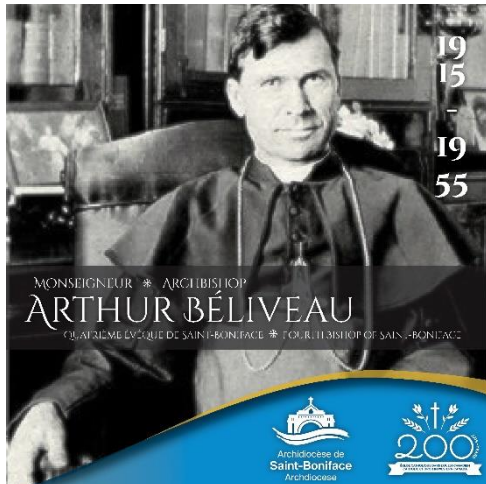


Discover the Bishops & Archbishops of Saint Boniface

Archbishop Béliveau, fourth bishop of St. Boniface



Arthur Béliveau was born at Mount Carmel, QC, in 1870. His family moved to Manitoba in 1882. He studied at the Collège Saint-Boniface, and at the Grand Séminaire de Montréal, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1893. He furthered his studies in Rome before returning to Manitoba in 1896, having completed his doctoral studies in theology.

Béliveau then occupied various roles within the Archdiocese of St. Boniface, including secretary to Archbishop Langevin, chancellor and financial administrator. As early as 1909, Archbishop Langevin, whose health was declining, asked that Béliveau be ordained as auxiliary Bishop. However, Béliveau was ordained only in 1913. Bishop Langevin died in 1915, and Béliveau became Archbishop of St. Boniface.

Béliveau was quite preoccupied because there was a great deal of pressure to divide his archdiocese in order to create an archdiocese for English speaking people in Winnipeg. The decision came from Rome. When the boundaries were drawn, the population of St. Boniface Archdiocese was dramatically reduced, as parishes were now divided between two archdioceses. In 1916, the government of Manitoba abolished the bilingual school system. Béliveau then initiated the establishment of the Association d'éducation des Canadiens-français du Manitoba (the Association for the Education of French Canadians in Manitoba), and worked hard to maintain French and catholic education in his parishes.

In 1922, a fire completely destroyed the Collège Saint-Boniface, so Bishop Béliveau then ceded the Minor Seminary, which became le Collège de Saint-Boniface (now known as l'Université Saint-Boniface). During the 1929 financial crisis, he supported economic diversification in rural parishes and encouraged agricultural farmers not to leave their

farms. Thanks to his skills in writing and public speaking, he wrote many articles for the local *La Liberté* newspaper, to promote life in rural areas. Béliveau also encouraged lay participation in the Church through his 'Action catholique' movement. In 1931, he suffered a ruptured aneurysm, and until his death in 1955, three coadjutor bishops served the Archdiocese: Émile Yelle, Georges Cabana and Maurice Baudoux.