

Jerome Marie Cloarec

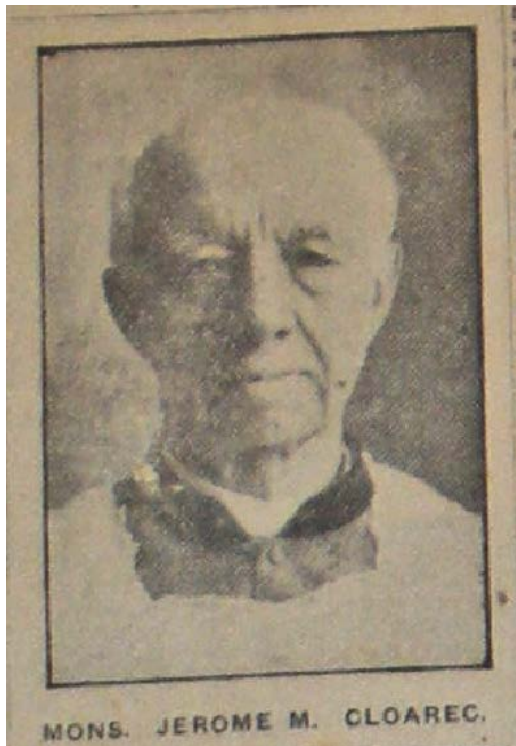
Father Cloarec was the Rector of the Cathedral from 1861 to 1867 and he also was Pastor of St. Joseph's Church for 48 years 6 months and 9 days. This article is made up mostly of articles from the Burlington Daily News and the Burlington Free Press. Monsignor Cloarec and Bishop De Goesbriand both came from Brittany, France and both were exceptional priests in Vermont. Jerome M. Cloarec, a close friend of Bishop De Goesbriand, came to America at the bishops invitation in 1855 [An Inland See – H. Coffin].

John R. Fisher 7-10-2019 Burlington, Vermont

Burlington Daily News, Tuesday evening 10 Feb, 1920

RT. REV. J. M. CLOAREC DIES THIS AFTERNOON FROM PNEUMONIA

Venerable and Beloved Prelate of the Diocese of Burlington was 84 Years Old. (sic 86 yrs 7 mths 24 days)



The Rt. Rev. Jerome M. Cloarec, the beloved and venerable prelate of the diocese of Burlington died of pneumonia this afternoon at 2:37 o'clock at the rectory on Elmwood Avenue. Funeral services will be held on Friday morning at 10 o'clock.

Those who have lived long in Burlington need no review of the life of the Rt. Rev. Monsignor J. M. Cloarec. His life was closely interwoven with the growth of the city, not alone in his own parishes where he had ministered so long, but in the neighboring parishes of Lakeside and Winooski.

When the half-century milestone of his priesthood had been reached the advance was fittingly observed with Masses and sermons by visiting priests. To the younger generation and those who have come from other sections of the country, in recent years, the death of Father Cloarec as he was affectionately called by Catholic and Protestant alike, comes as a great shock. There is little that can be said that can express the true feeling of the community and church in this great loss that has just been suffered, but to

quote an article in St. Mary's Monthly of a few years ago referring to the late Father Cloarec. "His praises are measured by the heartbeats of all who have come under his kindly paternal influence. His noblest monuments

are temples neither of stone nor of wood, but living temples of flesh and blood reared by him according to the eternal principles of truth and righteousness.”

Jerome Marie Cloarec was born June 17, 1833 at St. Sauveur, in Brittany, France. Coming to America in 1855 he entered St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, MD and spent 3 years studying for the priesthood. He was ordained in Burlington by the late Bishop De Goesbriand, July 4, 1858, the ordination service taking place in the old St. Mary's Church. One of his fellow students in the Seminary in Baltimore was James Gibbons, now the Most Eminent James Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore.

