

## 1. Catholic Church

### Introduction

From the time when Jacques Cartier first visited the Atlantic coasts of North America in 1534 until the time when Christian missionaries went into the Yukon with the gold rush in 1897, missionary activity usually coincided with exploration, colonization, the fisheries and fur trade and immigration. Missionaries sometimes even preceded fur traders as new areas were explored. They had a twofold mission: first, to evangelize those in the fishing and fur trade as well as the native peoples with whom they had established contact, and second, to minister to the unchurched immigrants as well as to the relatively small group of French settlers.

While secular (diocesan) priests had laid the groundwork for the evangelization of the Canadian Northwest, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, beginning in 1845, provided the lion's share of personnel, and a certain stability and unity of approach for the missionary work taken on among the native people there. Parishes were established and churches were often built by the Oblates and then sometimes handed over to secular clergy or other religious communities.

The Oblates set up mission stations at Fond Du Lac on Lake Athabaska, Fort Vermilion and Fort Dunvegan on the Peace River, Fort Resolution on Great Slave Lake, and Fort Simpson on the Peace River. From there, missionary activity continued down the Mackenzie River, up the Peel River, down the Yukon River to the Arctic Sea, and over the range of the vast Canadian North. Satellite missions were also established in the region so that by 1898 the Vicariate of Athabaska-Mackenzie had 18 missions, staffed by 62 Oblates, and several schools run by the Sisters of Providence and the Grey Nuns.

At the same time the largely unpopulated area of what would become Alberta in 1905 turned into a very desirable destination for thousands of settlers. Great numbers of Central and European immigrants began to arrive in the early 1880s, and among them were hundreds and then thousands of newcomers of German origin. The number of Albertans of German descent increased from about 100 in the 1884/85 Census to about 7,800 in 1901 and almost 37,000 in 1911. The majority were agriculturalists; these "Germans from Russia" settled predominantly in the rural areas of the province. Then, by the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Alberta's north was gradually opened up for settlement, and so in the 1910s the first settlers of German origin began to homestead in the Peace River District.

After the end of World War II another wave of European immigrants arrived in Alberta, many from Germany and countries in Central and Eastern Europe with German-speaking minorities. But their background was different: for the most part they were not agricultural immigrants; they came to build their homes in the urban areas.

In both cases of inflows of European immigrants the Catholic Church responded to the need for German priests, at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by posting Oblates in Alberta and after the end of World War II by sending Pallottine priests (see Notes for definitions) to the province.

When Western Canada was opened to immigrants from Europe, the United States and other parts of Canada, ministering to the faithful in the huge province of Alberta represented a great challenge to the Catholic Church. Obviously the need was greatest where newcomers of German origin lived, which meant the areas around Edmonton and Calgary, in central Alberta and in the Peace River area. 27 Oblates received obediences for these regions, virtually all coming from Germany (two were Canadian-born and entered the service in the 1930s). About half were assigned to the Peace River area at one time or another, especially to Grouard, Fairview and Friedenstal, the others were sent to the Edmonton and St. Albert area and to Calgary

and Banff. Of course, their work did not stop at the city limits, and several Oblates dedicated their lives to working in rural communities.

A large German Catholic colony emerged at Spring Lake near Daysland in 1902. The first Germans settled in 1902; most of them came from Minnesota and the Dakotas, from Germany and eastern Austria as well as from the U.S. In 1906, about six hundred people from the wide radius around Spring Lake belonged to the parish founded in 1903 by Oblate Father Wilhelm Schulte.

The Rosenheim colony fourteen kilometers south of Provost, established between 1922 and 1926, has to be regarded as an extension of the large German Catholic St. Joseph's Colony in Saskatchewan. In 1911 ten Alberta townships directly bordering on St. Joseph's Colony recorded German majorities. Both diocesan and Oblate priests looked after the spiritual welfare of the residents.

The first Oblate arrived in Edmonton in 1895, two were posted in 1898 and another one in 1899; from 1901 on practically one priest per year was assigned to pastoral work in Alberta until 1913. After a long hiatus assignments resumed in the 1930s.

