives is our fervent prayer and earnest wish. May they still watch over and pray for the parish they loved so well, and ever be its guardian angels. I must also remember those devoted priests who came from the United States to minister to your spiritual wants, and in your name I convey to them one and all our most cordial thanks.

"I have briefly reviewed the past. My thoughts must now drift into another channel. What about the future of St. Patrick's? To whom should I entrust its administration?



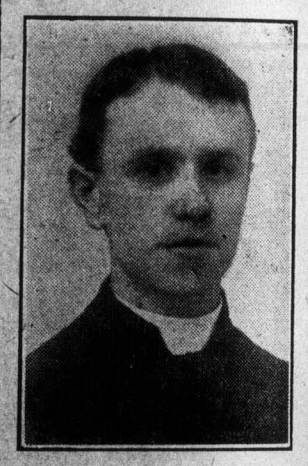
REV. J. P. McGRATH.

REV. DR. LUKE CALLAGHAN.

Many rumors have been afloat, and many wishes expressed on the subject. I respect all the views that have been entertained, and I have given the matter my earnest consideration. For many reasons I could not comply with all that I was requested to do. All views did not meet mine. After mature deliberation and fervent prayer, and with the assent of my chapter I came to the conclusion that the following plan would be the most feasible, and the most acceptable to all concerned:

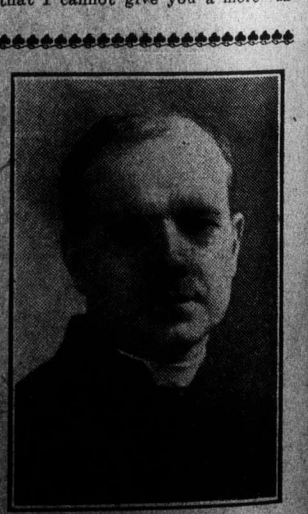
"Father Martin Callaghan has been with you for the past 29 years, loved and revered by all, young and old, rich and poor. His name is a household word. His many deeds are enshrined in your hearts. Throughout his career as a curate, and more especially since his appointment to the pastorate, he has displayed marked ability in the different departments of the sacred ministry. His place, and in making this statement I feel that I am giving utterance to the sentiments of all, irrespective of creed or nationality, his place, I repeat, is at the head of this parish. St. Sulpice still claims him as one of its members, and is pleased to allow me to retain him as parish priest, and I do not hesitate a single moment to select him for the important position. Consequently, I appoint Father Martin Callaghan pastor of St. Patrick's.

"St. Sulpice has likewise granted me the favor of keeping as many of the actual assistants as I should judge proper, and for so long a time as I should require their services. You are acquainted with them. You have seen them at work, and you have admired their zeal and devotedness in everything that appertains to the welfare of the parish. Consequently, I shall be obliged to make but few changes for the time being.

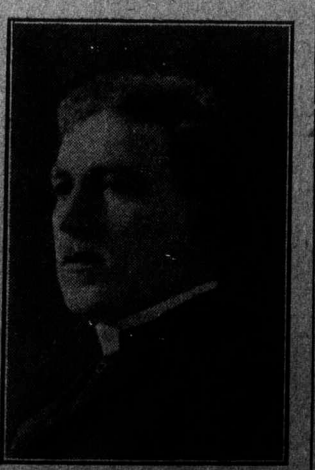


REV. DR. GERALD McSHANE, S.S.

"I wish, however, to make an addition to the present staff. I have at the cathedral a priest who has been a much valued and highly esteemed assistant of mine. I allude to Rev. Dr. Luke Callaghan. He has been my vice-chancellor, a member of the Cathedral Chapter, and it was my intention in the near future to make him one of my titular canons. It seems to be, beloved brethren, that I cannot give you a more unequivocal pledge of my esteem and affection than to offer to the priest in question, who is so well qualified for active ministry in a parish a share in the guidance of your souls. He accepts my offer and is willing to come. Though he leaves me I do not part with him. Here he will be a connecting link between us and strengthen the bonds that unite you with the chief pastor of the archdiocese.



REV. FATHER OUELLETTE, S.S.



REV. M. J. McKENNA.

"It may be important that you