



Saint Joseph Parish February 19, 1949 – 2024

PARISH HISTORY - Part 2

1913: December 13 – Reverend A.A. Sylvester became Tilton’s third Pastor.

1919: September 21 –Reverend W.H. Sweeney became Tilton’s fourth Pastor.

1933: October 22—La Salette Fathers began assisting the Parish in Tilton. Records indicate that some of the Fathers serving were: Fathers Donald Fluet, Versailles, LaChapelle, Phil Gardner, E. Dubois, Berard, Brisbois, Sillery, Boisclair, LeClerc, and Leblanc. Assistance was also received from the Benedictine Fathers.

1937: The church was wired for electricity and lights.

1938: Reverend John J. McCarthy became the fifth Pastor in Tilton.

1939: Reverend Cornelius P. Buckley came to Tilton as the sixth Pastor.

Oral history indicated that the Mission of Saint Joseph was very active with its Pastors empowering them to sponsor and hold many activities, some of which took place at the Community Hall (Town Hall) since the church had no parish hall. They had Communion breakfasts, masquerade parties, Mardi Gras festivities, strawberry festivals, whist parties, bingos, and lawn parties. They also raised money to defray the costs of the travel for the priests coming from Tilton by putting on variety shows. Late Mrs. Yvonne Torrey, a parishioner, tells that she met her husband when both took part in a variety show.

September 9—The work of redecorating the interior of the Catholic Church is progressing rapidly. A new lighting system was installed last year. The work is under the direction of Rev. Cornelius Buckley of Tilton

October 9—The Laconia Evening Citizen reports on the financial success (\$1,200.) of the Saint Joseph Church two-day carnival. More than 1,000 people

attended. A 1939 Ford was awarded to Desire Roux of Main Street, Laconia. He did not have a car. The committee members were Joseph Boutin, John McDonough, Arthur Brulotte, and David Ricard, Jr. Friday's entertainment was furnished by Mrs. A. Sturgeon and Miss Landry, assisted at the piano by Alcid Corriveau, (Father Marc Drouin's uncle) Buster Corriveau, guitar, Bill Elliott, the singing cop from Hampton Beach, and Mary Lyman, violin. Saturday night former Mayor and Mrs. Edward J. Gallagher of Laconia presented Fr. Buckley, Pastor, with a generous check. Assisting in the drawing were Judge John Crawford, Charles Lyman, Henry Roberts, Capt. Carroll W. Stafford of Laconia. Grace Berthone drew the award for the car.

November 26 – Stations of the Cross are installed and blessed by Bishop Peterson: John Peterson – By the Grace of God and the Holy Apostolic See, Bishop of Manchester, Presiding Bishop of the See: To the Reverend Father Cornelius P. Buckley, Pastor of the Assumption Parish in Tilton, Greetings in the Lord, By virtue of the Faculties given us by the Superior General of the Order of Friars, the Faculties of Blessing and Erecting in the Church of Saint Joseph, Belmont, the Holy Stations of the Cross, and at the same time, we impart to those who pray before these Stations, the indulgences of the Holy Apostolic See is accustomed to grant. Given at Manchester under our signature and seal on the 20th Day of November, 1939, John Peterson, Bishop of Manchester. By virtue of the above letter, "I, Cornelius P. Buckley, Priest, have erected the Holy Stations of the Way of the Cross with the accompanying indulgences in the above mentioned church of Saint Joseph in Belmont, having observed all the provisions of Law. On my honor, I have executed this decree by my own hand this 26th day of November, 1939." Cornelius P. Buckley, Pastor

Richard Fogg, a parishioner, recalls at the age of 7, Father LeClerc, a La Salette Father, teaching him his Latin as part of his training as an Altar Boy. He remembers Father spending quite a bit of time explaining the Stations of the Cross.

To Be Continued...