

# ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. John's Catholic Church was erected in the year 1845 and blessed February 8, 1846. It is, thus, the oldest of all Catholic churches on the North Pacific Coast, and perhaps the oldest of all denominational churches, when considered as a house of worship, to the present day, in its original completeness and almost unimpaired state of preservation. Judging from its dimensions and the material used in building it, one would naturally be astonished on being informed that it cost \$25,000 to finish it.

St. John's Church, of Oregon City, can justly be called the mother church of all Catholic churches of the North Pacific Coast. Its records, as kept by the late Most Rev. N. F. Blanchet, contain many interesting data as to the history of the parish. That venerable and zealous missionary of by-gone days has this to say:

Blanchet, on being promoted to the archiepiscopal dignity, took up his residence at Oregon City, whence he, as well as his successors in office, received, and still retain, the title, 'Roman Catholic Archbishop of Oregon City.'

"In 1859, Archbishop Blanchet removed to Portland, then as yet a small but already promising town. Before the appointment of the present pastor, Rev. A. Hillebrand, in 1888, no less than 25 priests have had charge of St. John's Church, of whom there are living yet: Right Rev. Bishop A. Glorieux, of Boise City, Idaho; Rev. P. Gibney, Portland, and Rev. James Rauw, of St. Paul, Or.

"In February, 1896, the golden jubilee of the dedication of St. John's was celebrated amidst a concourse of priests and people, irrespective of creed, the late Archbishop W. H. Gross preaching on this occasion a most eloquent jubilee sermon.

at Kamouraska, November 3 of the same year. His father was a native of Ireland and his mother, Angelique Fraser, of Scotch descent and born in Canada. Of seven children, he was the second. He died at Oregon City September 3, 1857, well fortified with the rites of the Catholic Church, and was buried within the sacred enclosures of St. John's churchyard. The humble monument erected over his grave calls him 'The Pioneer and Friend of Oregon,' and 'The Founder of Oregon City.' R. I. P."



ST. JOHN'S PAROCHIAL SCHOOL.

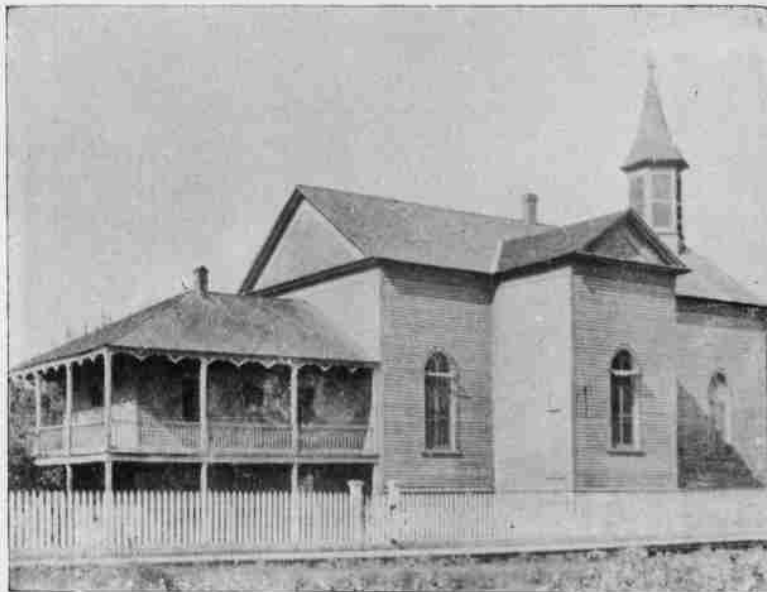
A residence and study for the pastor of St. John's Church is being built on the church grounds which when completed will be an elegantly appointed house and a valuable addition to the church property.

REV. A. HILLEBRAND.

Native of Germany, came to Oregon in September, 1885. He finished his course of studies in Europe, where he frequented the public schools until his 10th year, when he entered a classical course of nine years. In 1880 he graduated, and for five years pursued his university studies, first at Munster, Germany, where he studied philosophy, philology and the various branches of theology; and then at Louvain, Belgium, at the American College and Catholic University. He was ordained at Louvain June 28, 1885, by the late Bishop of Vancouver City,



Washington, A. Junger, and in August, 1885, he set sail for America, in company with Bishop Junger. After his arrival in Oregon, he was appointed missionary priest of Grant, Crook, Lake, Malheur and Harney Counties. On July 4, 1888, he was appointed by the late Archbishop Gross pastor of St. John's Church, this city, where he still performs that function.



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creased and requiring the presence of a Catholic priest, Rev. Modeste Demers—afterwards Bishop of Vancouver Island—went there to reside in the Fall of 1843. He rented a house from Mr. Pomroy at \$10.00 a month, where he held divine service on Sundays. He remained there until the Fall of 1844. Rev. Father DeSmet arrived from Europe by sea in the month of August, 1844, with five Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (Belgium), and seven Fathers of the Society of Jesus (S. Y.), one of whom, Father F. DeVos, took charge of Oregon City, whilst Father Modeste Demers took charge of St. Paul. During the absence of Vicar-General Blanchet, who left for Europe in December, 1844, the churches of Oregon City and St. Paul were built. The former was blessed and opened for public worship February 8, 1846, by Rev. F. DeVos, G. Y. On the 6th day of September, 1847, Rev. P. McCormick took charge of Oregon City, and remained there until 1850. The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, who had arrived in Oregon City in company with Father DeSmet, at first had taken up their residence in the presbytery—house at present occupied by the Ben. Sisters—using the same also as a schoolhouse, until the Spring of 1849, when they moved to a new building, situate on a block below the 'creek,' and donated by Dr. John McLoughlin. They, afterwards, in 1853, left for California. On December 22, 1848, N. F.

"The parish records show that from 1843 to 1901 about 285 marriages were solemnized and more than 1,100 baptisms of infants and adults, respectively, conferred. At present the number of the faithful belonging to St. John's Church is about 550.

"In 1886 St. John's Parochial School was erected by Rev. James Rauw, and the Ven. Benedictine Sisters placed in charge of it, who to the present day perform their laborious work with zeal, earnestness and success, equally admired by Catholics and non-Catholics. In 1893 the present pastor, on account of the increase of pupils, enlarged the school, and at present there are on the register 100 pupils enrolled.

"Of all lay members of St. John's Church, Dr. John McLoughlin has and always will be held in the highest esteem by his coreligionists, having been the noblest benefactor of St. John's Church, as testified by Rev. F. DeVos, S. G., its first pastor. This noble and self-sacrificing man calls forth the admiration of Catholics not only, but non-Catholics, as shown by Mrs. Eva Emery Dye, of Oregon City, in her beautiful chronicle, 'McLoughlin and Old Oregon.' The parish records show that Dr. John McLoughlin was born of Catholic parents in the parish of Riviere du Loup, Canada, October 17, 1784, and received private baptism on the day of his birth, the baptismal ceremonies being supplied by the parish priest