



Father Leo Ellis Reed-Lewis

Father Leo Ellis Reed-Lewis was born in November of 1921 to E.W. Reed-Lewis and M.E. Parsons, in Weston, Ontario. His early education was in Windsor, before he entered St. Peter's Seminary to study philosophy and theology. He was ordained on June 11, 1949 by Bishop John Thomas Kidd.



He immediately became assistant pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish, in Windsor, a post he held until 1958, where he became pastor of two churches: St. Joseph's Parish in Clinton, and St. Michael's Parish in Blyth. His time at Clinton was particularly active: under his leadership, Clinton gained its first Catholic school.

Sadly, his life was cut short when he died in a car crash on June 15, 1962, on his way to Blyth to celebrate Mass there. He had been in the priesthood only thirteen years at the time. After his death, the *St. Peter's Seminary Alumni Bulletin* noted that he was always ready to meet "the daily round of tasks which our Lord asked of him." This preparedness struck even the priest sent to temporarily replace him in Clinton. There, he found "everything in perfect order, even to the preparations for Mass in both churches on the coming Sunday," as well as a sermon, and Father Reed-Lewis' contribution to the offertory collection.

While his early passing was, undoubtedly, tragic, it is far better to look at what he brought to the parishes he served. He was noted particularly for his "ability and energy," and had the drive to accomplish a great many things. Though he was a quiet man, he often showed a keen interest in his parishioners, and a desire to help those in need. Such qualities are laudable, and he truly earned the respect of each and every community he served.

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