

SECTION 1.6 Foundation and Growth of the Archdiocese

1. VICARIATE APOSTOLIC OF ATHABASCA-MACKENZIE

- 1862, April 13 Establishment of the Vicariate Apostolic of Mackenzie thus cutting off from Saint Boniface the two commercial Districts of Athabasca and Mackenzie.
- 1862, May 15 Father Henri-Joseph Faraud appointed Titular Bishop of Anemour and Vicar Apostolic of Mackenzie. Father Faraud was informed about it at Ile-à-la-Crosse on 12 February 1863 by means of Bishop Taché's letter dated 29 November 1862.
- 1863, Nov. 30 Bishop Faraud's consecration by Bishop Guibert at Tours, France.
- 1864, June 2 First visit of an Oblate, Father René Rémas to Lesser Slave Lake. He was from Lake Saint Anne. After this visit, the Lesser Slave Lake Trading post was confided to the protection of Saint Bernard.
- 1864, August 3 Date of Pope Pius IX's signing the Bulla appointing Father Isidore Clut Bishop of Arindèle and Bishop Faraud's auxiliary.
- 1866, January 3 Bishop Faraud proclaims Bishop Clut's appointment at Providence Mission.
- 1866, Dec. 29 Bishop Faraud establishes Saint Charles Mission at Fort Dunvegan and appoints Father Christophe Tissier missionary of the Beavers of the Peace River region (Fort Vermilion, Fort Dunvegan, Fort St. John, Fort Nelson) and of the Battle River Region.
- 1867, August 15 Bishop Clut's consecration at Athabasca by Bishop Faraud with no assistant bishops (only Fathers Tissier and Eynard).
- 1869, Nov. 19 The Hudson Bay Company surrenders her property rights on Rupert's Land. This surrender was accepted on 22 June 1870 by Her Majesty.
- 1870, July 15 Royal Proclamation admitting Rupert's Land and the North West Territorie as part of the Dominion.
- 1871, Sept. 22 The territory making up the dioceses of Saint Albert, New Westminster, the Vicariate apostolic of Athabasca-Mackenzie and of Saskatchewan are separated from Saint Boniface. Father Grandin is appointed Titular Bishop of Saint Albert. Since the Saint Bernard Mission is part of the commercial district of Saskatchewan, it belongs to the Saint Albert diocese (till 23 December 1891).
- 1872, spring Father René Rémas leaves from Lac La Biche to definitely establish Saint Bernard Mission.
- 1890, January Bishop Faraud's resignation and retirement in Saint Boniface. He passes away on 26 September.

- 1890, Oct. 18 Father Emile Grouard's appointment as Bishop of Ibora and Vicar Apostolic of Athabasca-Mackenzie.
- 1891, August 1 Bishop Grouard's consecration by Bishops Taché, Grandin and Shanley (of Fargo) in Saint Boniface.
- 1891, Dec. 23 New division between the Saint Albert Diocese and the Vicariate Apostolic of Athabasca-Mackenzie giving the latter Vicariate the Lesser Slave Lake region up to the 55th latitude.
- 1894, June 22 Passing away of Bishop Taché in Saint Boniface (71 years of age).
- 1895, January 8 Father Louis-Philippe-Adélarde Langevin's appointment as Archbishop of Saint Boniface. He was consecrated by Bishop Fabre on 19 March.

2. VICARIATE APOSTOLIC OF ATHABASCA

- 1901, July 30 The Vicariate of Athabasca-Mackenzie is divided into two Vicariates: Athabasca and Mackenzie. Father Gabriel Breynat is appointed Bishop of Adramyte "in partibus infidelium" and Vicar Apostolic of Mackenzie. Bishop Grouard becomes Vicar Apostolic of Athabasca.
- 1901-1902 Construction of the cathedral church at Saint Bernard's Mission.
- 1902, April 6 Bishop Breynat's consecration by Bishop Grouard in Saint Albert.
- 1902, October Bishop's Residence constructed at Saint Bernard's Mission, to be in use by September 1904.
- 1903, July 9 Passing away in Saint Bernard's Mission of Bishop Clut (71 years of age).
- 1905, Sept. 1 Two new civil provinces in Canada: Alberta, Saskatchewan.
- 1909, May 11 Father Celestin Jousard appointed Bishop of Arcadiopolis and coadjutor of Bishop Grouard. He was consecrated in Vancouver by Bishop Dentenwill on 5 September.
- 1909, Sept. 27 The hamlet of Fort Lesser Slave Lake changes its name and becomes the village of Grouard.

