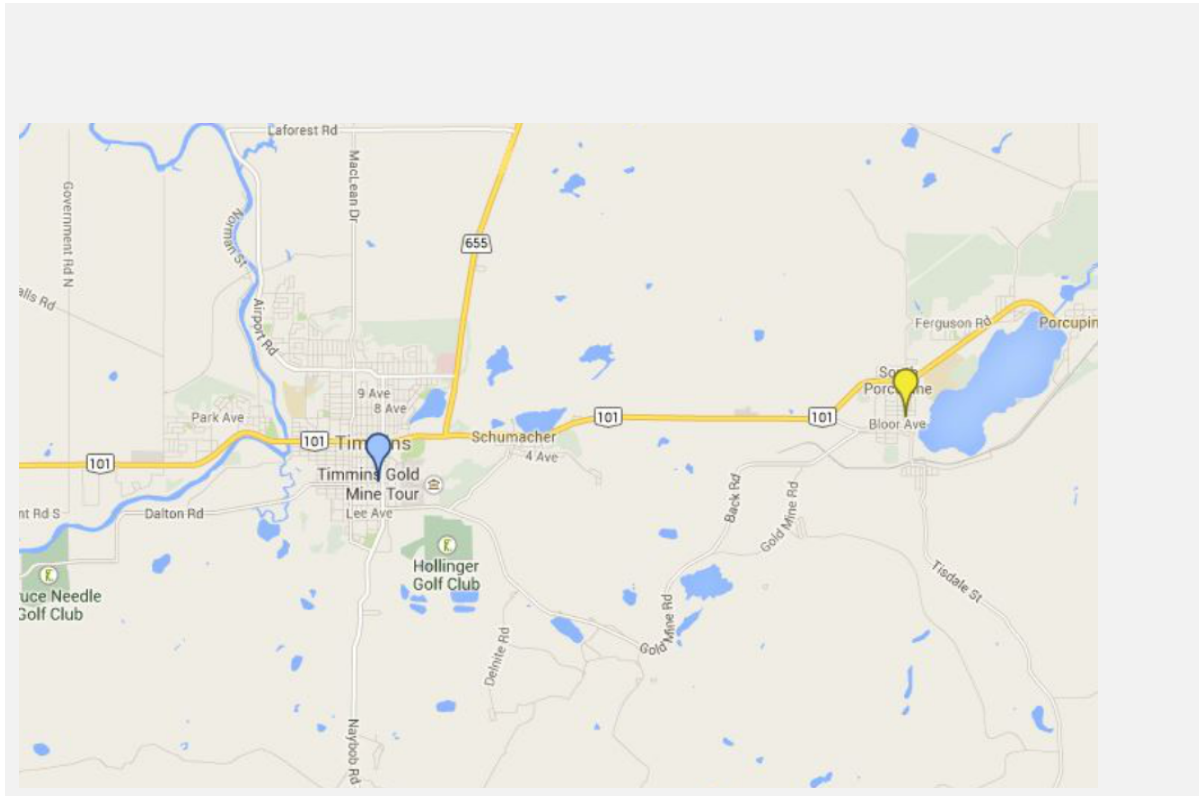


CHAPTER NINE: SACRED HEART CHURCH in S. TIMMINS, ON, CANADA



Sacred Heart Church 296 Cedar Street
South Timmins, ON
Canada



St. Joachim's Church 86 Crawford
South Porcupine, ON
Canada

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Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in South Timmins, ON, Canada



Foundation:
1937

Founder:
Rev. Louis Fontana, CPS

“From these humble beginnings, there was created a parish which has gone from strenght to strenght.”

Historical Marks

1936 - Masses celebrated in basement of Nativity Church

1937 - New Church dedicated

1952 - New Rectory completed

1954 - St. Michael's School assigned to Sacred Heart

1962 - Raised to status of territorial Church

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I. Historical Background [1938 - 1962]



Rev. Louis Fontana, CPS

During the jurisdiction of the late Bishop Rheaume, and at his request, the Stigmatine Congregation, in virtue of a Provincial mandate from Springfield, Massachusetts, sent Fr. Louis Fontana, an Italian born from Trento, to assume the responsible spiritual care and trust of the Italians residing in Timmins.

