

## ***Dedication Ceremony of the New Oratory in Seymourville***

November 4, 2018

Hollow Water I.R., MB

Saint Joseph Oratory is in the new rectory that the Archdiocese of Saint-Boniface acquired from Henry Seymour. It was formerly Mr. Seymour's home, but he moved away from the community and gave his house to the Archdiocese. The rectory is about 5 minutes drive from the Sacred Heart Church, Hollow Water, MB.

The religious sisters, Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus (HHCJ) who work in the First Nations Missions of the diocese are now residing in the Oratory. The sisters rotate between eight parishes (Berens River, Bloodvein, Fort Alexander, Hollow Water, Little Grand Rapids, Manigotogan, Pauingassi, Poplar River) to offer sacramental preparation, participate in the life of the community, visit families (at home) whether they are Catholic or not, provide counselling and participate in the life of the community.



Seymourville is a municipality of Aboriginal Peoples which has a mayor and council. The people of Seymourville community often visit the Oratory for short visits to the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, etc. They find it to be a peaceful & quiet place to pray. The community and sisters are very grateful to the Archdiocese for providing this haven of prayer. It not only serves as accommodation for the sisters but as a spiritual getaway for the people.



On the day of dedication, November 4, 2018, Holy Mass was celebrated by His Grace Archbishop Albert LeGatt at 10 AM at Sacred Heart Church, Hollow Water. After Mass, people had the opportunity to fellowship while enjoying a potluck feast.

After the meal, Archbishop LeGatt, Fr. Mac-Anthony Obikili, SMMM, the parish priest, the Sisters and some parishioners drove to the new rectory for the Blessing of the house and Dedication of the Oratory. Beautiful statues of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Our Lady were donated by members of the Seymour family for the Oratory. During the dedication, Archbishop LeGatt blessed the statues.



## Testimonies from parishioners

### ***What does it mean to me to have a house of prayer with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament?***

- *"We love St. Joseph Oratory because we can be there with the Lord; to pray the Rosary and other prayers. We love having the Blessed Sacrament in our community. This is the dream of Wilfred Simard and a miracle that came about from Jesus. Thank you, Father Augustine, Father Mac-Anthony and the Sisters, for being there."* **Hank Simard**

-*"I remember growing up, my father Wilfred Seymour (Simard) would gather his children and grandchildren every Sunday after Mass for Catechism. It was there that I learned what is the Eucharist.*

*It was always my father's dream to have a chapel in our own community.*

*Today, by the grace of God, I have grown in faith to really believe and understand what the Eucharist really is and to have a house of prayer or oratory in which I can go and pray and worship and to adore Jesus, makes my life more complete.*

*On November 4, 2018, the Bishop was here to dedicate the house of prayer and to name the place Saint Joseph's Oratory as chosen on behalf of my father's patron Saint was a landmark for our community of Seymourville.*

*Thank you Lord so very much to the Diocese of St. Boniface, His Grace Bishop LeGatt, Father Augustine, Father MacAnthony and all those who made this very important day come true.* **Wesley Simard**

-*The concept of a church or a chapel or oratory for Seymourville was the dream of Wilfred Simard who was one of the first to permanently settle in the area, now known as Seymourville. In 1934, Wilfred and his brother Frank and their wives moved to the area and together they raised their families here and helped plan and build the community to where it is today.*

*Wilfred believed that part of the community's identity was symbolized by a church.*

*Therefore, it was his dream to one day build a church in Seymourville. As he and his family helped plan and build the community, the church was a project that was often set*

aside to a later date. Unfortunately, with Wilfred's untimely passing on September 25, 1981, his dream would not be fulfilled.

However, his dream did not die, his family has carried the dream forward. His youngest son, a self-taught carpenter as Wilfred, built a conceptual model of the church for Seymourville.

**Kirth Seymour (Henry Seymour's son)**

