

Burlington Free Press 22 August 1901

CONSECRATED TO-DAY

St. Joseph's Church to be scene of Impressive Ceremony

New Altar to be Dedicated and 43rd Anniversary of Rev. J. M. Cloarec's Ordination to be celebrated – Two Parades

The festival of St. Joseph's church in honor of the consecration of the church edifice and the new altar, together with the observance of the 43rd Anniversary of Rev. J. M. Cloarec's ordination to the priesthood and his investiture with the insignia of the office of Domestic Prelate, was opened last evening in the chapel of St. Joseph's church. At 8 o'clock the relics which are to be placed in the new altar were exposed in the chapel and left there for the veneration of the faithful, vigils being kept throughout the night. It was expected that the Guard Napoleon of Montreal would arrive last evening over the Central Vermont at 10:06 but a telegram was received saying that they could not come until this morning and they will arrive about 11 o'clock on the train with the Zouaves' Guard and Royal Foresters, also of Montreal.

The Champlain Guard under the command of Major J. Albert Gingras and the Champlain Drum Corps under Chief Trumpeter Joseph Herms, marched to the 10:06 train last evening to escort Rt. Rev. Maxime Decelles, Bishop of the diocese of St. Hyacinthe from the station to the Episcopal residence. Bishop Decelles was welcomed by Mgr. Cloarec and Father Coathuel. He is to be the celebrant of the solemn Pontifical mass at 10 o'clock this morning and during his stay in the city will be guest of Bishop Michaud at the Episcopal residence. Rt. Rev. Henry Gabriels, Bishop of the diocese of Ogdensburg, arrived in the city yesterday and is also a guest at the Episcopal residence. He will preach the sermon at the pontifical mass to be celebrated at 10 o'clock a.m.

THE DAY'S PROGRAMME

This morning at 5 o'clock the Champlain Guards will march from their hall on North street to the Episcopal residence to escort the Rt. Rev. John S. Michaud, Rt. Rev. Maxime Decelles and Rt. Rev. Henry Gabriels to St. Joseph's church, where the services of consecration will at once commence. These services will be concluded at about 9:30 o'clock and by this time a parade will have been formed on City Park. The marshal of the day is Napoleon Lemieux of the Champlain Guards. The parade will be headed by him. Next will come the police force of the city, followed by the Sherman band. Then in the order named will come the society of St. John the Baptist, Society of St. Joseph, St. Joseph's Court, C. O. F., Winooski Catholic society, delegations from all other French Catholic societies of the city, the Champlain Guards and invited guests, including the city officials and prominent men from this and neighboring cities.

THE PARADE

The parade will start up Main street, thence through Church street, up Pearl through Winooski avenue, up North street, down Elmwood avenue to Allen street and St. Joseph's church, reaching the latter about 10 o'clock. In the church special seats will be reserved for the different delegations. The Champlain Guards will constitute a guard of honor during the mass and at the elevation will present arms. The visiting guards will be entertained by the Champlain Guards with a dinner and a reception at St. John's Hall on Elmwood avenue.

In the early afternoon the Royal Foresters and the Zouaves and Napoleon Guards will form and march down Elmwood avenue, up Pearl and down Church street to Main street and through Winooski avenue to Athletic Park, where sporting contests will be held.

CONGRATULATIONS AND CONCERT

At 6:30 p.m. all of the French Catholic societies are to meet in front of the church at which time an address congratulating Msgr. Cloarec on his recent honor will be delivered by Joseph E. Painchaud. Mr Painchaud will be attended by three officers from both the Guard Napoleon and the Champlain Guard. Later a sacred concert will be given by St. Joseph's choir and a sermon will be preached by Rev. F. X. Chagnon of Champlain, NY. The festival will be closed with the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

THE ALTAR

Several weeks ago the Free Press noticed the erecting of a marble altar in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic church. Work had then progressed far enough to afford only a general idea of what it promised to be. The dedication of the altar, with its massiveness, its harmony of proportions and its beauty, warrants a fuller description than what was given at the time. The style is renaissance. Its dimensions are: Width, twenty feet; height, twenty five feet; depth, six feet seven inches. The material is white Vermont marble and two varieties of colored foreign marbles. A first view shows a massive table which constitutes the lower part or base of the structure. Above this, making the reredos, is a colonnade consisting of twelve columns four and one half feet in height. Surmounting this is a broad, heavy but well formed entablature having bold, clear cut mouldings and carvings. The top of the altar or reredos is brought forward far enough to form a canopy over the tabernacle. Upon this, and in line with the top of the altar, rests a brass dome heavily plated with gold and above this again, standing upon the dome, is a full size figure of St. Joseph. The light which reflects from all parts of this mass of polished marbles is both striking and agreeable.

A closer examination shows the lower part to be divided virtually into five sections – the table in the middle, on the right and left, receding from the front line of the table, extensions or wings, which become the base or platform for the colonnade.

Underneath the table and extensions and supporting them, are eight columns of rose onyx, four in the table and two on each extension. Between these columns are recesses or niches paneled with onyx, though of a different coloring, being of a delicate flowering green and in pleasing contrast with the columns. A figure of Christ lying in the sepulcher fills the main or middle niche directly under the table and figures of angels standing in the smaller ones to the right and left.

In the middle of the table, but a little above it, and about two feet from the front, is the tabernacle. This forms an elaborate and beautiful and striking feature. On each side of the door are columns of pink onyx – the caps of brass are in elaborate relief and gold-plated. Upon the face of the door, which is of brass, standing out boldly is a chalice. Both door and caps of columns are plated with gold.

Over the door and supported by the columns, cut in the marble, is an arch with deep projecting moulding and underneath this, in alto-relief is a carving of a pelican feeding her young. A shelf, supported by consoles provides a place for the ostensorium. On either side of the tabernacle are steps for candelabra. Back of and directly underneath the vaulted canopy is the throne. The twelve columns forming the colonnade are of African Paonazzo marble. Bases and caps of all of the columns are of brass artistically and elaborately wrought and plated with gold. Upon the four corners of the canopy, over the tabernacle and above the entablature and surrounding the base of the dome, are figures of adoring angels. The altar is

the work of the American Marble Co., Fair Haven, VT. The design is by E. Evarts Allen under whose supervision the altar was set on the church.



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