

Indian Residential School,  
Spanish, Ontario.  
August 1943.

Annual Letters of St. Peter Claver School, August 1, 1942 to  
August 1, 1943.

The health of the pupils in general has been very good. An epidemic of the flu invaded the school but it was not grave, lasting in most cases for a period of two or three days.

The main precaution taken against diseases and epidemics has been in extra efforts to ensure the pupils a healthy diet as a preventative of sickness.

In the new infirmary section, a special room for isolation cases has been provided.

There were no deaths in our school among the pupils during the past year. Of the community, one--Reverend Charles Vandriessche,--was called to his reward on the eve of the Feast of St. Joseph, March 18th at 11.40 p.m. He was buried on March 22nd in the cemetery here at Spanish. He rests beside Father Papineau, the last one of ours to be buried here in 1931. His Excellency, Rt. Rev. R.H. Dignan, D.D., Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie, assisted at the Low Requiem Mass on the day of burial, and pronounced the absolution after the mass.

Father Richard and Father Dufresne continue on in good health.

In the school, the course of studies suggested by the Inspector has been followed. In the evening, an extra class, in the form of a story, told by the teacher of the Senior Class, Brother O'Keeffe, S.J., has proved very effective in the teaching of English. This year Brother O'Keeffe has taken as his stories Ivanhoe by Scott and The Exploits of Brigadier Gerard. It is not a reading class but a story-telling class that the teacher prepares very thoroughly. One would need to know the teacher and his command of English to appreciate this class.

A sincere effort <sup>wishes</sup> has been made to leave nothing undone in order to further the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Mines and Resources with respect to the raising of goats

The third floor was altered to provide a new and more spacious infirmary, consisting of a large ward with a capacity of ten beds, well-spaced, a dispensary, a sun-room that will serve for convalescent or slightly indisposed cases or for an isolation ward in case of any contagious cases--this room is also quite spacious--and a separate room for the infirmarian and his supplies. There still remains to make and equip a washroom

for this infirmary.

Annual Letters of St. Peter Claver School--August 1, 1942 to  
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(cont'd)

n The tailor shop has been moved from the first floor to the third floor so that it is now beside the Wardrobe and more conveniently placed for work and for supervision, besides leaving the first floor more tranquil and free from the coming and going of boys to the tailor-shop.

The previous infirmary, along with what was an annex to the main dormitory, has been converted into a senior dormitory for the bigger boys so as to have them separate from the middle-sized and small boys.

The main dormitory and the new senior dormitory have both been repainted and equipped with new daylight ceiling fixtures. All the beds were also enamel-painted.

The new tailor shop was re-painted and equipped with new daylight ceiling fixtures, as was also the new infirmary.

In addition, fourteen rooms were repainted or painted.

The washroom on the first floor was renovated.

Materials for a new washroom for the boys have been obtained.

An addition was built on to the chicken coop.

The floor of the old chicken coop has been renewed and the roof adjusted.

A new addition is being built to the barn to house the goats.

The parish chapel in the village was renovated and repainted both inside and out.

A thrice-blessed May Day was held the last Sunday in May with an outdoor Solemn High Mass at the Grotto by the lake celebrated by Very Reverend Father Provincial, assisted by Father Joseph Barker as Deacon and Father John Sullivan as Sub-deacon. A special sermon for the occasion was preached by Father F.C. Smith.

Indian Residential School,  
Spanish, Ontario,  
September 19, 1944.

Dear Father Provincial,

Enclosed is the first copy--just off the press!--of our Calendar. It is just being supplied to the House here for the purpose of having things settled in time. We would like to have the House Retreat during Holy Week if it is possible. It was found to be most suitable and convenient last Holy Week.

The main purpose of the calendar is so that the teachers may know what days are class days and what days holidays, etc.

Mr. McHugh is about the same. Mr. Maurice is doing very well indeed. It is too soon to know how Mr. Kelly is making out.

The Boys' Playroom has been all repainted and looks quite clean. The toilets have been closed off from it and they are being washed out at least twice daily and the atmosphere is quite improved as a result.

The Boys' Refectory and Scullery have also been repainted and look quite presentable.

In general, there is a decided improvement, I think, in cleanliness. Father Oliver is untiring in insisting on it. The smaller boys take their meals before the bigger ones and as a result we have been able to take out some of the tables from the Boys' Refectory and that has eliminated the crowding. In addition, Mrs. Pilon serves the children and there is much more orderliness in the taking of their meals by the children as a result.

The garden continues splendidly--Brother Manseau has over 3400 half-gallon jars put away already, beans, corn, tomatoes (they have ripened this year), etc. The potatoes also are

promising to be very good--not an extraordinary crop, but a good one just the same and better than last year.

