



MARIST BROTHERS OF THE PROVINCE OF CANADA

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THE DISTRICT AND PROVINCE OF AMERICA (PART I):
OUR AMERICAN SCHOOLS (1885-1911)



1st Row : Brother Félix-Eugène (Provincial 1903-1905), Brother Césidius (1885-1903 Founder), Brother Angélicus (Provincial 1905-1907), A.G, Brother Zéphiriny (Provincial 1907-1909).

2nd Row : Brother Légontianus, Brother Héribert, Brother Ptoméléus (Provincial 1909-1911) and Brother Gabriel-Marie. Circa 1927

St. Pierre School: Lewiston (Maine) - Founded 1886



School, always school, nothing but school. This is a characteristic slogan of educational work in New England. The national parishes have always had to support their schools and have done so in a remarkable way, by teaching and supporting the young. Here is briefly, the history of education at St. Peter's Parish of Lewiston. In 1870-71, with the founding of the parish, Miss. Lacourse had the honor of giving young Franco-Americans the first rudiments of knowledge. She taught the students in her own home. After leaving for Canada in 1873, two other young ladies, Miss. Vidal and Bourbeau, took charge of the sixty pupils who wished to learn. The parish priest Hévey brought the Sisters of Saint-Hyacinthe to Lewiston in 1878, to provide education to the students in an institutional setting. Their first classes were at their little orphanage, Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes. The Sisters taught until 1892.

Taking charge of the parish, the Dominicans quickly built the first great school, known as the Dominican Block. It took the name of St. Pierre in 1883.

It was at the urgent request of Father Mothon, O.P. toward Brother Theophane, then Superior General of the Marist Brothers, that the Marist Brothers were appointed to work at Lewiston. Brother Ferdinand and Brother Henri-Gabriel took charge of the former convent of the Gray Nuns in September 1886 to teach boys from the fifth to seventh grade. At the beginning of the school year, a strong education system was put in place by our brave Brothers. The founders of the school, the ecclesiastical authorities and the parents of the pupils rejoiced at the conclusive work of our Brothers. The following year, three additional Brothers were added to the staff. They were Brothers Clement-Joseph, Pierre and Marie-Séverin. In order to develop the religious devotion of the school, three religious movements were proposed to the pupils according to their age: the League of the Sacred Heart, the Congregation of the Holy Virgin and finally the League of the Guardian Angel.

Numerous religious ceremonies took place in the chapel of the school: mass, confession, visits to the Blessed Sacrament and meetings to the great satisfaction of the citizens. However, Brother Césidius was reluctant to allow the community to mix with public activities.

In 1891, Brother Cosimo (Director) had to leave to become the Master of Iberville. Brother Joseph-Émeric succeeded Brother Cosmo. The latter, born in Médéa, Algeria, was the son of a captain of the French army, a cold, austere, military-looking man who came to Canada in 1890.

The year 1891-1892 began, but with less enthusiasm than usual ... in a state of suspicion and apprehension. Brother Joseph-Émeric made a drastic decision. We had to stop participating in extracurricular organizations. The effect of this situation was to disquiet the professors and to cause discomfort between the school and the parish authorities. The climate was painful during the year. At the beginning of August 1893, the Father Sous-Prieur received the following message from the pastor: "The question of the school of the Brothers is definitively settled. They will not return to Lewiston." Brother Césidius sent a telegram confirming the decision of the authorities a little less than three days before the obediences of 1893. The Brothers left Lewiston with regret. The work and dedication of Brother Cosmo and the other Brothers collapsed less than two years after his departure.

The population was deeply saddened by the sudden departure of the Marist Brothers. Finally, it was the Gray Sisters who took over the direction of the school, replaced shortly after by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart.