Fr. Fontana arrived in Timmins on December 10th, 1936, taking up temporary residence at the Empire Hotel for two weeks. While there, his first acquaintances were formed, and plans laid for a drive with direct bearing to initiate the new Italian Parish.

Having select a site where the new Church should rise, a comparable stipulated sum for the purchase was envisioned.

The campaign opened on a momentous note at the Goldfields Hotel, with a goodly number in attendance. The executive command G. Giustina pledges of those present and donations at the end of the campaign, totalled \$7,000, but \$2,000 short of the purchase price.

With February almost over, and the first of May calling for the start of work on the new Church, a series of entertainments and concerts added to the building fund, and of the precise day of May 1st, actual excavation began.

However, in addition to the original plan, there was a decision of erecting the outer walls and roof, what required more funds. So, His Excellency granted a loan of \$13,000, and, because of it, on October 10, 1937 the solemn opening of the new Church for public worship was realized.

To the credit of parishioners, we were endowed with one of the more devotional and beautiful edifices of worship of the Northland. To add to its embellishment, a modest and attractive Rectory was completed in October 1951.

As a courtesy of the Pastor of the Nativity Parish, a small tar-papered dwelling was purchased. This was both home and office for Fr. Fontana, this humble pioneer, who faced hardships, physical toil and sacrifices.

From his time and the intervening years, this illustrious parish was served by generous priests and worth Pastors, in the persons of; Fr. Paul Zanini, who spelled out

loyalty to parish life and Catholic Education; Fr. Joseph Amodio, who carried on with staunch pastoral care, the ideals of his office; Fr. Leonard Della Badia, who gave of his talents and diffusive energy to further secondary Catholic Education in the O’Gorman venture, with the late Monsignor Martingdale; and although the stay of Fr. Adolph Ferrari was short, he was no less dedicated and most cooperative in his priestly obligations.



Rev. Paul Zanini, CPS



Rev. Joseph Amodio, CPS



Rev. Leonard Della Badia, CPS



Rev. Adolph Ferrari, CPS

As of May, 1958 the Parish had about 600 families, and will no doubt continue to grow. There our Italian culture and traditions were preserved, and more important still, the spirit welfare of the Italian community ministered by members of the same order, as our founder and first Pastor, Fr. Fontana.

In 1958, the parish committed to a Combined Fund Canvass, which booklet is presented here in Appendix 9.1.

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II. Silver Jubilee [1962]

The Silver Jubilee Booklet is presented here in Appendix 9.2.

III. Golden Jubilee [1987]

The Parish celebrated its 50th anniversary on 1987.

IV. The Stigmatines leave South Timmins [1989]

In 1989, when Fr. Della Badia retired, the Stigmatines also left the Parish, as the congregation was unable to replace him.

So, the Diocese of Timmins took responsibility for staffing at that time.

Fr. Dan Sedlar became the first Diocesan priest and brought the Parish into the computer age.

V. Towards the Future

In September of 2006, Sacred Heart Parish, under the leadership of Father Mieczyslaw Sliwa, a.k.a. Fr. Mitch, and the Financial Council, undertook the major facelift of the interior of the Church.

The Church was painted, new rugs were installed, new flooring was put down in the altar area, additional lighting was installed, as well as new exterior wood doors. Renovations costs were in excess of \$100,000.

In 2007, the parish received permission from Bishop Marchand to begin fundraising to raise money for the installation of an elevator (chair lift) to be used by the physically challenged parishioners. The elevator was installed and inspected in January, 2009.

VI. Nowadays [2024]

Sacred Heart of Jesus' stands as a beautiful and fruitful parish.