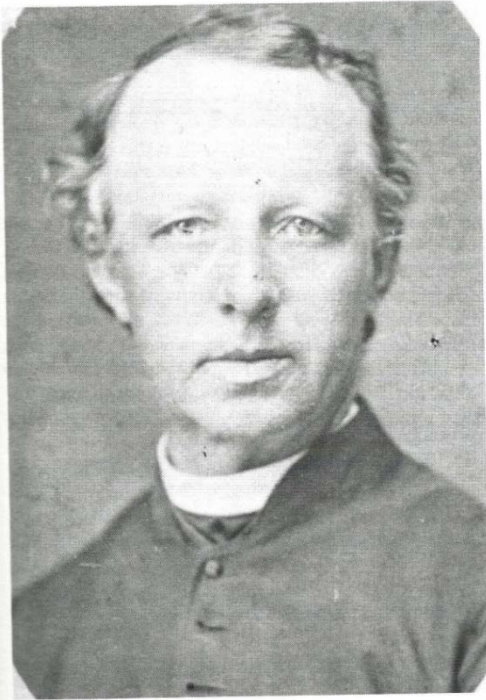
Father Cloarec's first appointment was Bennington, where he remained about two years or until 1861, when he was recalled to this city and made rector of the Cathedral. [During these 8 years he labored zealously to develop Cathedral parish and it was he who directed the construction of the Gothic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception which burned on 13 March 1972]. After faithfully directing the progress and destinies of St Mary's parish, Burlington, for eight years, Bishop De Goesbriand appointed the zealous young priest rector of St. Mary's parish Rutland which was the French Canadian parish of that city. He was not destined to remain long in the Marble City. The Rt. Rev. Bishop having in view the interest of the rapidly increasing parish of St. Joseph in Burlington, like the Egyptian king of old, was convinced that there was not another in his diocese more fitted by zeal, prudence and financial ability, to be placed over this parish, destined one day to be the largest in the state, than the Rev. J. M. Cloarec; this appointment was made August 1, 1871.

It soon became evident that the old St. Joseph church, located on the hill where St Joseph school is now located was much too small for the congregation. The site of the present church was secured and the cornerstone of the edifice layed (sic) July 4, 1884. The work progressed rapidly and the present St. Joseph church, the largest in the diocese of Burlington was solemnly blessed by Archbishop Fabre of Montreal, P. Q. on June 24, 1887.

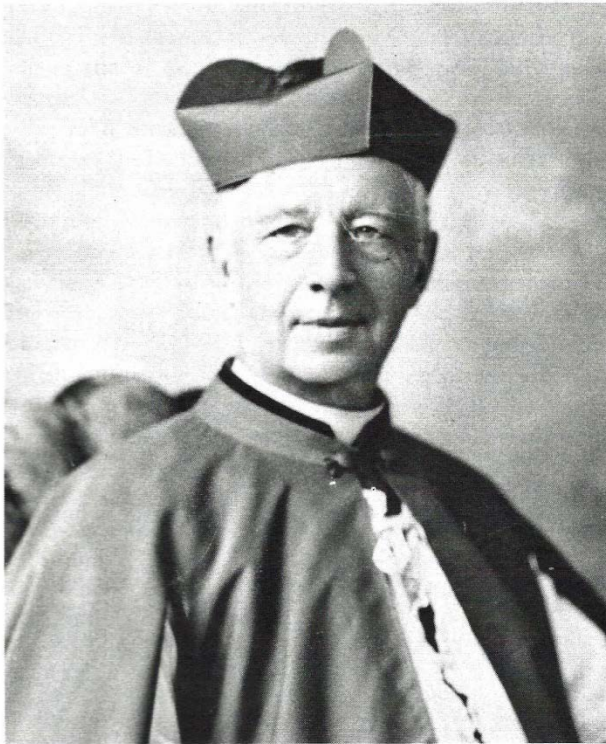
Father Cloarec was responsible for the building of St. Joseph Orphanage, St. Anthony's church at Lakeside and Holy Cross Chapel at Mallets Bay. Father Cloarec had been honored with all the favors that are usually conferred upon a faithful priest, exclusive of the mitre. He was chosen one of the Bishops Consultors on the first board elected in the diocese, July 1886. He has been chosen at every election since, held every three years. He was one of the trustees of the Diocesan Corporation, organized in 1896.