Roman Catholics dominated among Albertans of French origin as well as among immigrants from Poland. In terms of the size of their group, Catholics of German origin ranked third in Alberta in 1911: The census recorded about 440 Catholics of German descent in northern Alberta (extending from ca. Wetaskiwin in the south to the Peace River District in the north, with the number including children); at the same time, some 690 Baptists, 460 Lutherans and 430 Moravians lived in this area.

Most of the Catholics of German origin were born in Germany (N=100), about 140 in the U.S., 40 in Austria, 25 in Russia, 10 in Poland and about 50 in Ontario. The large number of Albertans born in the U.S. can be explained by the fact that numerous emigrants from Germany had chosen to settle in the United States first and had raised their families there; but when good land in the West was getting scarce and Canada seemed to offer better opportunities many decided to leave America and to move on to Canada; some had already lived in the U.S. in the second or even third generation.

A similar distribution of German Catholics by birthplace was observed in southern Alberta (City of Calgary, Calgary District, Medicine Hat and Macleod Districts): altogether 260 Albertans of German origin lived in this area; ca. 65 had been born in Germany and ca. 125 in the United States. Only approximately 10 German Catholics had been born in Russia.

It may be concluded that most of Alberta's Catholics of German descent around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century came from Germany as part of the immigrant wave after 1880; some arrived directly from Germany while many others had resided in the U.S. first before moving to Alberta with their families.

After the end of World War II, thousands of immigrants of German origin once more arrived in Alberta, and they settled mostly in Edmonton and Calgary. A Pallottine priest was sent to both cities to minister to the Catholics and to help establish Catholic churches and congregations there—St. Boniface in Calgary in 1954 and St. Boniface in Edmonton in 1956.

**Ash, Thomas**, diocesan priest, born on February 20, 1900 in Owen Sound, ON; attended St. Joseph's Seminary, Edmonton, AB; ordained to the priesthood in Edmonton on December 19, 1925; served at St. Norbert's, Rosenheim, AB (1926–1932) and St. Paul's, Toronto, ON (1932–1934); came to the Saskatoon Diocese in 1934 and served as pastor of St. Edward's, Meacham, SK until 1953; lived at and served as pastor of St. Lawrence Parish, Alma, WI until February 1968; subsequently in and out of hospital at Wabasha, MN dealing with cancer; died on August 1, 1968.

**Becker, Fidelis**, born in 1889 in Minnesota; served Rosenheim, AB (1943–1954).

**Bertsch, Albert**, SAC, born in Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany in 1920; ordained on July 9, 1950 in Germany; arrived in Canada in June 1956; served St. Boniface, Edmonton, AB (1956–1961); under his tenure the initiative was undertaken to build a church for German-speaking Catholic immigrants (1958); the building was originally a synagogue and in 1956 belonged to the Christian Reformed Church; with the help of countless members of the parish the structure was rebuilt, and the dedication took place on May 11, 1958; soon plans were made for more renovations. Deceased.

**Biehler, Antoine**, OMI, born on April 27, 1873 in Batzendorf, Lower Rhine, Germany; parents: Antoine Biehler and Marie Schneider; after his studies at St. Charles Juniorate at Valkenburg, Holland Antoine entered the novitiate of St. Gerlach, Houthem, Holland on August 14, 1893 and professed his temporary vows on August 15, 1894; took his perpetual vows on August 15, 1895 at the Liège Scholasticate and then went to the scholasticate at Hünfeld, Germany; was ordained to the priesthood at Fulda on July 25, 1899.

The young priest left for the Mackenzie missions in 1899; resided for a year in Edmonton, visiting the German communities of Leduc and Wetaskiwin, AB and then went to the mission at Fond du Lac, SK (1900–1911) and Friedenstal, AB (1911–1912); later, we find him at Denzil, SK (1912–1913) and several months at Ste-Thérèse Hospital in Montréal (1913). Father Biehler then returned to Europe and became part of the diocesan clergy of Strasbourg and worked as vicar at Gambshein (1919–1922); he then became administrator in Berg and Thal (1922–1928) and parish priest at Scherlenheim (1928–1931) and at Behlenheim, France; he died there on February 28, 1937 and was buried in Behlenheim.

