THE SPIRIT LIVES ON...

1992

ST. PATRICK SCHOOL NIAGARA FALLS, ONT.



Office of the Mapor

Dear Friends:

At a time when most of us are acutely aware of the importance of education, it is a joy to celebrate the Centennial of St. Patrick School. It is good to take time to recall 100 years of accomplishment and to remember all those who have made St. Pat's such a special place in our community.

Dedicated parents, teachers and administrators joined to create a unique experience for the children of St. Pat's. Their efforts are reflected in the lives of thousands of graduates. A special welcome is extended to the hundreds joining in this Centennial Reunion!

To list the St. Pat's grads who have become leaders and valued contributors to our community would be impossible. For 100 years, "kids from St. Pat's" have enriched the life of our City.

At the heart of St. Pat's is a family, community spirit that values caring as well as reading, writing and arithmetic. Faith, hope and charity are life's cornerstones. It is fitting we salute such efforts with this Centennial Reunion.

I extend warm regards and best wishes to all the St. Patrick's families on this joyful occasion.

Sincerely,

WAYNE THOMSON Mayor

St. Pat's School - 100 Years

It took four hundred years from the discovery of the new world by Columbus to the opening of the doors of St. Patrick School on Maple and Victoria in Niagara Falls in 1892. Both events are worthy of note and celebration this year.

St. Patrick's existed as a mission parish since 1868. In 1870, with the help of the Loretto Sisters, a two-room wooden school was begun. This building included a room at the back for the priest. In 1875, the Carmelites served St. Pat's from Mt. Carmel in Falls View.

In 1889, Fr. Dominic O'Malley became the first Carmelite resident pastor. He was deeply aware of the needs of a growing Catholic population, a majority Irish and Italian immigrants. One concern was the very tangible anti-Catholic feelings in the area. There was discrimination and Catholics were often made to feel inferior. To protect and enrich Catholic

faith and culture, he proposed a school. He was enthusiastically supported by parishioners. Three years later, a fine brick school with four rooms was completed at a cost of \$5,000. This school became the hub of a vibrant Catholic community. At this time, the Sisters of Loretto. who had taught in the two room school as early as 1870. returned to staff St. Patrick's. These sisters and remarkably dedicated lay teachers are a big reason we are celebrating tonight!

For almost sixty years, St. Pat's would be not just the first but the only Catholic separate school in Niagara Falls, so its influence was great. St. Pat's was founded by working people, many who never had the opportunity of an education. They valued the benefits of education and supported the school enthusiastically. Five generations later, the fruits of their efforts are obvious.



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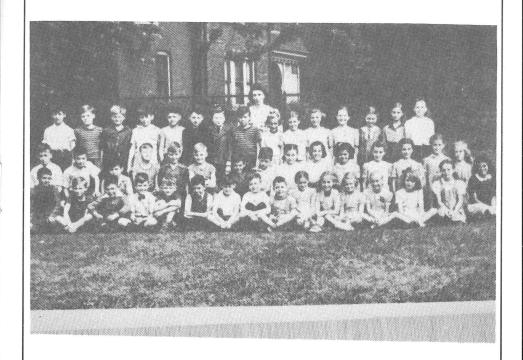
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CONGRATULATIONS!



St. Pat's has always been about more than success. In a letter to Margaret Berrigan, his seventh grade teacher, Cecil Crant, on his own seventieth birthday, summed up St. Pat's "experience".

"You tried very hard to cram a great deal of knowledge in our heads. There was geography, history, spelling, etc. But there were the real values of life! You taught us about self-worth. That was very important to this boy, in a poor family.

You taught us we were all equal before God. You taught us to have faith in God and faith in ourselves. You said, 'aim high. If knocked down, get up again.' You told us to be honest, fair, tolerant and considerate of others. Above all, you told us never to stop believing in ourselves and seeing our own goodness.

You have been a part of my whole life. I wanted you to know I love you for it."

Cecil Crant's salute to Margaret Berrigan has been, hopefully, echoed down through the years. The names change, but not the message. It's why most of us tonight feel good about celebrating this hundredth anniversary.







As a graduate of St. Patrick's School, I am delighted to offer my congratulations and best wishes on the celebration of the school's Centennial Anniversary.