On December 6th, 1899, when Rt. Rev. J. S. Michaud was installed as the Bishop of Burlington, Father Cloarec was appointed Vicar General of the Diocese, which dignity conferred upon him the kind of right to govern the diocese with the Bishop. He had more than once been Administrator of the Diocese, during the absence of the Bishop. The crowning honor however, was conferred upon Father Cloarec when, in 1901, August 22nd, at the request of Bishop Michaud, he was raised to the rank of Domestic Prelate by the Pope and invested with the regalia of that office. This imposing ceremony fittingly took place on the occasion of the Consecration of St. Joseph's Church, since which date he was known more familiarly as “Monsignor Cloarec.”

Monsignor Cloarec - Through the Years



Rev Jérôme Marie Cloarec, pastor of St. Joseph Church-on-the-Hill and the Allen Street 1883 St. Joseph Church, 1871-1920



Monsignor Jérôme Marie Cloarec in robes, August 22, 1901



Monsignor Cloarec in his later years

MONSIGNOR CLOAREC, VENERATED BY ALL, DIES IN HIS 87TH YEAR

Burlington Free Press Wednesday 11 Feb, 1920

After nearly a half century of faithful service with the French people of Burlington, Monsignor Jerome Marie Cloarec, affectionately called "The Grand Old Man" beloved and venerated by Protestants and Catholics alike, died yesterday afternoon at 3:25 o'clock after an illness of only four days, aged 86 years. [This could be no more evident than when a phone call was received in the night for a priest to attend one of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary. Msgr Cloarec took the call to minister to Miss Virginia Francin who was dying. She was one of the long-time members whom Msgr Cloarec had known for many years. Characteristically, he went himself, walking both ways on a February night, a round trip of about two miles. (St Joseph History, page 68)] He was suffering from a cold last Wednesday, but did not feel ill enough to give up his work and officiated at the funeral of Miss Virginia Francin on Friday morning. In the afternoon he grew worse and the cold developed into pneumonia. He was active to the last and only last week went out at midnight to administer the last rites of the church to Peter Girard. In illness as in health, Monsignor Cloarec was faithful to his duties in the church. All through his delirium he was carrying out his work and last Sunday night he was continually talking of the funeral of Mrs. Louis Gosselin, an old parishioner, whose funeral took place on Monday and at which he expected to officiate. His spirit of sacrifice, too, never left him, for it was impossible for either nurse or doctor to get him to allow a drop of water to pass his lips as he wished to remain fasting in order to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

On Monday he seemed to realize that the end was near, for he turned to Father Lacouture, who has been associated with him for many years, and said, "I think that my day has come."

Monsignor Cloarec was one of these rare men who never seem to grow old. Although nearly 87 years old at the time of his death he could read perfectly without glasses and his hearing was unimpaired. His health seemed good and he was in no way feeble. Last Year, when the influenza epidemic raged in the city, Monsignor Cloarec worked day and night administering the last rites to the sick, doing all he could do to make the sick of his parish more comfortable and officiating at funerals, as both Fr. Lacouture and Fr. Billon were ill, but this strenuous work seemed to have no bad effect on him.

In the early years Fr. Cloarec saw to the wants of his large parish all alone as at that time there were no assistants. The list of people he has married during the 49 years he has served here is long and many a bride has come to be married by the priest who married her mother and father. There are too, many babies whom he has baptized who have lived all their years up to young manhood and womanhood and who have always been under his influence. To them he was a part of their lives. On many occasions the people of the diocese of Burlington have come together to show their love and respect for this grand old man. In 1908 on June 29th and 30th, the members of St. Joseph parish tendered him a reception in honor of the Golden Jubilee of his priestly ordination. In this reception many of the prominent people of Burlington took part. This ceremony was remarkable for the spirit of exultant gladness that filled the hearts of all.

