

PAROISSE ST. ISIDORE CATHOLIC PARISH

HISTORY: * Ref. Plamondon History Books: I and II and WCR.



Our Pioneers

As you enter the Hamlet of Plamondon, located on Highway 858, approximately 3 km. north of Highway 55, you will see the spectacular view dominated by its church tower. It also makes us understand why our ancestors chose this little valley to establish their roots.



Our pioneers prospered quite well in Provemont, Michigan, USA, however, as the families grew; they realized that land was not readily available for their children.




Farmlands of the Western prairies.




Groups gathered to make plans to immigrate to Alberta with the hope that they could have an abundance of land, preserve their language, their religion and political beliefs in this new land.




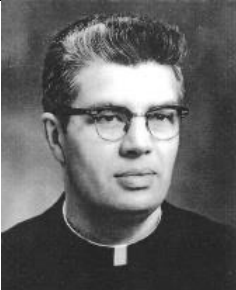
After many days of travel by train and then ox carts, they arrived in a beautiful valley on July 28, 1908, settled by the spruce trees as a group and thanked God for their safe arrival.





Father LeGoffe, OMI,	1908-1913	1908 -The first pioneers, being a strong religious group, celebrated their first mass in August of 1908. The mass was presided by Father Walter Camire, OMI – from Good Fish Lake Misson. Father LeGoffe, OMI, from the Lac La Biche Mission (Notre Dame des Victoires) offered his services to say <i>mass</i> once a month in the <i>pioneer homes</i> . However, he indicated that the major feast days would require travel to the Mission until a church could be constructed. An educational and spiritual system was also available for students wanting to board there until a school was built.
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		<p>1909 -<i>First official visit</i> by this Excellency <i>Bishop Legal</i> who confirmed the children.</p> <p>1910-Joseph Plamondon and some community members built a <i>log cabin</i> that would serve as a school, <i>chapel</i> and stopping place. Mass services where then held in this building.</p> <p>1911 - The <i>first little log church</i> was constructed out of logs near the original site by the spruce trees.</p> <p>1913 - The log <i>church</i> was <i>moved</i> to the new village site donated by Ernest Plamondon, Joseph Plamondon's son.</p> <p>1914 – The 1st Midnight Mass was celebrated in the log church.</p>
 <p>Father Joseph-Avila Lepage</p>	<p>1915-1917</p>	<p>1915 - Father Lepage arrives as the <i>first residential priest</i> in the newly formed parish, St. Isidore. The parish is named St. Isidore in honor of Isidore Plamondon who is closely associated with the beginnings of Plamondonville.</p> <p><i>First Church Council is formed.</i></p> <p>1916 - A small <i>rectory</i> is built to accommodate the priest.</p> <p>The <i>cemetery</i> is established on the north side of Plamondonville. (Official title: 1921)</p> <p><i>Les Dames de Ste. Anne</i> began is organized with Adeline Piquette as the first President.</p>
 <p>Fr. Narcisse Chartrand</p>	<p>1917-1919</p>	<p>1917- St. Isidore Parish had its <i>first retreat</i>. To mark this event, four crosses were set up at different points in the area. One approximately 2 miles south of Plamondon, on the "Hill of the Cross" one west of the four corners towards Gourin, one on the edge of Gerald Plamondon and Edgar Dube's land (that cross is now housed at the Mini Parc Heritage Park) and the last one east of Plamondon on the Old Trail.</p>


