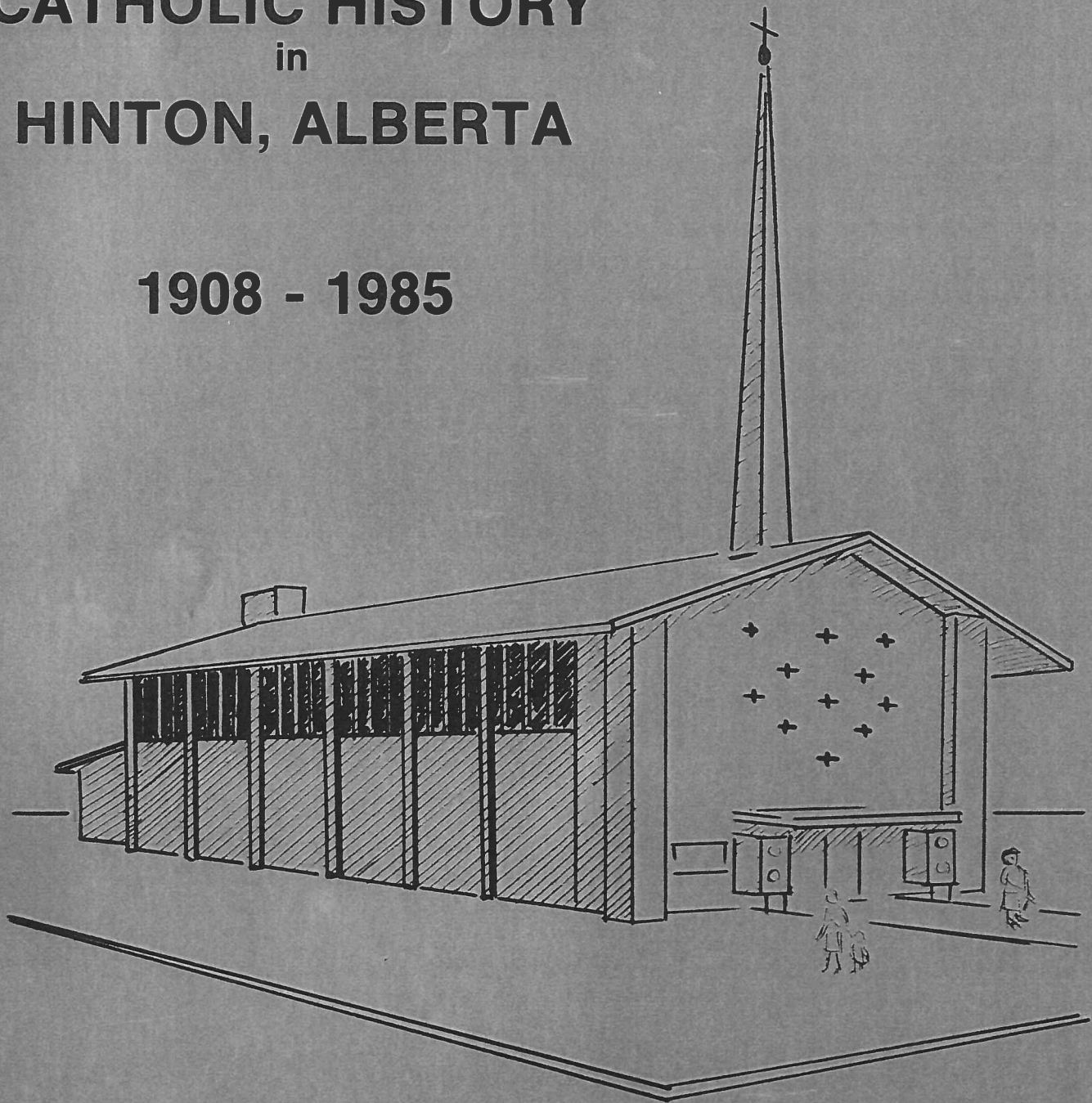


An Outline  
of  
**CATHOLIC HISTORY**  
in  
**HINTON, ALBERTA**

**1908 - 1985**



**Our Lady Of The Foothills Parish**

A HISTORY OF THE  

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HINTON CATHOLIC MISSION AND PARISH