3. VICARIATE APOSTOLIC OF GROUARD

- 1927, March 15 Another division between the Vicariates of Athabasca and Mackenzie, giving the latter all the territory of the Athabasca district; thus requiring another name for the first Vicariate: that of **Grouard**.
- 1929, March 17 Resignation of Bishops Grouard and Jousard.
- 1929, Dec. 14 Father **Joseph Guy** appointed Bishop of Zerta and Vicar Apostolic of Grouard.
- 1930, February 28 Bishop Grouard is promoted by Pope Pius XI Titular Archbishop of Egeine.
- 1930, June 3 Bishop Guy's installation in Grouard.

- 1931, March 7 Passing away of Bishop Grouard in Grouard (91 years of age).
1932. Sept. 20 Death of Bishop Joussard in McLennan's hospital.
- 1937, June 2 Bishop Guy promoted to Gravelbourg's See.
- 1938, March 30 Father Ubald Langlois' appointment as Titular Bishop of Risano and Vicar Apostolic of Grouard.
- 1938, June 20 Bishop Langlois' episcopal consecration by His Eminence Cardinal Villeneuve in Quebec.
- 1938, July 14 Bishop Langlois' installation in Grouard.
- 1942, March Beginning of the construction of the Bishop's Residence in McLennan.
- 1943, February 2 Father Luc Beuglet blesses the Bishop's Residence in McLennan.
- 1944, October 11 Bishop Coudert discloses to Bishop Langlois the Holy See's Bulla permitting him to take possession as Vicar Apostolic of Prince-Rupert the British Columbia territory belonging till then to the Vicariate Apostolic of Grouard (Dawson Creek, Fort Saint John, etc.)
- 1945, April 20 Mr. Réal Simard, contractor of the future Cathedral arrives in McLennan.
- 1945, June 15 Father **Henri Routhier** appointed Titular Bishop of Naissus and Bishop Langlois' coadjutor.
- 1945, Sept. 8 Episcopal consecration in Saint Albert by Cardinal Villeneuve of Bishops Routhier and Jordan.
- 1946, May 12 Bishop Langlois blesses the first stone of the McLennan Cathedral.
- 1946, October 13 Bishop Langlois blessed the cathedral bell.
- 1946, Dec. 23 The parish church's furniture is moved to the Cathedral.
- 1946, Dec. 25 First pontifical Mass at McLennan's Cathedral by Bishop Langlois.
- 1947, October 1 The Cathedral is consecrated by Bishops Guy, Routhier and Jordan.
- 1948, April 15 Bishop Langlois delegates all his powers to Bishop Routhier, his coadjutor.
- 1953, Sept. 17 Passing away of Bishop Langlois in Montreal.

4. ARCHDIOCESE OF GROUARD-MCLENNAN

- 1967, July 22 A communiqué received from the Apostolic Delegation announces the erection of the Western Canadian Vicariates to the rank of dioceses forming two Ecclesiastical provinces.
- 1967, Sept. 24 Bishop Routhier is installed as Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan.
- 1972, Nov. 21 Bishop Henri Légaré named Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan.
- 1972, Nov. 23 Resignation of Bishop Routhier.
- 1973, March 19 Archbishop Légaré installed in McLennan.

- 1989, September Bishop Henri Routhier dies and is buried, at the age of 89.
- 1991, Sept. 20 Father Charles Lavoie, born and raised in McLennan, is ordained as a diocesan priest in McLennan.
- 1993, June 13 Archbishop Légaré's jubilee: 50 years as a priest, 25 years as a bishop, and 20 years as the archbishop of this diocese.
- 1996, July 15 Archbishop Légaré retires, and Archbishop Henri Goudreault, formerly the Bishop of Labrador/Schefferville, is installed as 3rd archbishop on 24 September. Archbishop Légaré moves to Ottawa on 30 September.
- 1998, May 21 Reg Bouchard is ordained as a permanent deacon.
- 1998, July 23 Archbishop Goudreault dies while at a function in Edmonton. His funeral is held on 28 July in McLennan, and he is buried in Girouxville. Father Arthé Guimond is named as administrator of the archdiocese on 9 August.
- 2000, August 15 Father Arthé Guimond is consecrated and installed as the 4th archbishop of Grouard-McLennan at the cathedral.
- 2005 Archbishop Guimond suffers a severe aneurysm that leaves him unable to continue in office. Father Charles Lavoie is named as the archdiocesan administrator, pending the appointment of a new archbishop.
- 2007, January 25 Father Gerard Pettipas, C.Ss.R. is ordained and installed as the 5th Archbishop, at a ceremony in Grande Prairie.

Prepared by Father Jean Marsan

Additions by Mgr. Charles Lavoie, PH (beginning August 2005)