

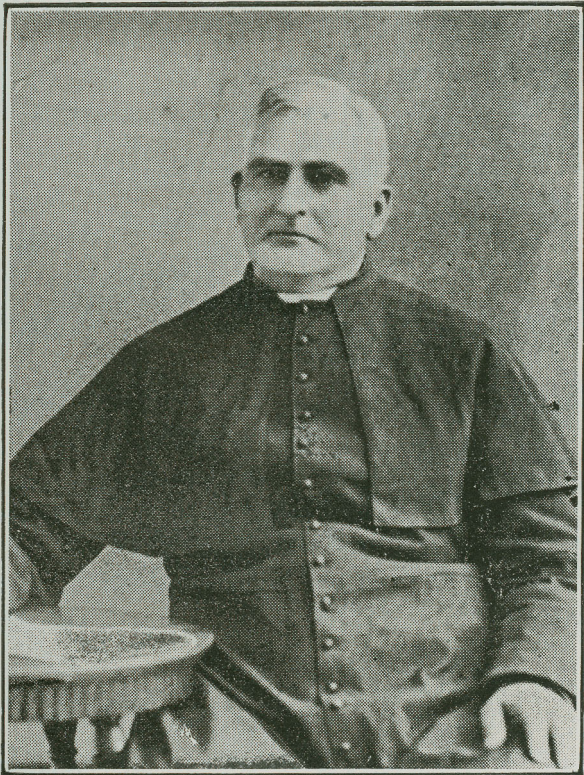
REVEREND RONALD B. McDONALD

On the twenty-fifth of November the soul of this kind and gentle priest passed peacefully from this world to life eternal in the next. The deceased was born at Bedeque on April 16, 1844. When St. Dunstan's College was first opened in 1855, the third student enrolled was Ronald B. McDonald. His immediate preparation for the priesthood was made in the Grand Seminary at Quebec, and on September 14, 1866, he was ordained in the Cathedral of Charlottetown by Bishop MacIntyre.

"Called by God a high priest according to the order of Melchisedech," he gave himself unsparingly to the spread of God's Kingdom. A priest of God, animated with the Charity of Christ, and inflamed with the zeal of his Master's House, he went forth to impart to men the Gospel of Truth and break to them the "Bread of Life." The first thirteen years of his priestly life were spent on his native Isle, and the zeal with which he performed the duties intrusted to his care signalled him out as a leader among men. Subsequently he joined the Jesuit Order, and for somewhat more than a decade he devoted his life to the preaching of missions. Nobly and well did he uphold the traditions of that noble band of preachers. The eloquent and inspiring words that fell from his lips carried conviction to the unbelieving, and softened the hardened and obdurate heart of the sinner. Through town and hamlet, along the Atlantic seaboard, and as far west as the Mississippi he journeyed, preaching the Gospel of peace and good will to men, consoling the afflicted, and breaking the "Bread of Life" to those "who labored and were heavy laden."

But the strenuous life of this vast mission field overtaxed his physical strength, and he was compelled to give over his charge and seek recuperation in his island home. On his return he was appointed parish priest of Rustico, and in 1902 was transferred to St. Mary's parish, Souris, where for seventeen years he labored for the upbuilding of God's Kingdom in the hearts of his people.

Father Ronald, as he was familiarly known, was the true pastor of his flock. By word and example he taught his people. Long and faithfully did he work in God's vineyard, winning souls to Christ. The Charity of Christ



THE LATE FATHER RONALD B. McDONALD

penetrated his every act. The poor found in him a warm friend. The sick and afflicted experienced consolation in the kind and soothing expressions of his sympathetic nature. To every project which had for its object the uplift of humanity, he brought an energy which overcame every obstacle, however great. But the ravages of time are no respecter of persons. Fifty-three years of active life in the Ministry were beginning to tell upon him. His quick and martial tread seemed to grow slow and heavy with advancing age. The once stalwart and manly form was broken by incessant labor. The shadows of night were already falling athwart his path. In these signs he read unmistakably that his pastoral life was drawing to a close; and in the autumn of 1919 he resigned his charge and retired to the City Hospital. There he spent the last three years of his life. Morning by morning, up till the day of his death, he offered up the Sacrifice of the Mass. His days were spent in prayer. And when the last roll call came, sudden as it was, it found him ready.

“How lovely are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts!

My soul longeth and fainteth for the courts of the Lord.

My heart and my flesh have rejoiced in the living God.

Thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house: they shall praise Thee for ever and ever.”