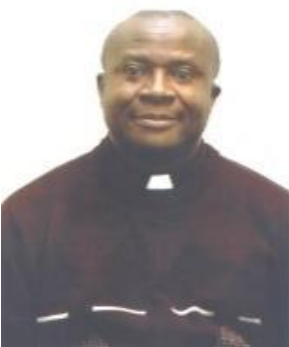

		<p>Fr. Narcisse Chartrand , <i>Continued</i></p> <p>1918 - With the <i>Spanish Flu epidemic</i>, the whole community gathers to pray and help each other.</p> <p>- Father Chartrand would go from house to house to administer spiritual and corporal services to the parishioners.</p>
 <p>Fr. A Chapleau</p>	1919-1920	Father Chapleau continued with devotion to the care of his parishioners in these trying times.
Father LeGoffe	1920 - 1921	Father LeGoffe returned for a year.
 <p>Fr. A Cadoux</p>	1921-1924	
 <p>Fr. Ovide Desrochers</p>	1924-1929	<p>1926: The little church was moved over to accommodate the building of a new church. The little church had many functions: it was used as a health clinic, a community center, a place for catechism, a school for one year and a movie theatre in 1972 and a museum.</p> <p>1928 – After two years of construction, <i>the new and larger church</i> was able to accommodate the growing community with mass celebrated on May 6, 1928. Regarding the height of our church, there was only one man that was willing to erect the cross on the highest steeple...the man is Father Ovide Desroches, who will always be remembered in Plamondon for this remarkable feat.</p>



		<p>Fr. Ovide Desrochers , <i>continued</i></p> <p>1928: The 1st organ is purchased for the church.</p> <p>1929: Father Desrochers leaves the Parish to join the Trappist Monks. He will be remembered for his jolly nature and for his great goodness.</p>
 <p>Fr. Narcisse Chartrand</p>	1929-1931	
 <p>Fr. Sebastian Loranger</p>	1931-1950	<p>Father Loranger was not only instrumental in promoting faith but also very active in education, health and service.</p> <p>1931 – The initial step is taken to invite some Religious Sisters to come and work in Plamondon. A delegation of forty people went to Edmonton to ask for nuns to come to Plamondon. In 1936, Les Filles de Jesus arrived.</p> <p>1931 -1936 -</p> <p>St.Isidore's Parish suffers the Great Depression.Fr. Loranger knows how to encourage his parishioners. He works hard with the parishioner to have a resident nurse. This becomes a reality in 1934. Les Filles de Jesus (Daughters of Jesus) arrive in 1936 to serve the community in the educational sector. A temporary building was renovated until the new convent was built in 1941 and named Notre Dame de La Joie.</p>
<p>1948: Bishop Baudoux inaugurates the Diocese of St. Paul.</p>		
 <p>Father Alcidas Richard</p>	1950-1958	<p>1953 – Christian <i>Crusade group</i> was organized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is very active in the school organization - takes a year of university courses for teaching – teaches at least two years - hauls kids to school from Charron and Gourin with a 3 seat car - opposes the building of the hotel (1957) - is instrumental in centralizing the schools for the purpose of providing religious education.

	1951-1952	<p>- Is the Vicar to Fr. Ricard. During his time in Plamondon, he spends time with the young people, especially in organizing a boy's hockey team, a skating rink with the committee and the Boy's Scouts with Arthur Girard.</p>
<p>Father Jocelyn St. Arnaud</p>		
	1958-1962	<p>1959 – The <i>Knights of Columbus</i> from Plamondon become charter members of the Lac La Biche Council.. 1961 - A <i>new and spacious rectory</i> is built.</p>
<p>Fr. Fernand Croteau</p>		
	1962-1968	<p>- He came to Plamondon during the time of Vatican II when there were many changes in the church. He was a great friend to our teenagers and was of a very jolly nature. He loved hunting, fishing and duck hunting. He went with any parishioner who was available, young or older. He also enjoyed taking coffee with the bus drivers. His advice to the Graduates of 1967 was, "The need for unity is not something we can put off until tomorrow; for tomorrow may be too late. Let us approach and appreciate our differences in a way that a mature man would. Let us remember that no one point of view has any monopoly of virtue. Quite the contrary, the road of ultimate wisdom lies in mutual understanding and compassion."</p>
<p>Fr. Jean-Marie Martineau</p>		
	1968-1972	<p>-Fr. Grondin came to Plamondon to serve Breynat and Atmore as well as St. Isidore's Parish. - 1972 – The Knights of Columbus are granted their own charter Plamondon Council No 6360</p>
<p>Fr. L Abbe Grondin</p>		