Two of the ladies of the parish organized a social for last Friday and it was held in the Boys' Playroom. There were about 250 altogether at it--it consisted chiefly in a movie for the children and a supper for all. They cleared over \$ 70.00 for the Church funds. A couple of others held an Ice Cream Social last month for the church and cleared \$50.16.

We are putting in posts in place of the falling pillars under the chapel and it will make the new playroom there much better. We are also putting in steps for the side entrance to the chapel basement.

The Boys' Club on the third floor has also been renovated and looks quite presentable.

The kitchen still remains untouched and in need of renewal. The boys' toilets are cleaner but need reparations, or should it be repairs?

Recommending all to your holy Mementos, and with kindest wishes,

Servus in Xto,

*C. A. Brennan, S.J.*

P.S. Would you kindly name one of the new Fathers as Consultor in Father Hawkins' place, please.

Also, I have taken it for granted that Father McKey in replacing Father Oliver is considered one of the Community also, that is, one of the House Status, and so I have had him turn in his mass intention money as I had understood you desired in the past two years. I enter his masses along with the others of the house and forward it to Father Brennan.

Indian Residential School,  
Spanish, Ontario,  
July 17, 1945.

Dear Father Provincial,

P.C.

On June 22nd, I wrote to Mr. Bennett asking him if he could direct a teacher to us for next year (to replace Mr. Kelly). So far Mr. Bennett has not replied. I shall send another letter to him this evening to ask him if he has anyone yet.

I spoke to Father Prud'hamme, and his schedule at the beginning of July only left a few days free. I expect that he will be here for St. Ignatius' Day and I could speak to him then again and arrange something.

The new building on Aird Island--for the boys' sleeping quarters--is not yet completed but it is well on the way now and will be ready before long we hope. The flooring is finished and the walls are going up now. We will be satisfied to get the one building done this year.

Mr. Maurice has returned after spending two weeks at Lake Joseph. Brother O'Keeffe leaves tomorrow evening to make his retreat at Guelph. Brother or rather Mr. McHugh will go to Toronto for his. Asking your blessing on all, In Xto servus,

*E. A. Timm*

SOCIETY OF JESUS  
PROVINCE OF UPPER CANADA

PROVINCIAL'S RESIDENCE

~~160 WELLESLEY STREET~~  
TORONTO 5, CANADA

2 DALE AVENUE

Aug. 6 1945.

Reverend Fathers and Dear Brothers,  
P.C.

Father John Oliver has been named Vice-Superior  
to replace Father Primeau.

Recommending myself and the affairs of the  
Province to your prayers and Holy Sacrifices,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Thomas Mullally S.J.*  
Provincial.

Spanish Ontario  
August 7th 1945

Very Reverend Father Provincial  
2 Dale Avenue Toronto

Reverend Dear Father..

Received your letter and went with Father MacKey to Blind River where we had the transfer of the bank accounts arranged.

We also engaged a teacher for next year, a young man from Blind River who has just returned from Normal School, he is highly recommended by the Parish Priest there. His name is Rolland Blais..the salary sixty dollars a month with board.

There is no news of Fr. Primeau, I am sending his personal letters under separate enclosure.

I understand that the present arrangement is temporary and that a superior will be named, but even though this may continue for only a short time it is absolutely impossible to carry on the work without a

minister. With Mr Primeau's departure we are definitely short handed.

As regards the department, neither Father MacKey nor I know what the procedure is. They should be informed of the change.

Servus in Xto

Raymond Oliver S.J.



St. Peter Claver's School, Spanish.  
September 5th 1945

Reverend Dear Father Provincial-

Father Voisin arrived and is taking recreation with Mr. Maurice. He is also teaching a period in Bro. O'Keefe's class. It consists of about four hours a week. Last year we had one of the teachers, Mr. MacGrath nominally in charge of the sacristy but Bro. O'Keefe did most of the sacristain's work. He told me this year that he would find it very hard to do the teaching, the books and sacristy. I knew that Father Primeau wanted to lighten the burden for him last year. This arrangement suits him well since he is freed at 3.15 to do the work in the sacristy. Father Hannin takes over some of the recreation and I help with study periods and breakfast. We are very grateful for Father Voisin.

We hired a teacher. I would have written before of this but one can not be sure of teachers these days until they are at the job. He is a Rudolph Archambault from Blind River, his name is French but I do not think he speaks French. He has no teacher's certificate but has full middle school and part of Upper School finished. There are many such unqualified teaching. He has started classes and seems very interested.

All are well in, the house. Father Sullivan has been unusually quiet these last few days. He is generally that way when he is not feeling well.

