



The Late Father Boudreault



In the death of Rev. Stanislas Boudreault, our province loses a most loyal and honest citizen; our diocese mourns one of its noblest missionaries; St. Dunstan's deploras the loss of a distinguished alumnus and a truly devoted friend. Born in the Magdalen Islands, Stanislas Boudreault was educated first at St. Dunstan's College, then at St. Therese College, and subsequently at the Montreal Seminary. In 1876, he was ordained in St. Dunstan's Cathedral by His Lordship, Bishop McIntyre. He became attached to the staff at St. Dunstan's where he remained two years. He was then stationed at Bloomfield, later at Havre-Aubert, Magdalen Islands, and finally was named pastor of St. James' parish, Egmont Bay. For over thirty-eight years he has been the true and zealous guide, the kind and sympathetic father of every soul in that peaceful community.

Father Boudreault was a priest after his Master's own tender heart. He was really an apostle; a man who had forsaken the world to devote himself unrelentingly to the service of God and the welfare of his neighbor; a man who possessed the sound doctrine and was ever desirous of communicating it; who was imbued with a childlike and unshakable faith which he craved and endeavoured to impart; who was endowed with a generous heart which he kept continually open. He understood that life does not consist in gratifying selfishness but in exercising devotedness and self-sacrifice. But he also realized that in order to acquire that habit of self-discipline, to master that difficult art, one needs Divine or Supernatural assistance; and so he was a man of prayer.

Animated by a deep love of God and an ardent desire to extend His Kingdom on earth, he never failed, in accordance with the wish of Holy Church, to preach the word of God "in season, out of season reproving, entreating, rebuking in all patience and charity." The walls of the venerable parish church will long re-echo the strong and thrilling, but pathetic and charitable words which, with his saintly and oftentimes smiling countenance, he uttered from the pulpit or altar, and whose penetrating and soothing accents carried conviction to the mind and emotion to the heart. In this he was ever mindful of the admonition of St. Paul "Opus fac evangelistae."

Assiduity and intentness to duty were among the characteristic marks of this true pastor of souls. Affectionately cherishing his people and loving them dearly in God and for God, he was always seen within the precincts of his parish, ever ready to administer the Bread of Life to those who sought it, mingling him-

self fondly with everybody and encouraging by his word, piety, and example all good movements launched for the spiritual, or material betterment of his flock. Truly can it be said that he was a good shepherd who gave his life for his sheep; death snatched him, so to speak, at his post of duty. Looking back on his long and fruitful career, he could well repeat "Impendar et superimpendar."

Father Boudreault was a thorough gentleman, if we must accept the definition that a gentleman is a man who inflicts no pain. His genial personality, his princely carriage, his meek, kind and peaceful character won him the affection of all who had once been acquainted with him. He was the favorite companion and cherished adviser of his fellow priests who looked up to him with respect and veneration. The rich and the poor, the learned and the ignorant, found equal and free admittance to his home where he always showed himself "grand seigneur" but modest and charitable, receiving everyone with a politeness and cheerfulness that made every heart feel at ease.

He died as he had lived, with a smile and tranquillity which are the outcome of a clear conscience and of a life of arduous duty well done. But he still lives in the tender memory of all those—and they are legions—who had the happiness of knowing him. May his soul rest in peace.