



Reverend Joseph Bayard

Joseph Bayard was born May 16, 1835 in Ogdensburg, New York. Little is known about his family for certain beyond the fact that his brother, Edward Bayard, also became a priest, and records are similarly spotty concerning his early years. What is known is that sometime prior to his entering school, his family travelled from New York to Quebec, where he received his early education at Isle Perrot, Quebec. He later went on to take Classical Studies at Ste. Theresa's College, also in Quebec.

By 1856 he had completed his Theology studies at the Seminary of St. Sulpice in Montreal, and in that same year, arrived in London to serve as secretary to Bishop Pierre-Adolphe Pinsonneault. He left in 1858 to attend the seminary in Baltimore, Maryland in preparation for his ordination. He was finally ordained on March 19, 1859, by Bishop Ignace Bourget in Montreal.

Father Bayard then returned to the Diocese of London to serve as assistant pastor to his brother Edward at St. Peter's Cathedral in London, before briefly serving as assistant pastor at Ste. Anne's Parish in Tecumseh for about five months in 1860. While records are unclear, there is evidence that he served alongside his brother at St. Mary's Parish in Maidstone around the same time.

He does appear to have stayed around Sandwich and area for quite some time, serving as pastor both at St. Mary's Parish, and at Assumption Parish from the period of around 1860 to 1866, at which point he was stationed in Ingersoll at Sacred Heart Parish. He stayed there until 1877, at which point he went to Sarnia to become pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish. During the twenty years he stayed there, until 1897, he was known to have faithfully served his parishioners.

After his assignment there, he went to Windsor to replace the late Reverend Dean Wagner as pastor of St. Alphonsus Parish. During this time, he appears to have suffered a bout of ill health, which made his brief stay (until the following year) somewhat unpleasant, but this did not affect his duty to his people.

From there, he went to become pastor of Holy Angels Parish in St. Thomas, from 1898 to 1903, after which he retired due to ill health. From 1899 to 1900 he briefly served as administrator of the diocese when Bishop Denis O'Connor became Archbishop of Toronto; when Bishop Fergus McEvey became Bishop of London on August 6, 1900, he made Father Bayard Vicar General.

Although his ill health made his final years difficult, the Sisters at St. Joseph's Hospital, where he stayed in his final days, noted that his acceptance of God's will and his faith were unbroken.

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December 31, 2016*