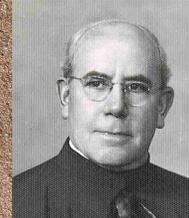
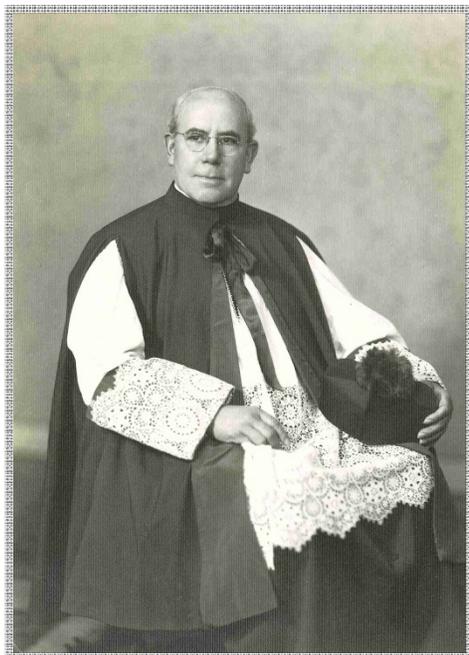


THESE
are our brothers



The Legacy of Monsignor Gilbert Pitre



Monsignor Gilbert Pitre was known for many things, chief of them being the first ‘native son’ of Tecumseh to become a priest, as well as his work in bringing St. Anne’s High School to fruition. However, Monsignor Pitre is also noteworthy for his twenty-five years of service as the pastor of St. Anne’s Parish in Tecumseh. The length of his service, and the devotion to his flock, are truly commendable.

He was born in June of 1883 to Pierre and Patronne Pitre, and was educated first at St. Anne’s School, then later on, Assumption College, and the Grand Seminary in Montreal. He was ordained on September 23, 1911, by Bishop Michael Fallon. His initial appointments, after ordination, were far from Tecumseh: 1911-1914 was spent at St. Mary’s in Woodstock; 1914-1933 was spent at Annunciation Parish, in Stoney Point. From there, he returned to Tecumseh, serving as pastor at St. Anne’s for the next twenty-five years, until his death in 1958.

A number of exciting events happened during this time, including the celebration of his Silver Jubilee in 1936. One of the most noteworthy things was the founding of St. Anne’s High School. There was a clear need for a Catholic high school in Tecumseh, as the school population grew. Since his arrival in 1933, then-Father Pitre had attempted to plan for a high school and a parish hall. However, finances were tight, and the school board was not in good condition; the arrival of World War II put his plans on hold, and instead he ensured that the church obligations were paid. He attempted, again, to plan a high school after the war, but there was a need for funds in the diocese, and the project was put on hold a second time. Finally, at his own expense, he founded St. Anne’s High School in 1946.

His services to the diocese, and the community, were rewarded with his elevation to the position of Monsignor in 1950. He continued to be an active supporter of Catholic education during this time, including founding St. Anthony’s School, St. Gilbert Parish

Hall, and finally, assisted with founding St. Pius X School. Much of this was done from his own pocket. He died in 1958, after a period of illness, but was remembered not only for his commitment to education, but also as “an able, devoted pastor...ever available and sympathetic to his flock.”

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