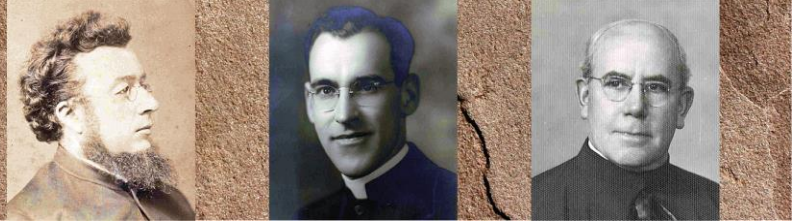


**THESE**  
are our brothers



## **A Great Builder: Reverend Magloire Baillargeon**

Magloire Baillargeon was born in Tecumseh on July 12, 1891 to parents Damien Baillargeon and Julie Paquin. He had a strong Catholic upbringing, attending Catholic elementary school, and later attending Ste. Theresa's Seminary for secondary school. He studied Philosophy for two years at Assumption College in Windsor, and then studied Theology for four years at St. Peter's Seminary in London. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 12, 1919, by Bishop Michael Fallon, at St. Peter's Cathedral in London.



He served briefly as assistant pastor at St. Alphonsus' Parish in Windsor from 1919-1921, but from there went to LaSalle, where he stayed for the next seventeen years. He was the first pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, and worked diligently to establish a solid foundation for the parish community. He oversaw the construction of a church, blessed and opened Sacred Heart School in 1925, and acquired land for a cemetery the same year. His hard work

was also apparent in the little details: by August 4, 1921, he had already organized the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Holy Name Society and the Altar Society. He would later perform similar feats at other parishes, earning himself a reputation as a 'great builder' of parishes.

From 1938-1945, he was pastor at St. Clement's Parish in McGregor. He remained active and industrious during this time, building a parish hall and restoring the cemetery. In 1944, he suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized, but was soon back to his work.

In 1945 he became the seventh pastor at Sts. Simon and Jude Parish in Belle River; almost immediately he began preparing to build a new rectory and a parish hall — a testament to his strong work ethic. In May of 1946 he was elected President of the St. Peter's Seminary Alumni Association, a task well suited for his industrious nature.

Unfortunately, he would not live to see this project completed: on November 13, 1946, as he was preparing to celebrate Mass, Father Baillargeon suffered another heart attack and died in the Sacristy, at the age of fifty-five. While his ministry did not last as long as that of other priests, his legacy lives on in the parishes in which he served.

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