**Bieler, Peter**, OMI, born on February 6, 1879 in Remagen, Germany; parents: Peter Bieler and Margareta Rick; studied at St. Charles Juniorate in Valkenburg, Holland; entered the St. Gerlach Novitiate in Houthem, Holland on August 14, 1900; professed his initial vows on August 15, 1901; continued his ecclesiastical studies at the scholasticate in Hünfeld, Germany where he took his perpetual vows on August 15, 1902; ordained to the priesthood on April 22, 1906.

Father Bieler arrived in Canada in 1907 and received his obedience for the Canadian West in the same year; became assistant priest to Fr. Schulte in the parish Spring Lake, AB on October 1, 1907; subsequently devoted himself to service at Spring Lake, AB (1907–1911); took care of missions from Hardisty, AB to Camrose, AB; Vanda, AB; St. Peter and Strome, AB; became parish priest at Denzil, SK (1911–1922); according to one source was founder of Friedenstal (Fairview), AB where he was the first resident priest (1913–1922); parish priest in Leipzig, SK (1922–1931) and Scott, Wilkie and Unity (1931–1938); moved to Wilkie, SK (1935); parish priest at Allan, SK (1938–1941); Prelate, SK (1941–1947) and Primate, SK (1947–1955); was chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital in Macklin, SK (1955–1966); retired to St. Ann's Home in Saskatoon, SK (1966–1970); died on December 28, 1970 in Saskatoon, SK; buried in the Oblate cemetery in Battleford, SK.

**Boeckenhoff, Josef**, SAC, Dr. phil., born on October 1, 1932 in Raesfeld, Niederrhein (Lower Rhine), Germany; entered holy orders on April 25, 1956; ordained on July 16, 1960; served St. Boniface, Calgary (1973); also served as a professor in Trvandrum, India; active in family home group Christian faith education.

**Brochand, Jean**, born in Germany; Catholic lay brother living in the Edmonton electoral sub-district (1881).

**Dephoff, Joseph August**, SAC, born in Borghorst, Germany on April 15, 1939; parents: Bernhard and Elisabeth Dephoff; received his elementary education in Borghorst and his high school education at the minor seminary of the Pallottine Fathers; in 1959 entered the novitiate and after his theological studies was ordained to the priesthood (1966); a year later was sent to Canada; worked as a pastor in the parishes of St. Columba, Swan River, MB; St. Cecilia's and St. Boniface, Calgary (2003–2009); St. Agnes, Waterloo, ON

and St. Mary's, Red Deer, AB; was Provincial Delegate of the Pallottine Fathers in Canada (1978–1987); was also a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Father Dephoff's pastoral work was inspired by the direction of Vatican II, and he emphasized in his ministry liturgy, preaching and bible study. According to the direction of St. Vincent Pallotti, he tried to involve the laity as much as possible in the pastoral work in the parish. Particularly in Manitoba he was involved in diocesan affairs as a member of the Liturgical Commission, the Senate of Priests and Mission Council. As well, he served as the Dean of Dauphin, Manitoba Deanery (1975–1983) and was a Board Member of the Society of Crippled Children and Adults in Manitoba. Rev. Joseph August Dephoff passed way on January 19, 2011 during heart surgery at the University Clinic of Giessen, Germany.

**Dittrich, Francis X.**, born in Alberta; served Bodo, AB (1959–1969).

**Ebert, William**, OMI, born on July 11, 1887 in Eisenach (Geisa), Germany; parents: Magnus Ebert and Ida Müller; studied at the St. Charles Juniorate in Holland; entered the novitiate at St. Gerlach (Houthem), Holland on August 14, 1906 where he professed his first vows; took his perpetual vows on August 15, 1908 at the Hünfeld Scholasticate, Germany; ordained to the priesthood on July 7, 1912 in Hünfeld; was sent to the Vicariate of Athabasca, AB (1913) and worked at Grouard (1913–1914) and Friedenstal, AB (1914–1933); became parish priest at North Star, AB (1933–1956); once again parish priest at Friedenstal (1956–1967); entered the Whitelaw, AB hospital at the beginning of 1967; died on August 7, 1967 in Whitelaw, AB; buried in the Battleford Oblate cemetery, SK.