Father Tim Dwyer asked if Father Jordan might go to his missions for the full five Sundays and weekends in September. He says that he wants to go to Michipicoten to build the church there. I told him I would ask you. As a rule Father Jordan looks after the convent, hears confessions of the boys here and looks after study hall. This latter we had to give him to take the weight off the recreation men. Our lay teacher wanted to be free from all extra class activities to study for further fifth form subjects. Beside that Father Jordan has been working in the parish, visiting and taking census. He likes that type of work very much. While he is away we could fill in for him. I understand from Father Dwyer that an arrangement was made with Father Primeau but I doubt if there is not some mistake as Fr Primeau would not have done it on his own. I shall be glad to know your decision Father.

Father Primeau had dropped the idea of having the church insulated, at least for this year. When you come I shall be more than happy to have a decision on the matter of heating. There had been discussion by letter with Laberge Company as regards coal for the winter. The agent was here and when he heard our story of the chapel he said they would send a man here who would give us an estimate on the pump system for

circulating the heat. This would heat not only the chapel but the floor above it which is very cold and where there are five rooms occupied. It would also make the basement below the chapel available for a junior recreation hall.

The cannery is complete and Bro. Laflamme did a splendid job on the plumbing there using old sinks that were in good condition. It will keep the kitchen clean and relieve the congestion there. We shall be able at the end of September to order some bowls for the boys recreation toilets which are in very bad shape.

Father Hannin is doing a fine job of keeping the house very clean. He is tireless and has very detailed organization.

Pardon the length of the letter Father but I thought these matters could be of interest. We shall be happy to have your visit in this bleak land of hardships,

Servus in Xto.

*Father O'Connell*

St. Peter Claver School, Spanish.  
October 6th 1945

Reverend Dear Father Provincial:

All goes well here. The community enjoys health and are thriving despite the regular hardships of the missions.

Mr Phelan wrote some time ago with the suggestion that we pay half the salary for a vocational teacher for the Boys' Department of the School here. It, of course, if feasible would be a benefit for the children to have a specialized teacher in carpentering etc. I consulted and offered him a solution. We need a maintenance man badly. If the vocational training took only two hours a day or three, then we might be able to get Gerard Labelle back for the job and have him do both for that salary. As to paying out another salary for a teacher I said that it was simply impossible.

Father Jordan went to replace Father Tim who was at Michipicoten for a few days. We expect Father Tim down this week for a rest. The last time he came he was fine, I had expected he would be very tired.

Father McKey, Father Jordan and I went to Little Current the afternoon of the opening of the St. Joseph's Hospital there. The Bishop agreed to the plan of having Dean Lake and Algoma visited on week days, Fr McKey will look after them.

Our potato crop was miserable this year. Instead of four hundred which we need, we got around one hundred and forty bags. We bought seventy five bags day before yesterday at one fifty a bag from a farmer in Walford. The boys went up under Bro Vandermoors direction and got them right from the field. It was very fortunate for us as they are selling at two twenty five to the wholesalers. We hope to get the rest in small potatoes culled by the farmers from their crop before selling. They would serve the purpose here. If we waited till the winter to buy, the prices would be very high.

Father Hannin is a very good manager and gets along

splendidly with the whole community. Brother Laflamme has done a great deal of work in repairs under Father Hannin's direction.

Father Jordan is very enthusiastic about the work in the parish. He has not finished the census yet.

We finally received a promise of a shipment of coal. The Laberge Company in Sudbury could not promise us any for some time. As to the pump, they are the only people in Sudbury who do such work and they have let it go so long now in spite of several letters that we shall have to get along this winter without it. We have had a good deal of frost some nights and it would be risky to empty the system for that work this late in the fall.

We have had no word of Father Primeau at all so he cannot be in this part of the country. I am sure the Bishop could not have been aware of anything since he did not refer to Father Primeau at all.

Asking your blessing on us all

Obediently in Our Lord

*Father Oves 9*

Dear Father Oliver,  
P.C.

Thank you for your letter from which I was glad to learn that all's well at Spanish. You were quite right in turning down Mr. Phelan's suggestion and offering a more favorable one for us. The Department wants a lot for their money.

I informed Father Howitt that he would be expected to attend the consultation and conference and casus each month. I hope that Father Tim will also be present for the conference and casus.

You are confirmed in your office, and we are placing you in the catalogue as Superior, instead of Vice-Superior. I hope that the burden of office will become lighter as you become accustomed to the details of the department. To fulfil the prescriptions of the Epit. 757, you can make your profession of faith and take the oath against Modernism before Father Richard or Father Hannin. The formula you will find in the "Practica Quaedam ad Formulam Scribendi" page 74. It would be well to read from time to time the "Elenchus eorum quae A Superioribus Localibus praestanda sunt", a copy of which should be in the bookcase in your office.

Father Primeau is teaching in a public school in a village up North. He has not as yet been able to see the error of his ways. Continue to offer your prayers and remember him in your Holy Sacrifices.

With kindest regards and every best wish,  
Sincerely yours in Christ, *J. J. Mullaney S.J.*