Source: Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish's page on Facebook

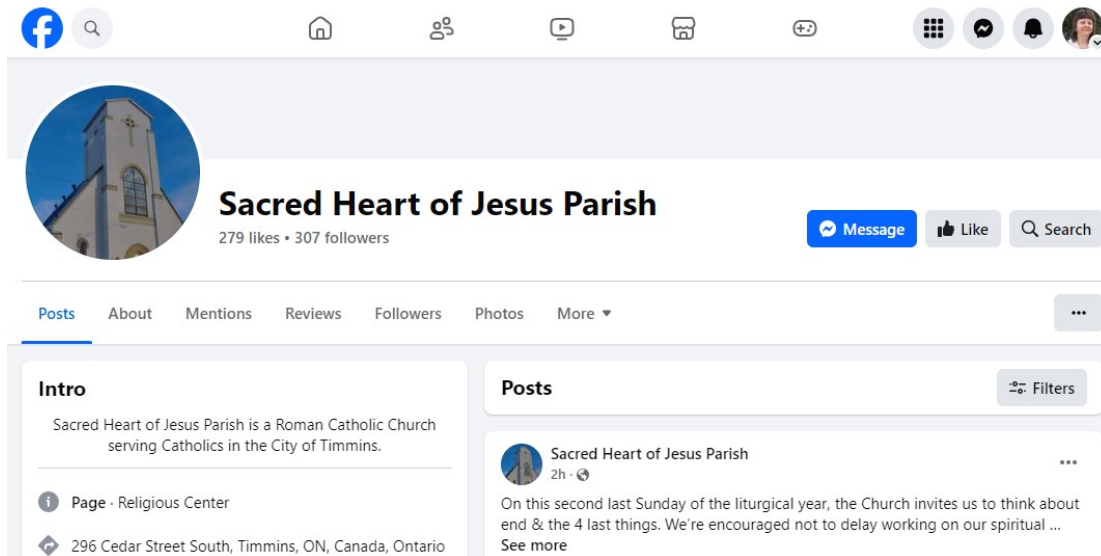
The Parish holds a beautiful website, at:

<http://www.sacredheartofjesusparish.ca/>



And also a page on Facebook, at:

<https://www.facebook.com/sacredhearttimmins>

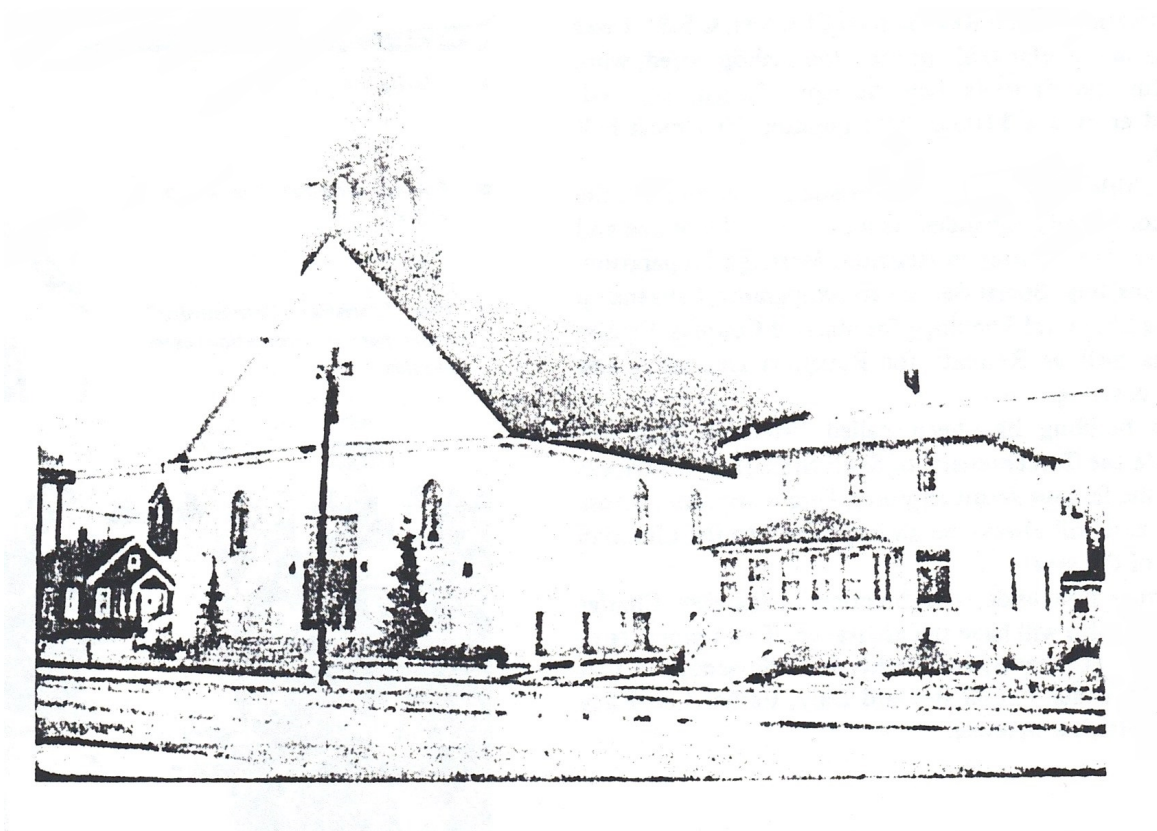


Multos annos ad!

[Many more years to come!]



St. Joachim Church in South Timmins, ON, Canada



ST. JOACHIMS CHURCH

South Porcupine, Ontario, Canada

Historical Marks:

- 1909 – First Mass celebrated in Kennedy's Hotel
Father Theriault
- 1911 - Church built on Crawford Street
Father Morin
- 1916 - Church finished and called St. Joachims
Father Boisvert
Father Pinsonnault constructs present church
- 1961 - Stigmatine Fathers invited to assume responsibility of parish
Rev. Rinaldo Ribezzi, first Stigmatine pastor



Fr. Rinaldo Ribezzi

Nowadays [2024]:

The Parish is no longer Stigmatine. It holds a beautiful page on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Paroisse-Saint-Joachim-Parish-100077267652759/>

In this page we can see a beautiful picture of the Church:



Multos

annos ad!

[Many more years to come!]





SACRED HEART CHURCH

Timmins, Ontario

Combined Funds Canvass

April – May, 1958

April – May, 1958

A Message From Our Bishop

Bishop's House

Haileybury, Ontario

April 18, 1958.

Dearly Beloved in Christ:

It is to the great credit of the parishioners of the Sacred Heart that you have committed yourselves to the campaign which is under way now. In meeting this challenge every participating family will have strengthened its own personal faith by providing for the many needs of the church which I understand will be covered by your program.

It is in fact a great personal satisfaction to me to have the concerted efforts of three of my Timmins parishes at one and the same time making such sacrifices for their Faith—evidence of a strong Catholic spirit.

I humbly ask each and every family of the Sacred Heart to do their utmost to make this canvass a memorable success. In sacrificing together you will have brought great blessings to your parish and the Catholic community as a whole.

Your Father in Christ,

Maxime

Bishop of Timmins



A Message from Our Pastor



Rev. H. Zampieri, C.P.S.



Rev. Leonard Della Badia, C.P.S., Pastor



Rev. A. Ferrari, C.P.S.

My dear Parishioners:

This Combined Fund Canvass will mark another milestone of faith, courage and self-sacrifice in the history of the Italians in Timmins. Every wage earner in Sacred Heart Parish will be asked to set aside a generous and sacrificial portion of his income to further the needs of God and Church. The greatest benefits of the Canvass to the individual contributor will be the spiritual benefits brought about by his changed attitude towards church giving. When the canvass will have been completed, you will no longer say: "Lord, here is what I have left, You may have it!" On the contrary, you will remember that

everything you have, you owe to God's generosity. In appreciation and gratitude, therefore, you will feel bound to offer it up to God in sacrifice when He will ask you for it, as He is asking you in this canvass. Never regret giving to God, "For God loveth a cheerful giver," and He will never be outdone in generosity!

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, bless you in your generous and sacrificial contributions for His greater honor and glory.

Devotedly yours in Christ

Rev. Leonard M. Della Badia, C.P.S.

Our Heritage

For very many years the Italian Community of Timmins had no Church of their own. In December 1936, the Rev. Louis A. Fontana of the Stigmatite Fathers was sent to Timmins to look after the increasing numbers of Italians which had arrived from Italy. In the parish hall of the Nativity Church the Italian Community under Fr. Fontana met to hear Mass. From these beginnings Fr. Fontana started on his mission to build a Church for his people. In October 1937, less than one year later, the Sacred Heart Church was opened.