**Forner, August Leopold**, OMI, born on December 14, 1875 in Glaesen, Upper Silesia, Germany; parents: Leopold Forner and Bertha Schmidt; studied at the St. Charles Juniorate in Valkenburg, Holland; entered the novitiate at St. Gerlach (Houthem), Holland on August 14, 1995 where he professed his first vows on August 15, 1896; continued his studies at the scholasticate at Liège, Belgium (1896–1897) and Hünfeld, Germany (1897–1901); took his perpetual vows on April 10, 1898; ordained to the priesthood on April 28, 1901.

Father Forner received his obedience for the Saskatchewan Vicariate (1901) and worked at Fish Creek (1901–1908), particularly with Polish and Ukrainian immigrants; subsequently served in the West section of St. Joseph's Colony (SK): Grosswerder, St. Henry's, St. Francis (1908–1909); Wainwright AB, Chauvin AB, Artland, SK (1908–1909); Rosenheim, Provost, Cadogan, South Rosenheim AB (1908–1914); built a church/rectory at Rosenheim (1909); Cadogan (1910); Scott, SK and Missions: Revenue, Unity, Rutland, Artland, Vera, Winter (1914–1921); Fish Creek, SK and Missions (1921–1926); Camp Morton, MB (1926–1933); was responsible for the Gimli missions Winnipeg Beach and Arnes; was pastor of Windhorst, SK (1933–1938) and the mission at Kipling; went to Lancer, SK (1939–1940); then moved to St. Anthony's Home in Moose Jaw where he was chaplain (1940), and to St. Vital Parish, Battleford, SK (1940–1941); spent the final years of his life as a chaplain at the convent Saint Angela in Prelate, SK (1942–1947); died on December 22, 1947 in Prelate, SK; buried in the OMI cemetery in Battleford, SK.

**Gelsdorf, William**, OMI/diocesan priest, born on January 10, 1884 in München-Gladbach, Germany; parents: Hubert Gelsdorf and Margarethe Schneider; studied at St. Charles Juniorate in Valkenburg, Holland (1898–1904); entered the novitiate in Houthem (St. Gerlach), Holland on August 14, 1904; made his first profession on August 15, 1905; took his perpetual vows in Hünfeld, Germany on August 15, 1907; ordained to the priesthood on July 10, 1910.

Father Gelsdorf arrived in Canada around 1910; was posted in the Canadian West in 1911 and was prepared to devote his life to working with the Polish and Ruthenian immigrants near Daysland, AB; he then worked in Lethbridge, AB (1913) and Holy Rosary Parish in Edmonton (1913–1916).

During the war, Father Gelsdorf left Canada and went to St. Paul, MN as a preacher (1916–1921), which was followed by stays in Durand, WI (1921), Fletcher, MN (1921–1926) and Onaka, SD (1926–1927); subse-

quently went to Belleville, IL (1927–1928); left the Oblates with permission on November 23, 1928 to become a diocesan priest in St. Paul, MN; devoted himself to the parishes of St. Elizabeth in Minneapolis, MN (1928–1943), New Ulm (1943–1945) and Lambertton (1945–1947); retired to Salt Lake City UT; died on May 14, 1951 and was buried there.