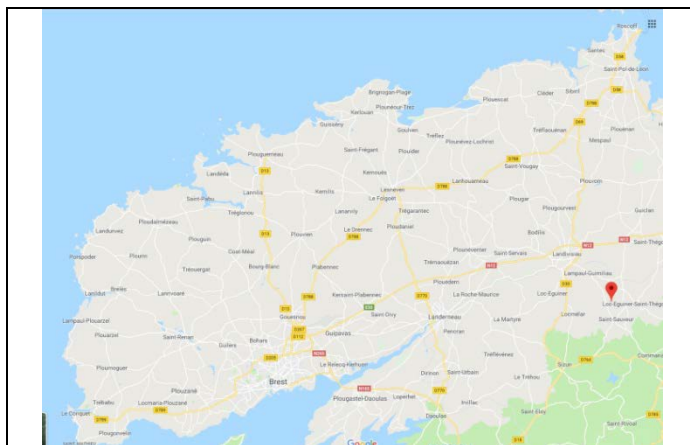


Five years later on June 17, 1913 Fr. Cloarec fittingly celebrated his 80th birthday and the day following, as if to prove that his years had little effect on his great constitution, left for Europe. He was absent about three months, having visited the scenes of his youth in Brittany and the Eternal City. On his return he was greeted with joyous acclamations by his parishioners and friends.

In 1918 was celebrated his Diamond Jubilee, the 60th Anniversary of his ordination, and in that he took an active part in all the festivities of the two day July 3 and 4, celebrating the high mass and responding with enthusiasm to the address given in his honor. The little children of the diocese of Burlington looked to him with all the devotion of their young lives, and they were allowed to observe his birthday by having the schools close on that day, the 17th of June.

To all of his friends and the people of the parish the death of Fr. Cloarec comes as a great shock. There is little that can be said that can express the true feeling of the community and the church in this great loss that has just been suffered, but to quote an article in St. Mary's monthly of a few years ago referring to the late Father Cloarec: "His praises are measured by the heartbeats of all who have come under his kindly eternal influence. His noblest monuments are temples, neither of stone nor of wood, but living temples of flesh and blood reared by him according to the eternal principles of truth and righteousness."

FATHER CLOAREC'S LIFE



Jerome Marie Cloarec was born June 17, 1833, at St. Sauveur, Brittany (France) [the son of Francois Cloarec and Marie Guegion (VT Vitals)]. In 1855 he came to America, spent three years at St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Md, preparing himself for the Holy Priesthood. He was ordained in the old St Mary's Church in this city by the late Bishop DeGoesbriand on July 4 1858. The venerable Archbishop of Baltimore, his Eminence Cardinal Gibbons, was one of his fellow seminarians at the seminary. The Rev. Father Cloarec was first appointed at Bennington, where he remained for two years until 1861 when he was called to Burlington to become rector of the Cathedral. During eight years he labored zealously to develop St. Mary's parish. Bishop DeGoesbriand then gave Father Cloarec charge of the French-Canadian parish of Rutland. But he was not to remain long in the "Marble City." The rapidly increasing parish of St. Joseph demanded the attention of a zealous and able pastor and the Rt. Rev.

Bishop, like the Egyptian King of old, thought none was better fitted than the Rev. Jerome M. Cloarec to direct the destinies of the parish which was to become the largest of the state. The appointment was made August 1, 1871.

It soon became evident that the old St. Joseph's Church, located on the hill where St. Joseph's Academy now stands, was much too small for the congregation. The site of the present church was secured and the cornerstone of the new edifice laid on July 4, 1884. The work progressed rapidly, and the present St. Joseph Church, the largest in the diocese of Burlington, was solemnly blessed by Archbishop Fabre of Montreal, June 24, 1887.

The privilege of having a church consecrated is one which not many churches enjoy; and only very few parishes in Vermont, outside the city of Burlington, can boast of the honor. St. Joseph's Church, free from debt and enriched by a beautiful marble altar, was solemnly consecrated by the Rt. Rev. J. S. Michaud, August 22 1901, assisted by the Rt. Rev. M. Decelles, bishop of St. Hyacinth, and the Rt. Rev. H. Gabriels, Bishop of Ogdensburg, N. Y. Monsignor Cloarec also built St. Anthony's Church on Park Avenue, the Holy Cross Chapel at Malletts Bay and the present rectory at St. Joseph's besides the schools and convent.