Rev. Louis A. Fontana

From these humble beginnings there was created a parish which has gone from strength to strength.

At the moment, the Parish has about 600 families and will no doubt continue to grow. Here our Italian culture and traditions are preserved and more important still; the spiritual welfare of the Italian community ministered to by members of the same order as our founder and first Pastor, Fr. Fontana.

So it is that our Sacred Heart Parish is a bulwark of our Italian culture as well as of our Catholic faith.

Let us be truly thankful to God for all his past blessings on our parish. Be loyal to our parish in the present and let us assure the future of all these things which we cherish.

SACRED HEART CHURCH

Timmins, Ontario, Canada

During the jurisdiction of the late Bishop Rheaume and at his request, the Stigmatine Congregation, in virtue of a Provincial mandate from Springfield, Massachusetts sent Fr. Louis Fontana to assume the responsible spiritual care and trust of the Italians residing in Timmins. Fr. Fontana arrived in Timmins on December 10, 1936, taking up temporary residence at the Empire Hotel for two weeks. While there, his first acquaintances were formed and plans laid for a drive with direct bearing to initiate the new Italian Parish. Having selected a site where the new Church should rise, a comparable stipulated sum for the purchase was envisioned. In the memoirs of Fr. Fontana the principle that "beginnings are difficult at the outset" was no less true for this new parish.

The campaign opened on a momentous note at the Goldfields Hotel with a goodly number in attendance. The executive committee was formed of Messers. Anthony Mascioli, Rocco Gentile and G. Giustina; pledges of those present and donations at the end of the campaign, totalled \$7,000 but \$2,000 short of the purchase price. With February almost over, and the first of May calling for the start of work on the new Church, a series of entertainments and concerts added to the building fund, and on the precise day of May 1st, actual excavation began. Providence was no less in evidence as the foundation was completed and covered. It was felt that much satisfaction was arrived at and that efforts could cease at this point. However, a decision to erect the outer walls and roof was made and so this further action resulted. His Excellency granted a loan of \$13,000 and because of it, on October 10, 1937 the solemn opening of the new Church for public worship was realized.

Many more years were judiciously contemplated before the Parish would enjoy the prestige of its present status but with God's help and the labors of great people made it possible. To the credit of parishioners we are endowed with one of the more devotional and beautiful edifices of worship of the Northland. To add to its embellishment, a modest and attractive Rectory was completed in October of 1951, again evidence of a parochial spirit.

In recalling the difficulties faced to bring about the great transformation, insight into the sacrifices of the first Pastor and the good souls of the Italian colony should be given prominence also. Courtesy of the Pastor of the Nativity Parish allowed for Father Fontana to be with his flock; a small tar-papered dwelling was purchased. This was both home and office for this humble pioneer who faced hardships, physical toil and sacrifices of the kind that his parishioners knew, all for God's love and of souls. The sincerity and devotion of this great priest brought greater respect and honor to a race already implanted on Canadian soil; he served and watered well, and like the good farmer, saw the increase and fructification to such a degree that admiration and the facility to continue was appreciated by his successors.

From his time and the intervening years, this illustrious parish was served by generous priests and worthy Pastors in the persons of Fr. Paul Zanini, who spelled out loyalty to parish life and Catholic Education; Fr. Joseph Amodio, who carried on with staunch pastoral care, the ideals of his office; Fr. Leonard Della Badia, who gave of his talents and diffusive energy to further secondary Catholic Education in the O'Gorman venture with the late Monsignor Martindale; and although the stay of Fr. Adolph Ferrai was short, he was no less dedicated and most cooperative in his priestly obligations.

Although much more might be pointed out, no further words need be stated, to emphasize the fact that our parish has been blessed with people who love God dearly are parish-conscious and participative on every level verily a credit to themselves, to their Bishop, and their Faith.