**Gemke, Wilhelm**, SAC, born on January 1, 1922 in St. Annen-Schiplage, Lower Saxony, Germany; parents: Heinrich Gemke and Wilhelmine Ortmeier; developed an intense interest in Latin in elementary school and thought earnestly about becoming a priest; attended the academic high school in Osnabrück; was drafted into military service in 1941 and was soon transferred to Africa where he was wounded shortly after his arrival; after a convalescence period in Germany was sent to Africa once more; was captured by the Americans in 1943 and spent his imprisonment in the U.S.; during this time became more closely acquainted with the Pallottines and decided to join the Society; after his release from capture in 1942 he requested successfully admission to the Pallottines' Bishop Vieter College in Limburg; entered the novitiate in Olpe in 1948 where he began his philosophical studies; took his first profession on September 24, 1950 in Rome; subsequently studied theology at the Pallottines' Theological University in Vallendar; was ordained to the priesthood on July 25, 1954.

Father Gemke was sent to Canada by his superiors, first to the Indian station in Swan River; in 1956 was called to the German congregation St. Boniface in Calgary where he worked until 1961, among other accomplishments building a church; performed a similar task in Hamilton, ON (1961–1967) and Edmonton, AB (1967–1979), where he also taught at St. Mary's Salesian School; in 1979 requested a transfer to Germany; knowing about the potential difficulties involved in such a transfer because of the differing pastoral conditions he took on the task of adjunct pastor in Westerburg; subsequently looked after the St. Theresa parish in Muellheim-Selbeck (1981–1995); after leaving his parish he became responsible for the Wilhelmsstift in Hamburg and the pastoral care of the members of the parish Mariä Himmelfahrt in Hamburg Rahlstedt; in 2002 Father Gemke moved to the Mission House in Limburg where he passed away on July 4, 2014.

**Gerharz, Theodor**, SAC, born in Halberscheid/Westerwald, Germany on September 18, 1919; took his vows on October 11, 1946; was ordained to the priesthood on July 9, 1950; was the first pastor of the St. Boniface (Calgary) congregation and served there from 1954 to 1956; once a month he held mass in Coaldale to give the German speakers there an opportunity to hear a sermon in German, to hear and sing German songs and to confess in the people's mother tongue.

Under Father Gerharz's leadership several special social and cultural groups were set up for entertainment, celebrations and picnics to allow the members of the congregation to get to know each other. Father Gerharz also served St. Agnes, Waterloo, ON; served as the Provincial Delegate for the Pallottines for many years in Alberta. Father Gerharz died in Limburg in the mother house at the age of 86 (2005).

**Gringel, Joachim**, SAC, born on October 17, 1935 in Riesenburg, Ermland, Germany (now Poland); entered holy orders on April 25, 1960; was ordained to the priesthood on July 19, 1964; served Calgary's St. Boniface congregation (1972).

**Heidmeier, Boniface (Bonifatius)**, O.F.M., born on December 6, 1880 in Prussia; finished his classical studies in the College at Clevedon, England with French Franciscan friars; entered the novitiate in the Monastery at Amiens, France, receiving the Franciscan habit on November 1, 1902; made his profession in 1903; soon after went to the International College of St. Anthony in Rome; the general of the Order wanted him to join the Franciscan Province of Thuringia where they needed a professor of languages; however, his own Provincial wanted him to remain in the Province of France because he was needed as an English-speaking priest in Canada; before leaving Rome he received the Minor Orders in the Lateran Basilica

Father Boniface arrived in Canada on October 15, 1905; on December 20, 1908 he was ordained to the priesthood in Quebec City; a few days later he was on his way to the “Golden West;” the great expansion of the population in the West required more missionaries and priests, especially Franciscans because the O.M.I.s were overstretched; Fort Saskatchewan near Edmonton in northern Alberta was planned to be the chief center of their activity, but for a variety of reasons Lamoureux just across the North Saskatchewan River turned out to be the central point; Father Boniface was especially useful because he spoke some Polish in addition to English, French and German; arrived at the so-called Packing Plant Mission, another name for the village of North Edmonton because of the number of meatpacking plants there; reached Fort Saskatchewan on April 16, 1909 to start the parish and begin construction of a monastery.