Father Cloarec had been honored with all the favors that are usually conferred upon a faithful priest, exclusive of the mitre. He was chosen as one of the Bishop's consultants on the first board elected in the diocese, July, 1886. He has been chosen since at every triennial election. He is one of the trustees of the diocesan corporation, organized in 1896. On December 6, 1899, when Rt. Rev. J. S. Michaud was installed as bishop of Burlington, Father Cloarec was appointed as Vicar general of the diocese, thus taking a greater part in its administration. He had been more than once administrator of the diocese, during the absence of the bishop and during the vacancy of the See. The crowning honor however, was conferred upon Father Cloarec when in 1901, August 22, at the request of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Michaud, he was raised to the rank of Domestic Prelate by the Pope and invested with the insignia of that office. The imposing ceremony very appropriately took place on the occasion of the consecration of St. Joseph Church, since which date he had been known more familiarly as "Monsignor Cloarec."

The funeral will be held Friday morning at ten o'clock at St. Joseph Church. This will be preceded by the office for the dead at 9:30 o'clock by the priests of the diocese, and the funeral will be celebrated by the Rt. Rev. Bishop J. J. Rice.

MONSIGNOR CLOAREC'S LAST RESTING PLACE

Body Will be Placed Under Altar in St. Joseph's Chapel

Will Lie in State at Church Until

Hour of Funeral Tomorrow Morning

Burlington Free Press 12 Feb, 1920

The body of Monsignor Jerome M. Cloarec was taken yesterday afternoon at three o'clock from the parish house on Elmwood avenue to St. Joseph's Church, where it will lie in state until ten o'clock Friday morning, when the funeral will be held. Attending the body were the pupils of St. Joseph School, the Nazareth school, the girls from Mount St. Mary's Academy, pupils of the Cathedral school, the Cathedral high school and St. Joseph's Orphanage, and they more than filled the church. The chancel choir sang and the Rev. E. Pariseau of Underhill presided at the ceremony of translation of the remains from the house to the church. Then vespers for the dead were read, the Very Rev. J. S. Gillis of St. Mary's Cathedral presiding. The ceremony closed with the marching of all the children past the body. The pall bearers were Fred Beaupre, Clement Beaupre, George J. Gratton, P. E. Crady, A. N. Lucia, Frank Robillard, Napoleon Thomas and Jules Simays.

This morning at 9:30 o'clock there will be a mass for the children of all the schools. The office for the dead, which was announced to take place at 9:30 this morning, will be held at 7:30 o'clock this evening in St. Joseph's Church, and all priests and the general public are cordially invited to attend.

At the request of the men of St. Joseph's Church the body of Monsignor Cloarec will be placed beneath the altar in St. Joseph's Chapel, permission having been granted by Bishop Rice. The committee which called on the Bishop consisted of J. Henry Lavigne, George J. Gratton and P. E. Crady. Although it was not customary, the bishop stated, to bury deceased clergy in the church, an exception would be made in the case of Monsignor Cloarec, owing to the life-long service he had rendered the church and the love and respect in which was held by all. The body will be placed directly beneath and in front of the main altar in the chapel of St. Joseph's Church. Men were at work yesterday afternoon making ready for the cement and stone vault to be placed there. They worked all night long and will work as much today as necessary to complete the preparations.

Bishop J. J. Rice will officiate at the funeral services, which will be held in the church at ten o'clock. The Rev. Joseph Turcot of Winooski will preach. The societies of St. Joseph's parish will attend in a body. The Ladies of St. Anne and St. Jean Baptiste societies and the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin will meet at 9:15 o'clock in the parish hall; the men forming the different societies will meet in their halls at 8:45; and then proceed to St. John's Hall on Elmwood avenue and at nine o'clock march in a body to the church where seats will be reserved for them. Yesterday the Rev. J. A. Lacouture received a telegram

from the Most Eminent Cardinal Gibbons regarding the death of Monsignor Cloarec. The telegram read as follows:

“Baltimore, Feb. 11, 1920.