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1908 - 1985

" OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL" MISSION  
JUNE 14, 1954 to AUGUST 24, 1956

" OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL" PARISH  
AUGUST 25, 1956 to JUNE 29, 1959

" OUR LADY OF THE FOOTHILLS" PARISH  
JUNE 30, 1959

HINTON, ALBERTA.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This is merely a chronological sequence of known facts and events in the history of the Catholic Mission and Parish of Hinton from the year 1908 to that of 1985. Much has yet to be investigated and reported, but what is herein contained has been compiled as faithfully as possible. This following acknowledgement goes out to those who sent information by mail, by telephone or during interviews.

The initial step was taken by Mrs. Simone Appleyard who has dedicated so many years to Catholic life in Hinton and to this parish in many capacities. In 1984 she started to remind those of us who had lived here for many years that an Anniversary was approaching; the 25th year after our church was dedicated in 1960.

The second step taken was to contact Sister Cecile Dupuis, Archivist in the Chancery Office, Edmonton. She was most helpful with pages of whatever could be found in the Archives, with names and phone numbers of those who could supplement information from their own files.

One of her references was Father E. O. Drouin, o.m.i., Archivist for the Oblates, residing in St. Albert. He immediately listed the Codex Historicus for Hinton which reposed in the Oblate Archives in Edmonton and covered the years 1908 - 1956. Through the efforts of Miss Margot Bilodeau, Assistant Chancellor to His Grace Archbishop Joseph MacNeil, contact was made with Miss Marjolaine Bell who had special access to these files. Miss Bell searched through the files, translated the French into English and mailed all pertinent information to Hinton.

Father Clement Gauthier, Parish Priest in Hinton, then invited Mr. Felix Plante, resident in this area since 1914, his niece, Mrs. Delphine Taylor and his daughter, Mrs. Lena Ouellet, to a taped interview in the rectory. This was followed by another interview with Mr. and Mrs. Edward Moberly in their home. The Moberly family history is very closely entwined with that of Jasper as well as Hinton, which was called Prairie Creek in those early years.

To all those above named, and to the future informants, this chronology is, and will be, grateful.

M. Clark, Compiler.

April 29, 1985

## HINTON CATHOLIC MISSION HISTORY

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1908 -- 1956

- 1908 - Railway Village of Bliss, 3 miles east of Hinton.
- New transcontinental road, Hinton established 2 miles west of Bliss.
  - Epidemic of dysentery.
- 1921 - Coal mine period.
- Father Thomas Patrick Wheeler o.m.i. from Jasper said mass in private homes.
  - Father Walter Camire, o.m.i. from Winterburn said mass for the Indians and Metis once a month. He also came to Albert Gral's home, postmaster in Drinnan, 2 miles south of Hinton. There was an agreement between Father Wheeler and Father Camire.
- 1923 - Felix Plante, son of Abraham Plante of Lac St. Anne, was married by Father Patrice Beaudry, o.m.i. missionary on the Grand Trunk Pacific. The wedding took place at the Moberly homestead on what is now an acreage belonging to Mr. Bert Hansen.
- 1926 - July 24, Confirmation was held at Entrance by Archbishop Henry Joseph O'Leary. See appendix # 1.
- 1932 - July 16, Confirmation was held at Entrance by Archbishop Henry Joseph O'Leary. See appendix # 2.
- 1933 - Father Terence Joseph Wall travelled from Jasper to say mass for the white parishioners of Hinton.
- 1934- April 18, first recorded baptism by Father Gamache, o.m.i.
- 1936 - August 3, Confirmation held in Entrance by Archbishop John Hugh MacDonald. See appendix # 3.

Mission History - cont.

1938 - August 4, Confirmation was held at Entrance by Archbishop MacDonald.  
See appendix #4.

1939 - Coal mine closed in Hinton. Father Camire continued to say mass for the Indians and Metis most of the time at Entrance until Father Gamache replaced Him.

