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FATHER TOUPIN DEAD.

A Noble and Sainly Career Spent in Saving Souls

Sixty Years a Member of the Priesthood, and the Last Survivor of the Pioneers in Religious Work in the Circles of English-Speaking Catholics...

THE DEATH of the saintly and aged priest, Rev. Father Toupin, of St. Patrick's, has removed from the scene of religious work in English-speaking Catholic circles the last surviving representative of that noble and heroic band of workers...

From Friday afternoon until Sunday evening at 6.30 the body was lying in State in the large robing room of the Sacristy. Thousands of people, young and old, from all quarters of the city, visited the temporary mortuary chamber to obtain a last glimpse of the good priest who had spent such a long life in their midst...

Early in the present year the first serious signs of rapidly declining health were made manifest, so much so, that it was deemed advisable to have him removed to the Notre-Dame Hospital, where he could receive the best of nursing and medical attendance.

On the 1st of October he had a stroke of apoplexy at 5 o'clock in the morning, and was thought to be dying. He was unconscious and the last rites of the Church were administered to him, those around his bed not expecting him to live half an hour.

On Monday morning, long before the hour appointed for the final ceremony, the immense space in the Cathedral was filled to its utmost capacity. The main floor of pews, which are capable of seating several thousands, were all occupied, while in the double row of galleries extending from the altars to the entrance, also equal to seating many thousands...

splendid training and art in the rendition of their parts which was most impressive. The whole ceremonial was most imposing and well calculated to indelibly impress upon the minds of those present the majestic grandeur, withal the touching simplicity, of the services of the Church.

At the conclusion of the Mass, Mgr. Emard, Bishop of Valleyfield, accompanied by priests and seminarians, surrounded the coffin during the singing of the Libera and officiated at the Absoute. Those present were: Mgr. Emard, Bishop of Valleyfield, Rev. N. A. Troie, curé of Notre Dame, Rev. Louis Coia, honorary canon, and superior of the Seminary of St. Sulpice...



Rev. A. Marie, who came in from New York to pay a tribute of respect to the dead, Rev. M. Magner, of Baltimore; Rev. Abbé Hogan, of Boston, members of the Order of St. Sulpice; Rev. H. Laurier, Rev. Chas. Leocq, Superior of the Grand Seminary; Rev. Jules Delavigne, Superior of the Seminary of Philosophy; Rev. Canon Racicot, vicar general of Laval; Rev. Abbé Bourrassa, secretary of Laval; Rev. Canon Villant, Rev. Canon Bruchesi, Rev. Abbé Charrier of St. James; Rev. J. A. Leclerc, P.P. of St. Joseph; Rev. Father Ed. Strubbe, of St. Ann's; Rev. H. Brisette, P.P., of Hochelaga; Rev. F. L. J. Adam, of the Sacred Heart; Rev. M. Auclair, of St. Louis Baptiste; Rev. P. F. O'Donnell, of St. Mary's; Rev. Wm. O'Meara, of St. Anthony's; Rev. Father Casey; Rev. Abbé Bouin, of St. Charles; Rev. Charles Larocque, St. Louis de France; Rev. J. N. Marchal, Notre Dame de Grace; Rev. R. Decarie, of St. Henri; Rev. M. Ecrement, Ste. Cunségunde; Rev. James Lonergan, St. Bridget; Rev. G. M. Lepelletier, Maisonneuve; Rev. Father LeFebvre, of the Order of the Oblats; Rev. Father Turgeon and other Jesuits, and a number of Franciscans.

officiating. The church was crowded to the doors, every available portion of it, including the galleries, was thronged with the parishioners. As in the Notre Dame Cathedral, the ceremonies were beautiful, yet simple. With the exception of the confessional box of the dead priest, which was completely hidden from view by the heavy drapings, there was no display of mourning whatever.

After the ceremony at St. Patrick's, all that was mortal of the noble priest was carried out towards the hearse, which was escorted to the small chapel at the Grand Seminary where all the members of the Sulpician Order are interred.

On the occasion of the Jubilee of the Rev. Fathers Dowd and Toupin, our present Judge Curran edited a valuable little Souvenir number containing, amongst other things, the following brief sketch of the life and labors of Father Toupin:— Rev. Father Joseph Toupin belonged to one of the oldest and most respected French-Canadian families in the Province, and was born in Montreal on the 23rd of November, 1814. He was baptized by the Rev. Abbé Bédard in the old Notre Dame Church, and pursued his classical studies at the old Montreal College then on College street.

Ann's, and was later on attached to St. Patrick's Church, a position which he held till his death.

Brotherly love caused Father Toupin temporarily to abandon his work among the Irish people when he went to perform the ministerial duties for his infirm brother, then parish priest at Rivière des Prairies. Immediately after his brother's death, Father Toupin returned to this city with renewed zeal and ardor.

Father Toupin has passed his whole life in earnest ministerial work, a slave to duty, and absolutely devoted to those entrusted to his care. Although actively engaged in parochial work, there is hardly a Catholic institution in the whole city which has not been the object of his solicitude, and which he has not helped in some manner. He has been spiritual adviser to several religious communities, who all profess the greatest respect and devotion to him.

FATHER QUINNIVAN'S TOUCHING REMARKS

The Rev. Father Quinlivan, pastor of St. Patrick's, at Grand Mass on Sunday, after making the usual announcements made the following touching reference to the death of the venerable Father Toupin:—

It was almost superfluous for me to speak to you about our saintly Father Toupin. His long priestly career of almost sixty years, most of which was spent in your midst and in your service, his heat and true piety, as the fruits show the true priest of God, you have all been witnesses of these works, many of you for a much longer time than any of his brother priests, for Father Toupin was a priest during long years before the oldest amongst us was born.

After a brilliant college course, Father Toupin entered religious orders, receiving tonsure and minor orders in 1834 from the hands of Mgr. Larigue, the first Bishop of Montreal. In 1837 he was successively made sub-deacon and deacon, and finally on the 23rd December, 1837, he was ordained priest. He lost his father in 1834, in the second cholera, and his mother lived until 1857, with another son, the Rev. Alfred Toupin, who was until the time of his death, in 1877, curé of Rivière des Prairies.

responded to the wishes of the people by replacing the usual evening instruction by a discourse on the power and blessing of good example, especially as illustrated by the life and death of his venerable confrere, Rev. Joseph Toupin, taking for his text, "Be ye imitators of me as I am of Christ" (St. Paul, 1 Cor. iv, 16).

He had sat down at the Divine Master's feet, and early understood that the disciple, in order to carry on the mission entrusted to him, had to copy His Teacher. The Blessed Lord first began to do, then to teach. Words might deeply move the soul; but good deeds, holy example, still more powerfully attracted it to the practice of virtue.

FATHER CALLAGHAN'S TRIBUTE.

The children of St. Patrick's catechism classes were greatly edified by what Rev. M. Callaghan told them on last Sunday about Father Toupin, with whom he had lived under the same roof and was associated in the ministry for the space of twenty years. He sketched his career and enlarged upon the most striking features of his character.