

FATHER NEIL CARRIGAN - St. Paul's Catholic Church

INTERVIEWED:

May 23, 1975

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Father Carrigan came to Parish of St. Paul's in 1969. He belongs to the Diocese of Vancouver.

The church was located at 825 St. Alban's Road, comprised of the church, the rectory, the convent, the hall and the school. These are the buildings standing as of the date of the interview.

Church seats 650 people. Built in Romanesque - Gothic style. Frame building with brick facing. Entrance from the west.

South of the church is the Rectory and then the Convent.

The hall and school are west of the church.

Church

Vestibule leads into Sanctuary with Baptistry and two waiting rooms. Sanctuary has main aisle up centre and two side aisles. There are pews. The flooring is tile with carpets across the Sanctuary.

Heating - is by oil furnace.

Lighting - mixture of incandescent and fluorescent in the Sanctuary.

The building is one-storied.

Memorials

- To the Fallen of the 1939-45 War
- Stations of the Cross
- Sedillia (3 seats in the chancel)
- Altar

All these are donated by members of the Parish,

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There are dressing rooms at the side of the chancel for the choir boys and a sacristy for the Priest.

Hall

Used for school meetings, Men's Parish meetings, Scouts, etc., Ladies' Groups, Choir & Bingo (on which they rely for much of their funds).

(See Historical Sketch for dates of construction of these buildings)

Sisters teach at the school. They are of the Sisters of St. Joseph's, Toronto. The Rectory and Convent are both two-storied with two waiting rooms on the ground floor and two suites upstairs. Father Carrigan is the Parish Priest, and his assistant is Father Eason.

Parish Boundaries set up by Diocese according to the needs of the district. Boundaries of the Parish are given.

Responsibility

Priest is responsible for spiritual and financial needs of the Parish. The Parish of St. Paul's is in the Deanery of Delta comprising the 3 parishes in the area. The Priests meet once a month to discuss mutual problems. The Deanery is under the control of the Bishop of Vancouver. A copy of the yearly reports go to the Archbishop and he is responsible directly to the Pope in Rome.

Plans for Holy Year

The year was opened by a celebration at Holy Rosary Cathedral in Vancouver. There will be a special 3-day celebration at St. Paul's in June.

Role of Women

Sisters perform teaching duties. Women in general look after the church and its vestments and organize

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fund-raising events. They could not be Priests.

Upkeep of the Church

Recommend tithing by the equivalent of one hour's salary per week. The church is heavily in debt to the Bank of Montreal.

Running of the School

The school is two-storied and caters to Grade 1 - 7. The church subsidises the school to about \$4,000 per month. The current fees are \$8.00 per child per month. Children outside the Parish pay \$15.00. There are some non-Catholic children admitted if there is room.

The building is brick-faced. After Grade 7 the children go to either the regular High Schools in Richmond or Catholic High Schools in Vancouver.

Special Events

Father Carrigan celebrated his 35th year in the Priesthood May, 1975 and Father Eason celebrated his 7th year. Apart from rapid growth in the Parish, there have been few noticeable events.

Background of Parishioners

Because of the boundaries, the parishioners are all of Richmond people and embodies all ethnic Catholic groups.

Plans for the Future

Great hopes of paying off the debts. There are no plans for expansion as another Parish would take the overflow.

There is a ditch on St. Alban's Road, but no sign of it being filled in. The parking lot is being hard-topped all around.

MURIEL NOBLE