“Father Lacouture:

“Deeply grieved at the loss of my old fellow-student.

“CARDINAL GIBBONS”

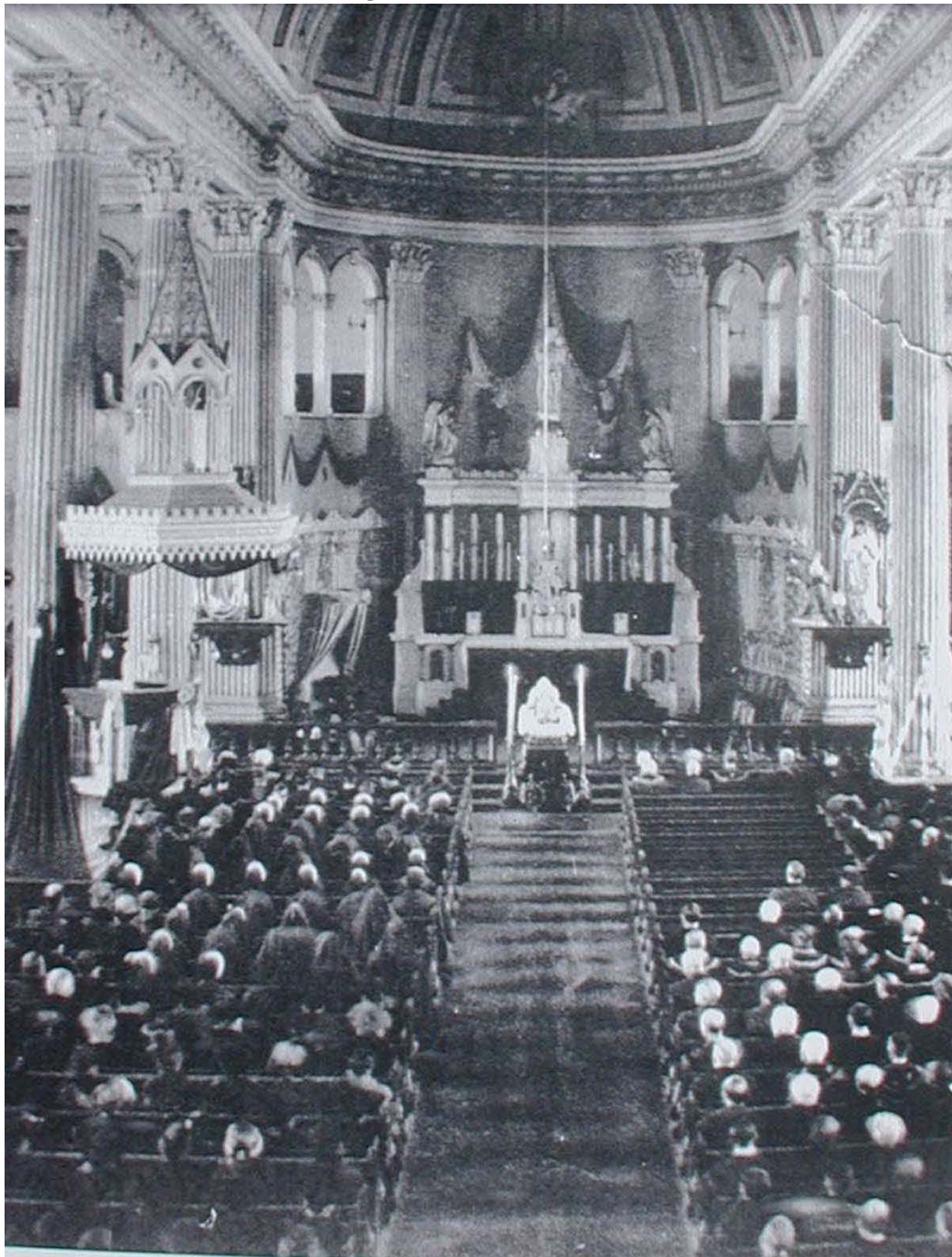
NOTE: From 1871 to 1920, Father Cloarec celebrated 2,315 marriages at St Joseph Church.