The first three Brothers in Lewiston, Maine



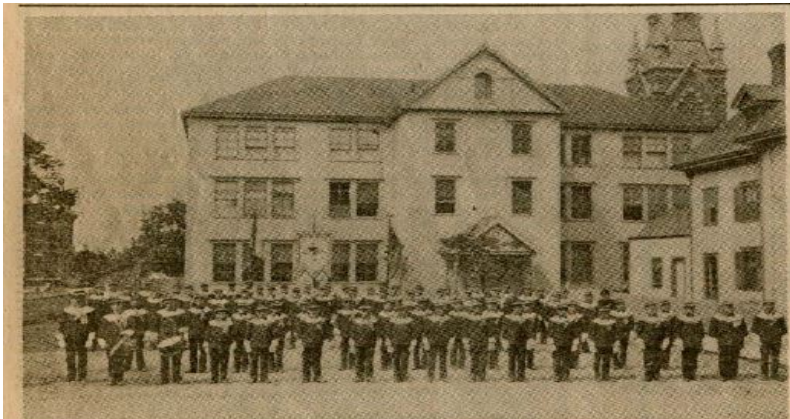
Frère Côme (Director (1886-1891))



Frère Ferdinand



Frère Henri-Gabriel



THE "COLLEGE" — The "college", built by S.S. Peter and Paul Parish, Lewiston, soon after the 1836 arrival of the Marist Brothers from Canada. They specialize in the teaching of boys and did so in Lewiston until 1894. Uniformed youths, shown in front of the building, were members of a parish organization that had its headquarters in this same building. At right rear of picture is a tower of St. Patrick's Church on Bates St. Small building at right later was altered for use as a work area for nuns, and to house convent girls.

From the Lewiston Journal (June 3,1978) showing St. Pierre School



St. Peter's Church a Catholic place of worship for French Canadians in Lewiston

Saint Marie School: Manchester (New Hampshire) - Founded in 1890



A group of Brother from the St. Marie School (1908)

Nicknamed the Queen City of the Merrimack River Valley, Manchester is located 54 miles northwest of Boston. In 1890, it had a population of 40,000, one-third of whom were French-Canadians working in the mills. This group made early Manchester a center for Canadian-Americans called "Saint Marie" or even "small Canada"! Father Pierre Hévey, born on October 31, 1851 in Saint Jude, Quebec, was named parish priest of Saint Mary of Manchester in 1882. In early January 1890, during a tour of France, he made a stop at St. Genis-Laval and asked to obtain Brothers for his school. Brother Theophane, S. G., agreed to his request.



The first community of Marist Brothers in Manchester in 1890

Brother Vitalicus (Director), Brother Parménas, Brother Protais, Brother Agape, Brother Héribert, Brother Marie-Estève, Brother Marie-Gilbert, Brother Jean-Marie and Brother Apollone.