In May 1909 Father Boniface undertook his first mission to Ross Creek, ten miles to the south of Chipman and fifty miles east of Edmonton, which until then had been looked after by Rev. Rosenthal, O.M.I. until his transfer to Lethbridge; Ross Creek was a German settlement with some twenty Catholic farmer families and a few half-breeds in the district; this was the beginning of establishing contacts with Poles and Ukrainians and becoming aware of the efforts of Protestants and others to turn them away from Roman Catholicism; in the late 1910s and 1920s there was ugly nationalism that had been fomented during the Great War among the Poles, Ruthenians, English and Germans; Anarchists and Communists created unrest; it took years until Latin and Ruthenian Catholics mixed amiably. Father Boniface’s mission area extended to Thorhild, Pine Creek, North Edmonton, Morinville and Lac St. Anne; he was often asked to give a sermon in German in multilingual communities; was transferred to Vancouver as Superior of the monastery there to his great regret; arrived in Vancouver on January 30, 1927; died in 1960?

**Hens, Ludwig**, SAC, served St. Boniface, Calgary (2001).

**Hermes, Hubert**, OMI, born on April 12, 1879 in Gesternich, Germany; parents: Wilhelm Peter Hermes and Gertrude Falter; completed his classical studies at St. Charles Juniorate at Valkenburg, Holland (1889–1895), entered the novitiate at St. Gerlach (Houthem), Holland on August 14, 1896; professed his first vows on August 15, 1897 and his perpetual vows at Rieti in central Italy on August 15, 1898; ordained to the priesthood in Rome on November 1, 1905.

After one year in Roviano, Italy (1906–1907), Father Hermes received his obedience for the Canadian West and resided at Banff and Cochrane, AB (1907–1921); visited Schuler (1920), went to Lethbridge (1921–1923) and to St. Walburg, SK (1923–1946), except for the years 1930 to 1931 when he resided at Scott, SK and served Unity, SK and Wilkie, SK; died on October 2, 1946 in Regina, SK; buried in the Oblate cemetery at Battleford, SK.

**Herter, Anthony**, OMI, born on February 19, 1907 in Havingen in the diocese of Rottenburg (today Rottenburg-Stuttgart), Germany; parents: Andrew Herter and Maria Rommei; took a classical course of studies in Burlo, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany and St. Charles, Holland; studied philosophy (1930–1932) and theology (1932–1935) at the Hünfeld Scholasticate, Germany; entered the Hünfeld Novitiate in April 1928 and professed his first vows at Maria-Engelpport, Germany on April 25, 1929; took his perpetual vows on April 25, 1932 at Hünfeld; ordained to the priesthood on March, 25 1934 in Hünfeld.

On April 12, 1935 Father Herter was sent to Grouard, AB on his first obedience; his entire active life was dedicated to parochial service except for a period of four years (1944–1948) when he taught moral theology at St. Charles Scholasticate in Battleford, SK; he served Friedenstal, AB (1935–1941) and Fairview, AB (1941–1944); once again in Friedenstal (1948–1954); Dilke, SK (1954–1957); St. Walburg, SK (1957–1964); Holy Family Parish in Vancouver, BC (1964–1970); Kerrobert, SK (1970–1977); Primate and Grosswerder, SK (1977–1983); retired to Mazenod Residence in Saskatoon (1983–1991); died on July 1, 1991 in Saskatoon, SK and was buried in the Oblate cemetery in Battleford, SK.

**Hess, Edouard**, OMI, born in Zittersdorf, France on November 2, 1873; parents: Dominique Hess and Marie Karlinkind; studied at St. Charles Juniorate at Valkenburg, Holland; entered the novitiate of St.

Gerlach (Houthem), Holland on July 15, 1891; professed his first vows on July 16, 1892 and his perpetual vows at the scholasticate of Liège on July 16, 1893; ordained to the priesthood in Liège on July 11, 1897; he received his obedience for the Canadian West and worked at Smoky River Junction (Rivière Boucane, Peace River) (1898–1899) and Fort Dunvegan (1899–1903); was named director and founder of the Beaver Mission in Fort St. John (1903–1909); later he became Assistant Director of the Indian School in Lebret (1909–1910) and went to Grayson (Mariahilf), SK (1911–1915); subsequently Father Hess worked in the United States in Fletcher, MN (1915–1916); Rogers, MN (1916–1921); Arkansaw, WI (1922–1947) and Sisseton, SD (1947–1953); died in Sisseton, SD on April 12, 1953; buried in Belleville, Illinois.