Souvenir Booklet

**Sacred Heart Parish
25th ANNIVERSARY**



1937 Timmins, Ontario 1962



TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF SACRED HEART PARISH



Reverend and Dear Father,

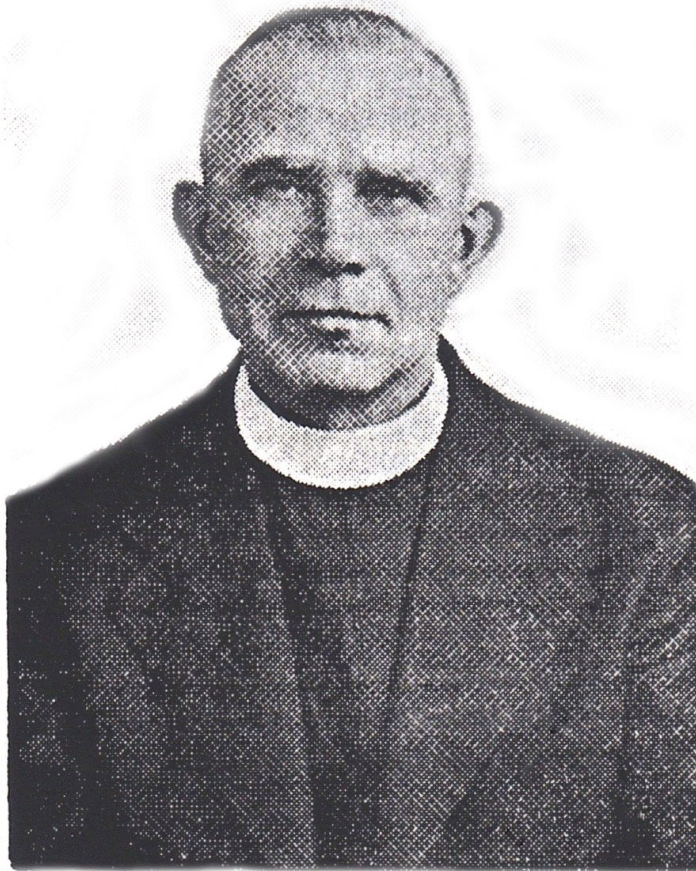
I am happy, on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of Sacred Heart Parish in Timmins, to offer to you and your parishioners my most sincere congratulations, my best wishes and the expression of my deepest affection. From its humble beginnings your Parish has grown constantly to its present size and it will continue to expand, thanks to the unfailing zeal and devotion of its priests, admirably supported by their people. Sacred Heart Parish has made it possible for our dear Italian Catholics of Timmins to remain united to maintain their faith and to contribute to the development of Catholic life in our beloved diocese. It is our sincere hope that they will remain loyal to their faith and to their traditions which we consider an asset.

Finally, may I be permitted to render homage to the Stigmatine Fathers, present and past, to whom I am greatly indebted. I convey to you my sincerest thanks for your untiring support and loyalty and I ask God to reward you as he has promised to do his faithful servants.

"Ad multos et faustissimos annos"

Most Reverend Maxime Tessier, D.D.
Bishop of Timmins

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF SACRED HEART PARISH



Rev. Louis J. Fontana, C.P.S.

Ordained June 18, 1918, at Rome, Italy

First parish priest of Sacred Heart Church

Timmins, Ontario

At present parish priest at St. Joachim's Church
South Porcupine, Ontario

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF SACRED HEART PARISH



Very Rev. Carmen T. Russo, C.P.S.
Provincial North American Province
Ordained June 12, 1945
at Newton, Massachusetts

Dear Father Cannizzo:

On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Sacred Heart Parish, I am delighted to convey my cordial congratulations for the material and spiritual progress during the past twenty five years and my warmest prayers for the future.

The Christian Life developed in countless souls during these years will certainly bring consolation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and it reveals the devoted ministry of its pastors and assistants, and, at the same time, the sacrifices and support of the good parishioners and friends for God's glory and the beauty of His sanctuary and the salvation of souls.

On this joyous occasion I wish to extend to you and your assistants and to all the families and to the parish organizations my sincere congratulations and to join with all of you in your projected manifestation of your attitude to Almighty God for all the graces and blessings accorded since the foundation of the parish.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Very Rev.) Carmen T. Russo, C.P.S.
Provincial Superior

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF SACRED HEART PARISH

Our First 25 Years

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