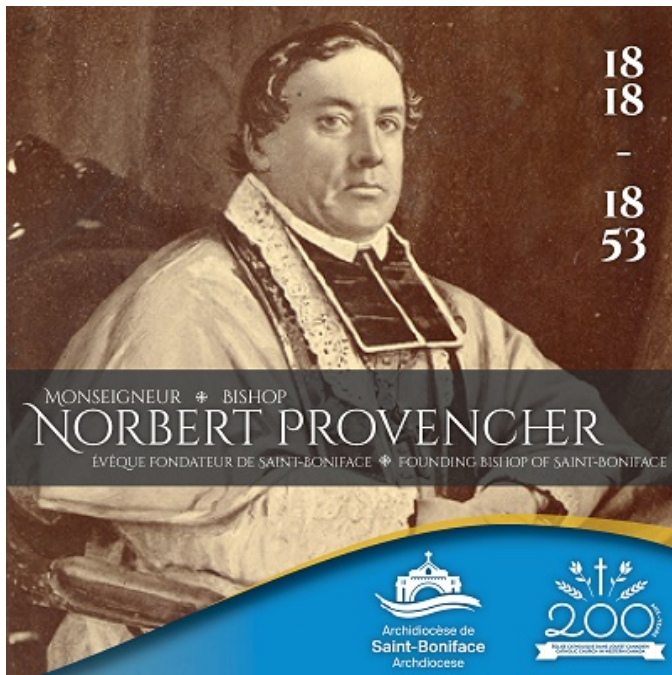# Discover the Bishops & Archbishops of Saint Boniface!

Bishop Provencher

Born on February 12, 1787, in Nicolet, QC, Bishop Provencher was ordained in 1811 and was sent to the Red River Settlement (Manitoba) in 1818 to establish the Catholic Church in the Canadian West. Described as a moral, humble, tenacious, and devout man, Bishop Provencher was consecrated titular bishop in 1822 and became the first bishop of the diocese of the Northwest, founded in 1847 in St. Boniface (Manitoba). He died there on June 7, 1853.

Bishop Provencher worked tirelessly as ecclesiastic administrator. He built churches and schools to serve the newly arriving Irish, Scottish, and French Canadian Catholic settlers. He sent priests out to the Métis hunters and traders to celebrate their marriages. Bishop Provencher even sent missionaries as far afield as Lake Athabasca and the Pacific Northwest to establish a Catholic presence.

During his time as bishop, he made numerous trips to Quebec, and two to the United States and Europe, to garner support for mission development. In total, Bishop Joseph-Norbert Provencher brought with him 13 priests from Quebec and, during the 1840s, he persuaded the Sisters of Charity of the Hôpital Général at Montreal (commonly known as the "Grey Nuns") to establish themselves in the Canadian West.