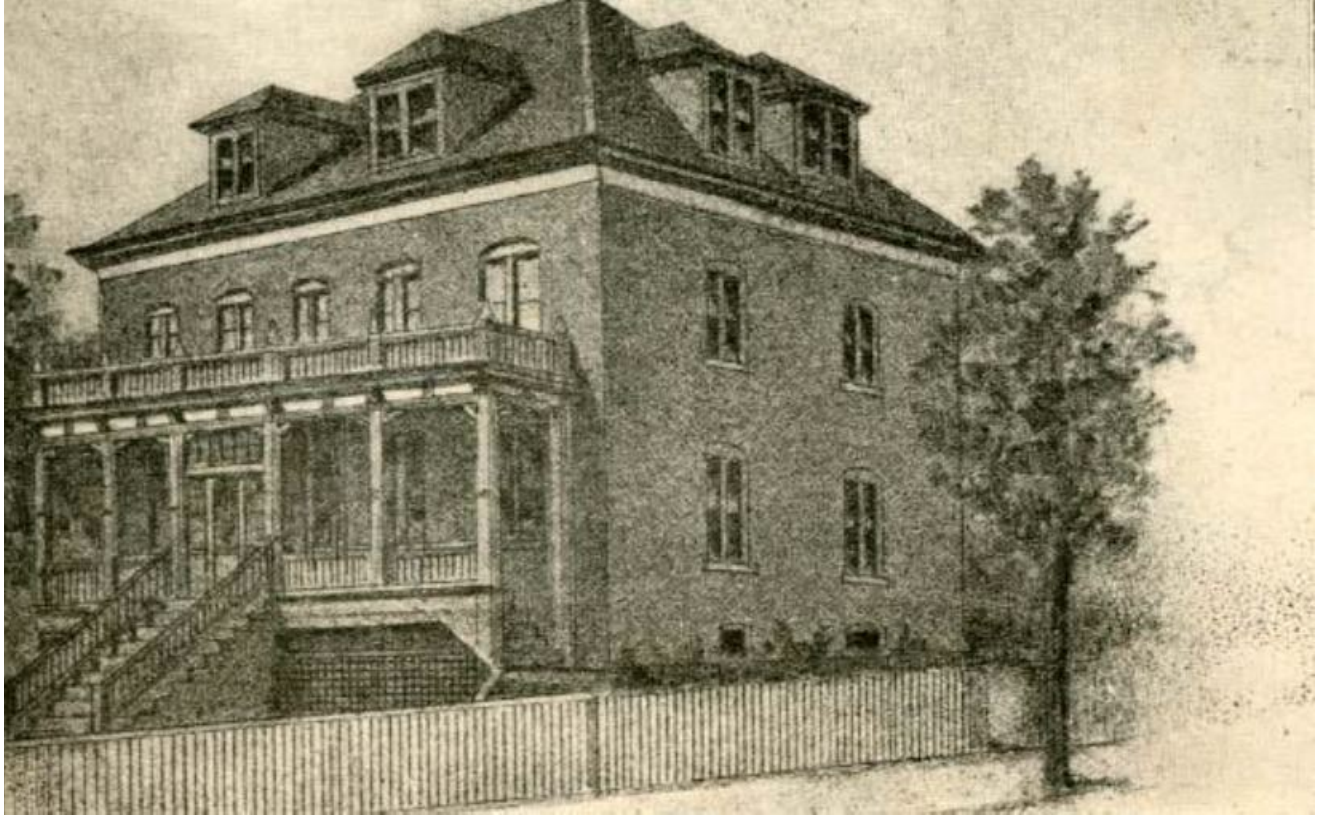
The newcomers settled in late August in a solid wooden house containing the residence of the Brothers, ten classrooms and an auditorium in the basement.

Monsignor Hévey gave them a most sympathetic welcome by naming them "his little Brothers"! Immediately the small team of Brothers set out to help 350 pupils in six classes. Everything went very well until the superficial problems of the Superior in the school and curial organizations resurfaced. Indeed, Brother Joseph-Émeric replaced Brother Vitalicus in 1894. He did not appear more collaborative than the Head Brother in Lewiston. He then improved the tense relationship between Monsignor Hévey and his previous superior. The school then looked like a real school family! The studies were launched, and sports and pious associations were reinstated to captivate the young people. Many of them were attracted to the priesthood and religious life thanks to the influence of the Brothers.

The parish grew exponentially. The Brothers were soon to sacrifice their residence on the 3rd floor and settle in the attic of the school. The situation lasted until 1905, when the parish priest built a residence for the Brothers. The venerable pastor was greatly embarrassed by his finances, and he found solace thanks to the ingenuity of the Brothers, who organized a series of plays and musical events, which had the effect of filling the coffers of the Curia.

In 1906, it was Brother Jordanus, a man of wisdom who had been in charge of the St. Pierre school in Montreal for six years. He became director of the Saint Marie School! At the end of September 1906, Manchester rejoiced in receiving Monseigneur Bernard, bishop of St. Hyacinthe. The latter presided over the ceremony of the blessing of four bells for the new church of Gothic architecture. For the occasion, the children sang the most beautiful songs of their repertoire. The day before, Monseigneur had made a surprise visit to our Brothers, thus adding a new testimony of sympathy for our work and the congregation.