St. Patrick's School was the forerunner in catholic education in Niagara Falls and continues to show leadership in that field. The school and parish is a very important and integral part of our community.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

Margaret Germano

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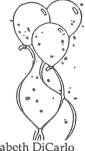
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Five generations of kids have been educated at St. Pat's. There must be five million stories. Margaret Mallett remembered that Fr. Fidelis Paulding had a "rear view mirror" placed over the tabernacle. He kept an eye on everything while offering Mass facing the altar. Gert Matthews recalled a feud between legendary James Clines, the parish custodian, and Sister Emerantia. Whenever her class sang "God Save the King", Jimmy, a fierce supporter of Irish independence, would raise as much racket as possible with lawn mower or snow shovel – directly under her classroom window.

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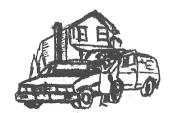


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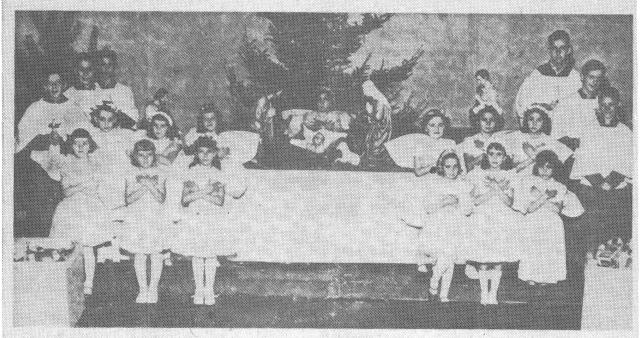


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NIAGARA FALLS EVENING REVIEW, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1956 St. Patrick's Pupils Hold Carol Concert



PUPILS OF ST. PATRICK'S school staged a card opposit yesterms to the half Shown here finning the manger stene are angels Miss Margaret Trein, Miss Christine Buckley, Miss Marilyn Vicentic, Miss Melaine Schroder, Miss Mary Berliger, Miss Pena Bounded, Miss Mary Pett, Miss Long Country, Miss Science

Roscintio, and Miss Actoristic Persons. The aller have are Danny Nacietti, Bill Polion, Ivo Combercito, Ricky Worse, Remo-Bracockita, James Rose, Mass Margaret Dears accompanied the coldred to the card singing. Shown on either aids of the stage are cartons of canned goods brought by the public to be distributed Sexun, Miss Frances Henry, Miss Cheryl Winterton, Miss Eleanor _____ia needy families. ____(Review Photo by Boh McWilliams)





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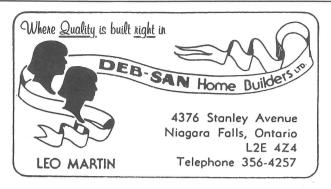
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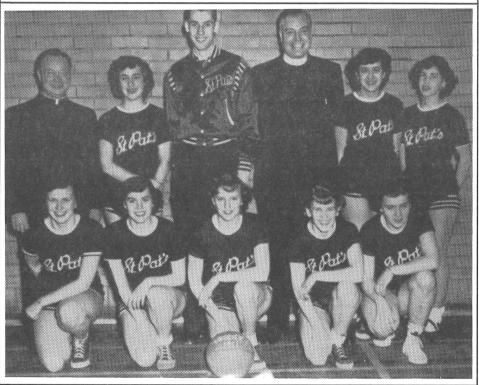
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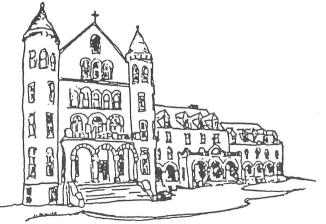
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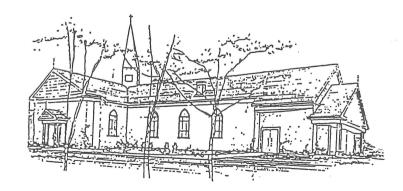
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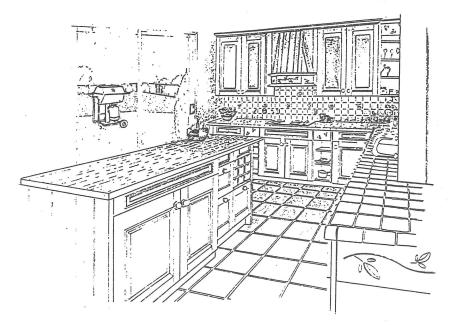
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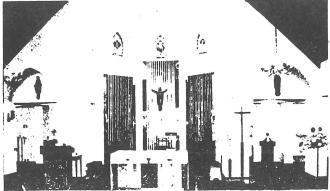
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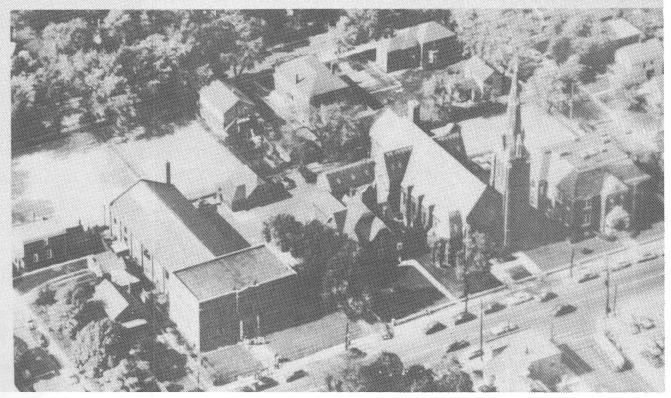
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Church – School Complex Prior to 1966

