



RECOLLECTS' CONVENT, THREE RIVERS

The Recollects possessed three convents in Canada, viz. in Quebec, Montreal and Three Rivers. The last-named alone still subsists to-day. After the departure of its rightful occupants the civil authorities handed over this property to the Anglican Church. The convent has thus become the residence of a protestant minister and the church has been given over to protestant services.

Beneath the floor of the profaned sanctuary repose the precious remains of Brother Didacus Pelletier, Canadian Recollect renowned for his holiness and miracles.

Nevertheless, with the death of the last Recollects, the sons of Francis of Assisi had not disappeared for ever from Canada. They were singled out to return and to continue their apostolate in the land they had evangelized as pioneers. Several times, the Franciscans had been invited to return to Canada, notably by the saintly Bishop of Montreal, Mgr. Bourget. In 1881, Reverend Father Frederick, whose name is held in veneration and respect, arrived in this country and sojourned eight months. The same priest began, in 1888, the restoration of the Franciscan Order in Canada when he founded a Commissariate for the Holy Land at Three Rivers.