A year later, in 1907, at the coronation of Monsignor Guertin at St. Mary's Church, Bishop Paul Bruchési of Montreal visited us. He expressed the desire to see other Marist schools opened and paid special homage to Brother Jordanus. In 1908, Brother Jordanus left Manchester and was replaced by Brother Marie-Sylvain.



Sketch of the residence of the Brothers in Manchester (1906)

This excellent educator gave his body and soul to the work entrusted to him. With devotion, he watched religiously in the Congress of the Sacred Heart, which had more than 120 members. A Canadian Association of Franco-American Youth was created at the congress. On this occasion, the city welcomed the lawyer Pierre Gerlier, future archbishop and cardinal of Lyon as well as Mr. Beaupré of the Institute of Paris. Our pupils interpreted the play, "Les piastres rouges" ("The Red Piastres"). The Brothers were also in charge of "l'épargne du sou" ("Penny Saving") created for the benefit of the parish works until 1910.

In 1911, the year of the division of the provinces, a school of 16 classes was set up to house 800 pupils, thanks to the initiative of the pastor.

The new establishment was called "École Monseigneur Hévey" (School of Monseigneur Hévey) in tribute to our benefactor. The school was the pride of the Brothers and the parishioners. Flowerbeds, and a vast playground of shrubs

around the square surrounded it. A real gem for the time! The blessing of the school took place in 1912 to the great pride of Brother Marie-Sylvain. He left Manchester in 1914 to work at Poughkeepsie.



Brother Marie-Sylvain and his group of Brothers of Manchester

1st Row: Brother Joseph-Crescent, Brother François-Dosithée, Brother Marie-Sylvain, Brother Stylien and Brother Joseph-Léon.

2nd Row: Brother Ernest-Victor, Brother Adolphe-Francis, Brother Constatin-Ernest and Brother Eugène-Camille.

3rd Row: Brother Louis-Viateur, Brother Ignace and Brother Joseph-Robert.



The new school Monseigneur Hévey shortly after the division of our province of America

Saint Joseph College: Lowell (Massachusetts) - Founded in 1892



St. Joseph College in Lowell

Located at the intersection of the Concord and Merrimack rivers, the small town of Lowell has a very long history. As early as 1641, the Native Americans of the Pawtucket tribe occupied the vicinity. Under the leadership of Francis Cabot, in 1820, Lowell, grew rapidly and became an important textile manufacturing center in New England. Many French Canadians would go to work in these factories. In 1900 there were more than 24,800 residents. It was at the request of the Archbishop of Boston that the Marist Brothers work at Lowell. In 1891, two lots were acquired on Merrimack Street, near St. Jean-Baptiste Church, for the construction of a school. There were eight Brothers at the end of August 1892. Brother Chryseuil was appointed director of the establishment, a new four-story

brick and granite building, which consisted of fifteen classes and a splendid auditorium.



Brother Chryseuil was Director of the College from 1892 to 1912

On September 3, 400 students returned to school, even though some buildings were not finished. As for the curriculum, it was similar to that of public schools in the United States. There was simply English and religion added. From the foundation until 1910, the community always accepted modest salaries for teaching, maintenance of the premises and other activities (direction of the sanctuary, preparatory classes for first communion and confirmation, etc.) Literary and artistic evenings were organized to receive the necessary funds for the parish and to maintain the use of the French language. The first evening organized by Brother Chryseuil with the help of his colleagues was given in the fall of 1892. It was a great success and was the beginning of the

subsequent evenings. Brother Chryseuil's assiduous assistant at these evenings was Brother Bonaventura. This French-Canadian had an innate talent for music and the arts!

The first year passed, and this was the joy and duty of the Brothers. In the spring of 1893, 125 pupils made their first communion with pride!