1941 - August 4, Confirmation was held at Entrance by Archbishop MacDonald.  
See appendix #5.

1942 - Father Gamache bought the coal mine manager's house and had it moved close to the public road at Entrance where it was transformed into a chapel ( 15' x 30'). He commenced visiting Hinton to say mass.

1943 - August 29, copied from the Winterburn records: The first baptism from Hinton was that of Dianne Elna Taylor, daughter of Campbell Taylor and Delphine Plante, Baptized by Father Fortunat Gamache, o.m.i.

1944 - August 9, Confirmation was held at Entrance by Archbishop MacDonald  
See appendix # 6.

1947 - August 1, Confirmation was held at Hinton by Archbishop MacDonald.  
See appendix # 7.

1950 - July 29, Confirmation was held at Hinton by Archbishop MacDonald.  
See appendix # 8.

1953 - October Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Cribb arrived to teach school. Mrs. Louise Theobald, mother of Mrs. Cribb, commenced the organization of Catholics in the Hinton Area.

August 20 , Confirmation in Hinton by Archbishop MacDonald. See appendix #9  
Father Wallace Bernard Malone, C.Ss. R. from Edson and other Redemptorists were invited to say mass in Hinton, with Father Gamache o.m.i. The fee of \$15 was paid by the Hinton residents for each mass.

MISSION HISTORY - cont.

1953 - The small chapel for the Catholics stood at the back of the present day Big Horn Motel. The community of Hinton in that year consisted of 50 to 60 families of which 25 were Catholics.

1953 - Dec. 27, Benediction was held for the first time, with the co-operation of Father Volk of Jasper.

1954 - Jan. 13, from Mrs. Theobald to Archbishop MacDonald.

Imploring his help in getting a permanent priest for the Catholics of Hinton and district. She mentioned that Father Gamache had such a large area to cater to- Winterburn, Marlboro, Grande Cache, Pioneer, Obed, Hinton, and Entrance. He said mass in Hinton on the last Sunday of each month in the small chapel which was presumably erected by Mr. Seabolt, mine manager of the former coal company in the area.

1954 -Feb. 2, reply from Archbishop MacDonald.

"Plans are underway to give regular Sunday mass, beginning with the opening of Lenten season, March 7, 1954. It is impossible to have a resident priest due to the shortage of priests. Father Gamache will continue on a once a month basis."

1954 - Feb. 9, Mrs. Theobald informed the Archbishop that she had started the first Catechism class on Feb. 7th with 12 children. She begged for many things needed in the chapel. Father Volk of Jasper had been most helpful and assisted considerably. Benediction was held again on Jan. 31, 1954.

1954 - March 25, Mrs. Theobald informed the Archbishop that there is now sleeping accommodation for the priest at the back of the chapel and she has the keys.

1954 - June 14, Mrs. Theobald thanked the Archbishop for the organ given to "Our Lady of Mount Carmel" church.

"Very proud of the title Your Grace was pleased to confer in our church". She signed the Letter with the title of Hon. Secretary of the Catholic Association of Hinton.

MISSION HISTORY - cont.

- 1955 - During the summer of that year the Sisters of Service came from Edson to give Catechism and First Communion. A pulp mill was established with many workers arriving for the construction and permanent staffing. The Catholic Assn. asked the Archbishop for a bilingual resident priest.
- 1955 - Nov. 9, from Father W. B. Malone, C.Ss.R. "Have spoken to Mr. Findlay of the Public School Division for use of the new school for Sunday mass because the little chapel is now too small". Informs that Father Redmond has been transferred to Saskatoon and that Father Shalla, C.Ss.R., at Edson, is going on Sunday afternoons to Hinton, Haddock, Mackay, etc.
- 1955 - Dec. 31, from Mrs. Cribb, President of the Catholic Assn. to Archbishop MacDonald.  
"For the past 2 years a priest has come from Winterburn on the last Sunday of every month to serve Catholics in Hinton. With the advent of the pulp mill, the congregation has grown to over 50 and many more do not come to mass at all. The parents are anxious for a permanent priest. One of the schoolrooms is being used for mass because the chapel is too small. Our Assn. is paying \$15 to a priest each visit and is prepared to renovate the 2 rooms behind the chapel for the priest's lodging. We will continue to pay \$30 per month for the maintenance of a permanent priest. The parish must be organized now."