	1972-1974	<p>1973: The <i>interior of the church</i> is completely renovated under the direction of Brother Bruyere. It also included the renovation of the Statue of Mary done by Louise Piquette.</p> <p>1973 - The convent is sold to private individuals.</p>
Fr. Herve Tanguay		
	1974-1982	<p>1975 – C.W.L. began its organization in Plamondon with Eileen Sehn as the 1st President.</p> <p>1976 - The first little church was home to the Plamondon & District Museum.</p> <p>1977 – Natural gas is installed in the church.</p> <p>1979 - Cemetery research and studies provided a new map of names and locations</p> <p>1979 – New shingles and siding for the church</p> <p>1981 – In June the nuns leave Plamondon</p>
Fr. Claude De Champlain		
	1982-1983	<p>1982 – Parish priest Father Bureau with the help of others, constructed a realistic, life-size sculpture of a youthful St. Isidore behind his plough. Also, hand crafted they made an altar and baptismal bowl, ambo and for the tabernacle</p> <p>1983 – A large crucifix is erected in the cemetery.</p>
Fr. Victor Bureau		
	1983-1990	<p>1984 – Church renovations were started with a complete foundation and new siding.</p> <p>- Les Dames de St. Anne dissolved after 68 years</p> <p>A Parish Pastoral Council is formed.</p> <p>1988 – The Parish Pastoral Council forms Structural Committees; Financial, Liturgy, Special Planning Sessions - Communion to House-Ridden sick. Preparations for Baptism, Reconciliation, First Communion, Confirmation, Church Banners, Sacristan, church and rectory house cleaning, church year maintenance, Parish Photo Album, Bulletin, Sunday Collection Management, Sunday School, Welcoming and Readers.</p>
Fr. Roger Sicotte		

 <p>Fr. John Joseph</p>	<p>1990 – 1991</p>	
 <p>Fr. Jean Paul Gagne</p>	<p>1991-1993</p>	
 <p>Fr. John Adamyk</p>	<p>1993-1997</p>	<p>1997 – Reconstruction of front steps of the church.</p> <p>– Legion of Mary is organized.</p> <p>1998 – Father John was very instrumental in starting an Altar Server group that would include activities, training and spiritual. Anita Gauthier first led this group with servers from grade 3 to grade 6 or later if they wished. Many stayed longer to become assistant leaders. It was very well received. At one time we had those who served at the altar and two front pews of dressed servers. We made sure they all had a role to play. They got together and named themselves The Loving Servers of St. Isidore's Parish. It wasn't often used because of its length but it suited the great servers they were. It is wonderful that to this day, these children are included in the most important part of the mass.</p>

 <p>Fr. Hong K Nguyen</p>	<p>1997-2007</p>	<p>2000 – The cross on the hill north of Plamondon is replaced with a new one. -</p> <p>- The St. Isidore <i>Parish Maintenance Committee</i> is established for the purpose of the major renovation of the church.</p> <p>- St. Isidore Choir members produced a Christmas CD.</p> <p>2002 – The museum moves out of the 1st Church built in Plamondon. The Historical Chapelle Society of Plamondon is formed and assumed responsibility for its maintenance. It is now known as The or La Chapelle.</p> <p>2004 – A 20 acre land parcel is purchased to re-locate the Chapelle. –</p> <p>2005 – The Chapelle is moved to its present location. This was its 3rd move.</p> <p>2006 – The St. Isidore <i>church blue prints</i> are finally stamped and the basement is the first part of the <i>huge renovation</i> to be undertaken</p>
 <p>Fr. Hippolytus Njoku</p>	<p>2007-2008</p>	<p>Jan – 2007 – Under Robert Richard and Leonard Schaub's leadership, excavation & reinforcement of the basement foundation of the church began.</p> <p>April - 2008 – completion of fully developed church hall in basement. Upon completion, liturgical celebrations moved to St. Philip's Church in Atmore and the second part of the Major renovations of the main floor began. \$971,000.00 of funds were raised, spear headed by Lucien & Sylvia Cote and Rita & Jerome Plamondon over a period of 10 years. A \$250, 000 loan from the diocese was needed to complete the project.</p>
 <p>Fr. Vitus Ikeme smmm</p>	<p>2008-2010</p>	<p>A committee is established to raise money for sponsorship, through Kindness in Action, of Students in Guatemala.</p>

