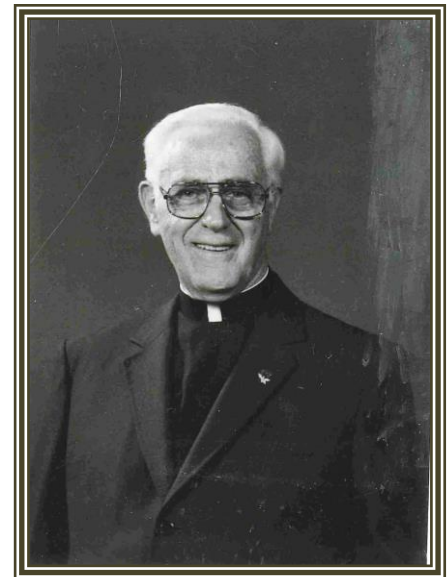




‘The Model of a True Pastor’: Reverend A.P. Spencer

Reverend Albert Patrick Spencer was born on October 25, 1911 in Stratford, Ontario, to parents James Spencer and Mary Witt. His early education was in Stratford, attending Immaculate Conception school, and later the Stratford Collegiate Institute. Later, he would move on to St. Peter’s Seminary. Reverend Spencer was a late vocation compared to some, but he answered the call nonetheless, being ordained on June 15, 1946, by Bishop J.T. Kidd.

He began his ministry at St. Mary’s Parish in Tillsonburg as assistant pastor from 1946 to 1955, before becoming pastor at Holy Cross Parish in London. While at Holy Cross Parish, he paid off the debt on the building as well as made improvements to the church itself. In 1967, he was transferred to Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Wallaceburg, where he remained for one short year – yet even then, he kept busy: in that one year, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul was formed, and the Christian Youth Centre was opened.



From there, he went back to London, this time as pastor of St. Martin’s Parish, where he stayed for ten years, from 1968 to 1978. While there, he not only served the needs of his own parish, but also guided the Korean Mission that was there, an act that earned him the respect and praise of the Korean community. In 1972, he was also named Diocesan Director of the Catholic Women’s League, a post he held until 1978. Under his leadership, the Catholic Women’s League grew thanks to his tireless efforts to promote it.

Finally, a record was broken when he transferred to Sacred Heart Parish in Langton (as well as St. Peter’s Mission in Long Point). There, Reverend Spencer was pastor for an amazing fourteen years, from 1978 to 1992.

While these accomplishments are noteworthy enough, what is truly commendable is the service he provided to each and every parish, faithfully performing his duties as pastor and providing excellent care to his parishioners. Colleagues remembered him as having a deep devotion to the sick and the elderly, visiting them “faithfully and regularly,” as well as his tendency to always be working. He was always willing to lend an ear to those

that needed it, and was respected by many. These things often go unnoticed, but it is precisely because of Father Spencer's years of faithful service that he deserves recognition.

*Tiffany Champagne, M.L.I.S.
Volunteer Archivist
October 30, 2015*