Father Gamache made a census of the area in 1955:

Marlboro	30	families speaking Cree & English
Grande Cache	25	" Metis speaking only Cree
Hinton	75	" French, English & Cree
Brule		
Pioneer		
Obed	3 - 10	families each, mostly Metis
Fish Lake		

PARISH HISTORY - cont.

- 1956 - Sept. 11, Father Lynch to Archbishop MacDonald requesting permission to purchase lots for a church, separate school and rectory. The Legion Hall was being used for 2 masses each Sunday. On July 4, an official notice had been received from the Dept. of Municipal Affairs to vacate "trailer by midnight, Wed. Aug. 8" The chapel in the old townsite had to be moved.
- 1956 - Sept. 11, from Hinton Properties Ltd. to Archbishop acknowledging the sale of Lot 18, Block 14, Plan 1980 K.S. Townsite of Hinton for \$300 (3.1 acres).
- 1956 - Sept. 12, from Father Lynch to Archbishop concerning the purchase of a Muttart Home.
- 1956 - Sept. 13, Purchase of a Muttart pre-fabricated house to be used as a rectory at a cost of \$4,000 and the lot for \$4,800. To-day, Mr. & Mrs. David Wiley of 227-McLeod Ave. live in the first Catholic Rectory of Hinton.
- 1956 - Oct. 14, The original chapel on the hill burned down, destroying vestments, linens, any records, some of Father Lynch's personal property and donations from the Archbishop such as the organ.
- 1956 - Nov. 7, Father Lynch requested permission to hold Sunday mass not only in the morning but also in the evening to accommodate the shift workers constructing the pulp mill.
- 1956 - Dec. 23. The new rectory was blessed and opened as a residence up-stairs and chapel down-stairs.
- 1957 - Jan. 1. The first mass was said in the rectory basement.
- 1957 - Feb. 25. The Catholic Women's League was organized with Father Lynch as Director and Mrs. James Clark as President. See appendix #12



PARISH HISTORY - cont.

- 1957 - Aug. 11. Telegram from Archbishop to Father Lynch authorizing him to proceed with the purchase of lots for a church in the new valley townsite. The parishioners organized fund raising activities involving both men and women, such as Bingo, Bazaars, Tea and Bake Sales, Fashion shows, Bridge Tournements.
- 1957 - The Athabasca Valley Hotel opened that year under the management of Mr. Dan Flegel who was a member of the parish. He arranged for the use of the unfinished basement as a mass site in the valley.
- 1958 - April 7, Easter. Father Lynch was replaced by Father Malone, C.Ss.R. The church report of that year stated that there were 200 families in the parish; 450 adults and 150 children. Masses were said in the valley at 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Mass on the hill was at 11:00 a.m. CWL membership was listed at 30.
- 1958 - April 17. Archbishop Jordan informed Father Malone that the church should be moved from Luscar to centre in Hinton where he would be resident parish priest.
- 1958 - Dec. 8, at the regular monthly meeting of the CWL, Father Malone announced that Father Campbell would arrive from eastern Canada to organize a fund-raising campaign to construct the church. Payroll deductions were arranged through the pulp mill office for Catholics on staff.
- 1959 - Feb. 4. Pledges towards the construction of the new church totalled \$60,000 over a 3 year period. The Archbishop authorized Father Malone to engage an architect and contractor.
- 1959 - May 15. Father Malone informed the Archbishop that the new church would be centered on 4 lots forming a square with streets on 3 sides. The bids were high so the first plan had to be scaled down. The architect engaged was Eugene Olekshy of Edmonton.

PARISH HISTORY - cont.