The constant growth of the Catholic population led to a remarkable expansion of the Catholic separate school system in the early postwar years. St. Patricks, the first and only Catholic school for almost sixty years, became one of the many. Between 1952 and 1965 fifteen new schools were built.

The present 16 room school was opened in 1966. This replaced the old 8 room school plus the 4 classrooms in St. Pat's hall together in the hall basement which was used for Kindergarten. It is also important to note that the playground was greatly enlarged at this time with the purchase of all the housing on Maple Street and First Avenue. The entire project was made possible by special grants from the Federal and Provincial governments.

A time capsule prepared by the teachers and students was buried in the new cornerstone of the building.

After the new St. Pats building was completed, there was not a school in the system more than fourteen years old; this remarkable growth showed the vitality of the Catholic community in the Niagara region and fulfilled the vision of Fr. Dominic O'Malley and his parishioners in 1892.



St. Pats, the teachers, parents, children form a microcosm of our century's history. Some boys in the very first classes would grow up to become soldiers in a world war. Boys and girls would have opportunities their parents were never able to consider. Good times were tempered by hard times... in the depression years. Peggy Brodie remembers kids leaving school to find work to help support their families. Fortunately many went on to succeed in business, medicine, law and education. There were civic leaders, religious leaders, both men and women and it is a grand cavalcade, a marvellous pilgrimage that begins with munchkins in tears being turned over to teachers on that dreaded first day in kindergarten or grade one.

In the gospel of St. John, Jesus tells his disciples: "I have come that you might have life, life in the full." St. Pat's exists to fulfill that promise. It is why the school was founded, why it exists today. Day by day, year by year, the message is the same. Life is a gift and it's greatest meaning can only be found in Jesus Christ. St. Pat's school has existed to inspire each new generation with this truth. Everyone of us is a story of God; the co-author of every life is the Holy Spirit. The most ordinary events of our lives include God.



CHRISTMAS
PORTRAITS

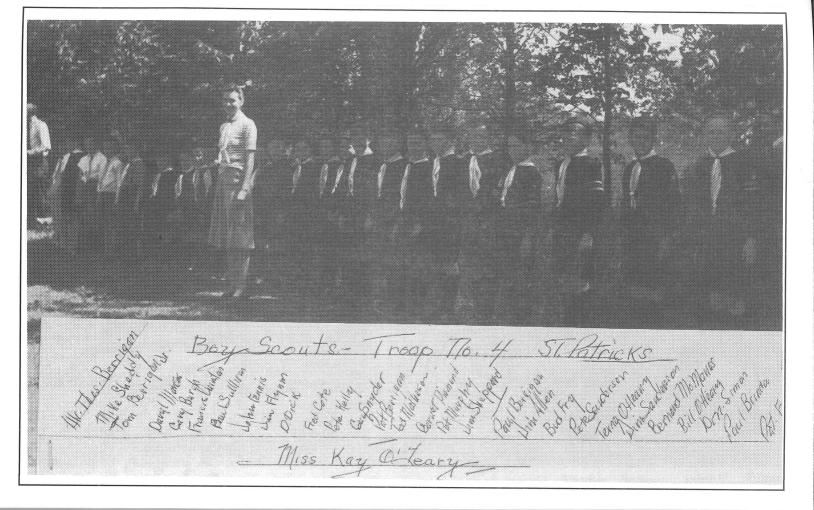
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