 <p>Fr. Polycarp Chukwu</p>	<p>2010-2012</p>	<p>2010 – June 11, 2010, the first mass was celebrated in the newly renovated church and on November 6, an official blessing by Bishop Bouchard was followed by a well deserved parish celebration.</p> <p>2010 – Present, Deacon Jerry Metz, ordained a Deacon in 2007 became a permanent resident to Plamondon. He was and still is a valued member of the Parish Council and our Parish. Deacon Jerry reorganized the structure of the Parish Council, conducted a survey and developed a 5 year plan for our parish, organized retreats, and facilitated over the years various spiritual video series for our Catholic education.</p> <p>2011 – The centennial of the first Plamondon church was celebrated after a decade of renovations by the Historical Chapelle Society. The opening ceremonies were held with a non-denominational candlelit ceremony and many fun activities</p> <p>2011 - New Baptismal Font- drawn by Lise St.Jean; built by Leonard Schaub</p>
 <p>Fr. Casmir Muobike</p>	<p>2012-2017</p>	<p>2012 – Heritage Day outdoor mass was held. See website for photos and detail.</p> <p>2012- A Regional Parish Mission retreat was held in St. Isidore Church which included the surrounding parishes.</p> <p>2013 - Finance Committee sets up automatic debit authorization for church donation</p> <p>2013 - \$3,405.00 is raised for the students in Guatemala</p> <p>2014 - St. Isidore's Parish has taken the initiative to sponsor a refugee family and raised \$20,000.00 to support the family. They settled in Plamondon.</p> <p>- Individual family/Pashioner photos for everyone were taken.</p> <p>2015 – Construction of a new St. Isidore Parish car garage; spear headed by Vernon Plamondon</p>

		<p>Fr. Casmir Muobike, <i>continued</i></p> <p>2015 - Construction of the ramp and two exit set of stairs; spear headed by Denis St, Jean</p> <p>- May 2 – 100th Anniversary for St. Isidore Parish was celebrated at the Festival Center with a CWL tea, a banquet & musical entertainment followed by a mass on May 3 at the church officiated by Bishop Paul Terrio.</p> <p>– October 25th - Year of the Family closing mass at the Festival Center with the Parishes of St. Catherine, St. Gabriel., Sacred Heart of Jesus, St. Alphonsus and St. Theresa</p>
 <p>Fr. Michael Phuc Ngo</p>	2017-2019	<p>2017 – held Theology on Tap in Lac La Biche for family and friends, hosting Father Gerard Gauthier. Topic was open questions on our faith.</p> <p>2018 & 2019– held Theology on Tap at the Chappelle in Plamondon hosting Father Michael Ngo.</p> <p>2019 – Planned a “St. Isidore & St. Teresa Parish celebration at the Festival Center, with Mass at 5pm with free supper and family entertainment. CWL prepared the meal, entertainment lead by Crystal Plamondon and other community members. 300 + people were in attendance.</p> <p>Father Michael was later transferred to the Diocese of St. Paul to fill the role as Chancellor for the Diocese.</p>
 <p>Fr. Jestoni</p>	2019- Present	<p>2020 –Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the church was closed and no in-person masses took place from March 16, 2020 until July 12, 2020. Bishop Paul offered livestream masses every Sunday via the Diocesan website during this time.</p> <p>Father Jestoni was very active promoting our faith the youth and their activities.</p>