In May 1894, members of the Lowell School Committee visited our college officially. They were amazed to see the discipline and the pedagogical organization of our institution. At the start of the 1894 school year, we had 16 Brothers with more than 850 pupils. And that was only the beginning because two years later we had 1220 enrolled students. The following years were most glorious.

At the beginning of the century, we had a forced imposition to teach English in all the schools in New England. French was to be taught only one hour at most. This forced our Brothers to return to the school benches during the summer holidays in order to perfect their studies in English. Brothers Zephiriny, Pierre-Vincent, Boniface and Austin-Mary taught our Brothers English. We can easily conceive that such changes considerably hindered the intellectual progress of pupils.

The year 1906 brought great mourning to our community. In January, Brother Joseph-Raphael died, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cloutier of Laval (St-Vincent-de-Paul). Appointed a professor at Lowell in 1904, Brother Joseph-Raphael was a young educator emeritus. His last moments were as calm as his life. He fell asleep in the arms of his venerable mother, like a true Knight of Christ!



Brother Joseph-Raphael

In June of the same year, in joy and jubilation, Lowell majestically celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation. For this special occasion, our choir performed many songs to the great satisfaction of the citizens, and an evening was organized in the auditorium of the college. Our students had the opportunity to show their talents! Good Brother Chryseuil, as he was called, made a memorable speech at the end of the evening because he was leaving the school and the parish for which he had given 14 years of service.

Brother Priscillianus was to succeed him. He created a monthly study program with exams. The program was combined with that of Priest Hickey, the diocesan inspector, which was a happy initiative. Similar to that of the academic course of the 7th and 8th grade in Quebec, in addition to a few commercial courses.



The community of Lowell in 1912

1st Row: Brother Véterin, Brother Dioscoride, Brother Léon-Bernardin, Brother Jean-Casimir, Brother Henri-Désiré and Brother Gonzalvus.

2nd Row: Brother Célestin, Brother Apollone, Brother Abelus, Brother Émile-Bernard, Brother Tertullien and Brother Joseph-Stéphane.

3rd Row: Brother Joseph-Cadroès, Brother Joseph-Léon, Brother Jean-Philibert and Brother Jean-Cyprien.

In addition, Brother Priscillianus added a register of excellence to encourage students to improve their studies. In 1907, our residence reached its maximum capacity and it became too small for us. The priest bought us a new residence on the corner of Pawtucket and Moody. This gesture was much appreciated by the Brothers.

The creativity of our Brothers concerning theatrical arts and literature inspired the people of Lowell to keep their language and created a deep attachment to us. For a long time they remembered plays such as "Henri de Castille" ("Henri of Castille"), "Le bossu de l'abbaye" ("The Hunchback of the

Abbey"), and "Simon le voleur" (Simon the Thief").



The new residence of the Brothers in 1907

And yet the question of language resurfaced in 1910. The Priest lodged a complaint to the Brother Provincial against the teaching of French. Brother Ptoméléus, Provincial, returned the compliment by demanding an increase in the salary of the pastor. The latter accepted but abolished the upper course. It was Brother Léon-Marcel who was director of the establishment in the division of the provinces in 1911. The efforts of the predecessors were not forgotten. The college flourished under the Province of the United States and had an excellent future.



The community of St. Joseph's College, Lowell, 1910-11

1st Row (Front) : Brother..., Brother Ignace, Brother Émile-Bernard, Brother Joseph-Eudoxe, Brother ..., Brother Apollone, Brother Marie-Pétras, Brother André-Célestin.

2nd Row (Back) : Brother Léon-Hyacinthe, Brother Philomène-Joseph, Brother..., Brother Léon-Camille, Brother..., Brother Dioscoride, Brother..., Brother Joseph-Cadroès.



The auditorium of St. Joseph's College at the turn of the century

NOUS NOUS SOUVENONS

1892



1942

JUBILE D'OR

DU COLLEGE ST-JOSEPH
ET DES
FRERES MARISTES



LIVRE SOUVENIR

Dimanche, le 1er novembre, 1942

Salle C. M. A. C.



