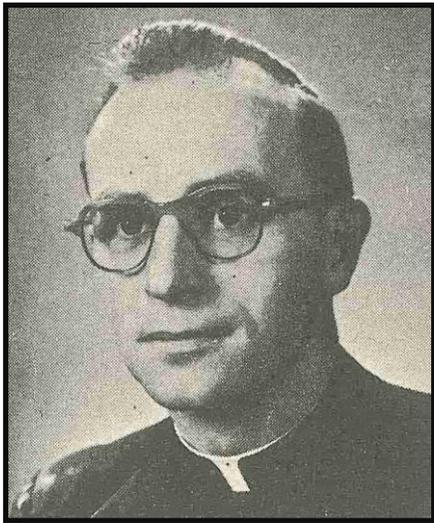




Reverend Bernard Edward Wall

Bernard Wall was born on October 18, 1922 in McGregor, Ontario, to parents William Wall and Jennie Madden. 'Bernie', to his friends, attended Catholic elementary school before attending Assumption High School in Windsor. He eventually entered St. Peter's Seminary for his philosophical and theological studies. On June 2, 1956, Father Wall was ordained by Bishop John C. Cody in St. Peter's Cathedral.

His first appointment, as assistant pastor, was at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Windsor. He was there from 1956-1957, before becoming assistant pastor at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Chatham from 1957-1960. He then became assistant pastor at Blessed Sacrament Parish in



London from 1960-1961, before moving to Most Precious Blood Parish, Windsor, from 1961-1965. From that point on, Father Wall remained in Windsor for his other appointments, going to St. Anne's Parish from 1965-1968, and then to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, from 1968-1969.

In 1969, Father Wall became pastor at St. Christopher's Parish, also in Windsor, a post he held for an astonishing twenty-two years (1969-1991) until he retired. Given the length of time he spent at that parish, it is not surprising to hear that he is remembered most in his role as pastor. It is difficult to pinpoint what exactly made Father 'Bernie' so well loved: could it have been his willingness to help out

parishioners who were down on their luck? Or, could it have been his down to earth nature and his sense of humour? There were many reasons, none of which seem like large things on their own, but combine to paint a picture of a devoted and amicable pastor, who was deeply concerned for the needs of his flock.

If anything, Father 'Bernie's' humanitarian nature is affirmed by the story of how, in 1978, when motorists were stranded in a blizzard along Highway 401, Father Bernie hopped on a snowmobile and began to help the O.P.P. out with the rescue mission. Stranded motorists were brought to a nearby service centre. It was a daring rescue mission, and one that highlighted Father 'Bernie's' compassion and his devotion to serving others. He was so well loved that when he announced to the parish that we was not yet ready to retire, and would stay on a little longer, the parishioners gave him a standing ovation!

Like with so many others, Father Wall did not preach his ministry, but instead lived it. His devotion to his parish and his people ensured that he will always be remembered.

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