- 1959 - June 22. Father Malone asked the Archbishop for permission to sign a contract with Bird Construction for the sum of \$61,400.00.
- 1959 - June 28. The parishioners asked that the new church have "Our Lady of the Foothills" as patroness. The Archbishop approved on June 30.
- 1960 - Jan. 31. The new church was blessed that Sunday by Archbishop Jordan, o.m.i.
- 1960 - Feb. 6. The first marriage in the church was that of John Hickey and Marilyn Speer.
- 1961 - June 11. The Knights of Columbus received a Charter #5138. Charter Grand Knight was Mr. Dan Flegel. See appendix #13
- 1964 - June 13. The Ordination of Raymond Guimond, son of M. and Mme. Pierre Guimond of Hinton, took place in the new church with Archbishop Anthony Jordan officiating.
- 1964 - In August Father Gerard Redmond replaced Father W.B. Malone as parish priest.
- 1970 - Aug. 15. Father Claude Lemieux C.Ss.R. became parish priest for Hinton and Grande Cache.
- 1970 - Dec. 17. The Archbishop authorized the use of auxiliary ministers for the distribution of Holy Communion whenever necessary.
- 1972 - June 28. Father Lemieux reminded the Archbishop that the possibility of transferring the rectory from the hill to the valley had been discussed a year ago. The parish would like it to take place immediately. A local contractor had suggested that the hill rectory be sold and a new one built next to the church.

PARISH HISTORY - cont.

- 1980 - April 22. The Provincial Superior of the Holy Cross Sisters informed Archbishop MacNeil that the two Sisters working in Hinton would be leaving on June 30 1980 and there is no one to replace them after 5 years in the school.
- 1981 - Sept. 30. A Steering Committee was organized by Mr. Ed Ellingson to establish a Roman Catholic Separate School District. See appendix #14
- 1982 - June 19. Father Gerard Redmond, resident parish priest in Hinton celebrated his 50th Anniversary as a priest. Shortly afterward he left for a vacation but became too ill to resume his duties. Father Joseph Boyle filled in temporarily until Father James Murphy arrived as a permanent replacement in 1983.
- 1983 - Aug. 15. Father James Murphy replaced Father Joseph Boyle as parish priest.
- 1984 - Aug. 16. Father Clement Gauthier replaced Father Murphy as parish Priest.
- 1985 - April 19 - 21. The Diocesesan Convention for the CWL was held in Hinton for the first time. There were 166 ladies present for the sessions in the Moose Hall.



APPENDIX #1

LIST OF PRIESTS WHO SERVED HINTON FROM 1909 - 1985

MISSION PRIESTS

- Father Zepherin Lyze, o.m.i. - 1909, missionary on the Grand Trunk Pacific
- Father Patrice Beaudry, o.m.i. - 1912 - 1915, missionary on the Grand Trunk Pacific
- Father Edward Cunningham, o.m.i. - 1912 - 1915, missionary.
- Father Thomas Wheeler, - 1921 from Jasper to say mass in private homes.
- Father Walter Camire, o.m.i. - 1921 from Winterburn to say mass for the Indians and Metis once a month.
- Father Cornelius Landrigan - 1933 - 1943 from Edson.
- Father Terrence Wall - 1940 - 1948 from Jasper.
- Father Fortunat Gamache, o.m.i. - 1943 - 1948
- 1950 - 1956 stationed in Winterburn and travelling to Hinton.
- Father Edouard Rheume, o.m.i. - 1950 - 1956 missionary

PARISH PRIESTS

- Father James Lynch, o.m.i. - 1956 - 1958
- Father W. B. Malone, C.Ss.R. - 1958 - 1964
- Father G. Redmond, C.Ss.R. - 1964 - 1970
- Father Claude Lemieux, C.Ss.R. - 1970 - 1974
- Father Leonard Fitzgerald, C.Ss.R. - 1974 - 1975
- Father Kennedy Stephens, C.Ss.R. - 1975 - 1980
- Father G. Redmond - 1980 - 1983
- Father Joseph Boyle - 1982 - 1983
- Father James Murphy - 1983 - 1984
- Father Clement Gauthier - 1984 -