**Ibold, Bernhard**, OMI/diocesan priest, born in Wendehausen–Eichfeld, Germany on December 13, 1881; parents: Wilhelm Ibold and Juliana Wehr; studied at St. Charles Juniorate at Valkenburg, Holland; entered the novitiate of St. Gerlach (Houthem), Holland on August 14, 1903; professed his first vows on August 15, 1904; continued with his studies at the Scholasticate in Liège and took his perpetual vows on December 15, 1905 at the scholasticate in Hünfeld, Germany; after having been sent to Texas in 1906 he returned to Europe because of illness (1907); was ordained to the priesthood in Liège on July 11, 1909.

In the following year Father Ibold came to Canada and took up residence in Warner, AB (1911–1912); Stand Off (Cardston), AB (1912) and Lethbridge, AB (1912–1913) from where he visited Allerston, AB (1912–1913); he also paid visits to Rosthern, SK several times; suffering from a mental disorder he left the congregation during a trip to Germany and moved to the diocese of Paderborn *ad experimentum* in 1913; returned to the diocese of Prince Albert, SK; subsequently worked in Corpus Christi, TX, then in the diocese of La Crosse, WI (1917); was admitted into a nursing home in North Battleford, SK; from there he was transferred to the Saint-Jean-de-Dieu asylum in Montreal (1933–1963); died at the mental hospital on November 22, 1963; although he had left the congregation a long time before he was buried in the Oblate cemetery in Richelieu, QC.

**Jacob, John**, born in Stainz, Styria, Austria in 1890; educated in Stainz and Graz and at the University of Graz; was ordained to the priesthood in Graz (1913); served in Graz (1913–1922) and South Africa (1922–1927); came to the Diocese of Calgary (1927); was appointed to Nemiscam, AB, an area with many German-speaking farmers; served in Schuler, AB (1930), Fishburn, AB (1935) and Cardston, AB (1942); died on September 3, 1942.

**Justen, Alois**, SAC, born on February 7, 1921 in Forst, Hunsrück, Germany; entered holy orders on October 11, 1946; was ordained to the priesthood on July 9, 1950; served Calgary's St. Boniface congregation (1977–1990).

**Kindervater, Clément**, OMI, born on October 15, 1913 in La Glace, AB; parents: Frank Kindervater and Pauline Gergen; the oldest in a family of six, Clément was born in a log cabin, which remained his home until 1943; at the age of five, he began school in their small community, then went to Peace River and Buffalo Lakes (1918–1925) to prepare himself for first communion in 1920–1921; in September 1926, Clément went to the St. Jean Juniorate in Edmonton for two years; he then left for the Oblate College in Winnipeg where he completed Grade Eleven (1925–1930); next Clément entered the St. Charles Novitiate in Battleford, SK to complete his philosophical (1931–1933) and theological studies (1933–1937); there he was ordained to the priesthood on December 20, 1936; he received his obedience for the Apostolic Vicariate of Grouard, AB (1934) where he studied Cree with Father Constant Falher, OMI and served the missions of Slave Lake, Faust, Kinuso and Hondo, all in Alberta (1937–1944); he was named pastor in Fairview, AB (1945) and also served the surrounding missions; later he was appointed secretary to the Episcopal Board for Education (1951–1953).