Writings of the Brothers:

Live our Brothers!

That they are beautiful, leading the rank
Children with a light head!
Black and white flaps:
These are our Brothers!

On this beautiful day of remembrance,
Let us sing to those who know-how
To prepare our future:
Let us sing our Brothers!

If we have well-made hearts,
Let us love many, with a sincere heart,
Those whose benefits we know,
Let us love our Brothers!

Let's love them, but do more:

Let us make their task lighter;
Helping them is helping Jesus:
Let us help our Brothers!

Defend them if the wicked
Against them the anger was kindled:
To keep our children good,
Let us keep our Brothers!

From heaven they show us the way!
Let us, like them, do well on earth;
In the abode of endless happiness, let us follow our Brothers!

Ah, good brothers!
On this beautiful day, let us sing in chorus:
"Live those whose austere life
We were the key to happiness:
Live our Brothers! "

Brother Veterin, fms



Brother Veterin, FMS

(Director and Deputy Director of St. Joseph's College from 1913 to 1931)



CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS: SUMMER BERRY PICKING

When the Europeans arrived, the Native Americans of Canada were already harvesting berries in abundance and using them fresh or dried for food or curative purposes. The presence of wild strawberries already gave rise to a kind of festival among the Iroquois. It is also known that this small red fruit was important for some indigenous peoples and that it was part of their culture: a summer food, strawberries symbolize the good season.

The blueberries were also the delights of the natives long before the sixteenth century. To consume them in winter, they had them dried or pureed and shaped into patties. Blueberries were often mixed with red meat or melted fat to give a kind of pemmican. Throughout history, this small fruit has been the subject of many treats and pastries, of which includes the famous blueberry chocolates of the Trappist fathers of the Saguenay region.

A little history

Of all the pickings of small wild fruits, that of the blueberry is probably one of the most popular. Nature has an abundance of blueberries in Canada, hence its name "Blue Godsend" (after the title of an NFB documentary shot in 1945). This richness fascinates the imagination and the blueberries have been immortalized in our literature of the soil. Louis Hémon presents the point in the theater of romantic encounters in the novel, *Maria Chapdelaine*, while under the pen of Felix-Antoine Savard, poetry praises this blue bay. Here are some excerpts from the famous novel "Menaud, maître draveur ":

"At Sainte-Anne, the blueberries are ripe. It is the grape of our country; He is the son of fire; of the humble and stony soil, it is the offering; it is the honey of the wild notches, the brother of the Ericales in the infinite kingdom of sphagnum and peat bogs.

Then, in July, gourmands, the beautiful clusters are gorged with sun and sugar, and look like robin eggs in the nest of hairless leaves.

So, wherever the plow cannot go, in all the distant solitudes and endless savannas, rolls the opulent and joyous wave of blueberries.

It is the richness of the poor, the present of our land to us, its sweetness; it's fruit of love.

Then the birds all glean at the feast of blueberries; And, fed, along the hot days, the bears sleep, the muzzle in the tillers.

The gum-bitters, which follows the golden stream of the sap in the pine-wood

barrels, descend at noon in the sweetness of the clusters, and stuff themselves by rolling the sweet berries in their gummy hands.

And the children give themselves to the feasting, and dispute the most beautiful; and, screaming, get drunk with fruit and smear like grape pickers.

Then, the blueberry trees, we see them also blooming brown girls in the broad hat under which - ah! The coquettes, shining, like two blueberries of velvet, eyes soften; and sometimes with the same cluster, the fingers entwined, the beautiful guy in the neighborhood and the picking are talking to the shelter of fragrant larch...

But when the importunate approaches, the blackbird and the merlette, ah! Quickly, quickly, go away ... and, confused, lets see ... more red in the face than blue in the bowl ... "





The archive team wishes you an excellent summer!

Questions and comments

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