Father Kindervater was an active proponent of separate school rights. In 1958 he became the first Executive Director of the Alberta Catholic School Trustees Association (1958–1968) and research director for the

same organization (1968–1969); he received a B.A. from the University of Ottawa, a Certificate in Municipal Administration from the University of Alberta and a Master's Degree in Religious Studies from the University of Ottawa (1970); in 1972, Father Kindervater had to resign his position for health reasons and retired to Placid Place in Edmonton (1985–1994) and Grande Prairie, AB (1994–1997); died in Grande Prairie on June 20, 1997 and is buried in the cemetery of Grande Prairie. Father Kindervater was responsible for the construction of the churches in Slave Lake, Faust, Canyon Creek, Fairview, Smith and Hondo, all in Alberta

**Klein, Alphonse**, OMI, born on November 21, 1910 in Horbach, Germany; parents: Michel Klein and Emma Franz; studied at the juniorate in Burlo, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany; entered the novitiate at Maria Engelpport, Germany on April 24, 1930; professed his first vows on April 25, 1931 and his perpetual vows at the scholasticate in Hünfeld on April 25, 1934; was ordained to the priesthood in Hünfeld on April 5, 1936.

Having been sent to Canada in 1937, Father Klein went to Friedenstal, AB (1937–1939), Grouard (1939), North Star (1939–1941), Friedenstal (1941–1945) and Fairview (1945–1948), all in Alberta; subsequently he went to work in Saskatchewan: Blumenfeld (1948–1949), Liebenthal (1949–1955) and Mendham (1955–1962); was superior of the district of Prelate, SK (1958–1962) and the Revenue and Broadacres Missions (1962–1964), served Dilke, SK as pastor (1964–1967) and was pastor at Primate (1967–1968) and Liebenthal, SK (1968–1975); died in Liebenthal on December 30, 1975; buried in the Oblate cemetery in Battleford, SK.

**Kroell, Wilhelm**, SAC, served St. Boniface, Calgary (1962–1963).

**Lassenga, Joseph Eduard**, SAC, born on February 28, 1923 in Gerolsdorf, Upper Silesia (now Poland), Germany; took his vows on April 25, 1951; was ordained to the priesthood on June 17, 1955; came to Canada in 1956; served St. Boniface, Calgary (1961); St. Boniface, Edmonton (1961–1965); also served St. Agnes, Waterloo, ON; was active in church music and choirs; died on October 10, 1980 in Waterloo, ON.

**Maier, Lorenz**, born on May 19, 1927 near the Bavarian town of Landshut; became a welder and worked in this line in Germany until his emigration to Canada (1960); found a job in the same trade in various steel factories in Ontario for 20 years; after his arrival in Canada, for economic reasons, he moved to Alberta (1981), worked in Fort McMurray, AB in the oil sands and in Hinton, AB; in Hinton he built cabinets for a shelter which provided spiritual care for Natives, and it was there that he found his calling to become a Catholic priest; followed a course of theological studies at Newman Theological College in Edmonton (1987–1991); was made deacon (1990) and was ordained to the priesthood on October 17, 1991; was associate pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church (October 1991–July 2001) until he took over the ministry of Edmonton's St. Boniface Catholic Church from Father Georg Neumann (July 2001); Father Maier died on April 10, 2007 at the age of 79; succeeded by retired Pastor Seifert who had led the congregation some 25 years before.

**Malone, Ralph Francis**, born in 1900 in Prince Edward Island; served Rosenheim, AB (1932–1943).

**Mathis, Michel**, OMI, born in Colmen (Moselle), France on September 20, 1879; parents: Jean Mathis and Anne-Thérèse Jacob; Michel's two brothers, Pierre and Jean, preceded him as Oblates of Mary Immaculate; for a few months, Michel attended an agricultural school, but finally made the decision to follow his brothers; he entered the novitiate of Notre-Dame-de-Sion on August 23, 1893; because of his young age he did not make his first vows until August 15, 1895; his perpetual vows were also celebrated at Notre-Dame-de-Sion on August 15, 1901; after his profession, he remained at Notre-Dame-de-Sion until 1903; he then left for the Canadian West where he devoted himself to service in several missions: Fort Dunvegan until 1904; Spirit River until 1910; Fort Vermillion (1910–1913); and Wabasca (Desmarais) for one year; spent the time from 1914 until 1962 at Calais (Sturgeon Lake); was responsible for the construction of the churches at Spirit River and High Prairie and of the school at Grouard; in 1962 he retired to the hospital at Whitelaw, where he died in 1966; buried in the Oblate cemetery at Girouxville, AB.