While publishing 62 books of marriages and baptisms in the Diocese of Burlington, I noticed that there are usually about 5 to 6 times as many baptisms. So Father Cloarec may have performed 11,575 or up to 13,890 baptisms at St. Joseph Church. J.R.F.

THOUSANDS SEE DEAD PRIEST'S FACE

**St. Joseph's Church Filled During the Day and Last Evening
at Service Preliminary to Funeral This Morning of
Monsignor Jerome M. Cloarec**

Burlington Free Press 13 Feb, 1920



There was not even standing room at St. Joseph's Church last evening when the service of the office of the dead, Matins and Lauds, was held in honor of Monsignor Jerome M. Cloarec. The Rev. Joseph Turcot of St. Francis Xavier Church, Winooski, had charge of the service and the following priests were present: The Very Rev. J. F. Gillis and the Rev. T. J. Liddy of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, the Rev. W. A. Plamandon of St Anthony's Church, the Rev. Edmund Marion of South Hero, the Rev. Fr. Alliot of St. Michael's College, the Rev. F. E. Welch of Orwell, the Rev. E. Pariseau of Underhill and the Rev. J. A. Lacouture and the Rev. J. M. Billon of St. Joseph Church. The body of Monsignor Cloarec is facing the congregation and as he is almost in a sitting position he seems to be participating in the offices of the church.

After the service and all day yesterday and all night last night people came in to view the body and to pray. Children of the different schools also came in sections during the day. There has not been a day since Monsignor Cloarec's body was taken to the church that it has been at least half filled with praying people. Then delegations from the different societies have acted as watchers in relays during the night and day. Among those who came to the church yesterday were Mayor J. Holmes Jackson and City Treasurer L. C. Grant.

Over two thousand school children from the Catholic schools of the city literally filled the church to overflowing at the funeral high mass at 9:30 o'clock yesterday morning. The Rev. E. Pariseau of Underhill officiated, assisted by the Rev. T. J. Liddy of the Cathedral as deacon and the Rev. F. E. Welch of Orwell as sub-deacon. The Very Rev. J. S. Gillis, V. G. was the Master of Ceremonies, and in the sanctuary were the Rev. J. H. Thomas, and the Rev. J. A. Lacouture and the Rev. J. M. Billon. The singing of the chancel choir under the direction of E. J. Beaupre was beautiful.

Bishop J. J. Rice will conduct the funeral services this morning at ten o'clock. Sections in the church have been reserved for the various religious orders and societies and for those who have been particularly invited.

The work of making the excavation in front of the altar in the chapel where Monsignor Cloarec's body will be placed was finished last evening. It was found in the work of digging in the ground beneath the church, for it was necessary to go down some 10 or 12 feet to lay the foundations for the vault to rest on, that the sand was of the most remarkable dryness. The vault is of brick. Yesterday morning the following letter was received from the Bishop of Ogdensburg:

"Bishops House, Ogdensburg, N. Y. Feb. 11, 1920.

Rev. Dear Father:

"I sympathize with the Diocese of Burlington for the decease of the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Cloarec who was my friend for half a century. I regret not to be able to attend the funeral.

(signed) "H. GABRIELS" Bishop of Ogdensburg

Some of the priests who came last evening did not arrive in time for the office of the dead, but they will be present at the funeral this morning. It is expected that there will be between 50 and 60 of the clergy present. The Ladies of St. Anne's Society will serve lunch to them in St. Joseph's Hall.

LAST TRIBUTE PAID TO BELOVED PRIEST

People From All Ranks in Life Crowd St. Joseph Church at Funeral Service of Monsignor Jerome M. Cloarec

Sermon by Father Turcot

Burlington Free Press 14 Feb, 1920

Hundreds of people, Catholic and Protestant alike, crowded St. Joseph Church to the very doors yesterday morning to do homage to the man who for more than a half century had devoted his life to their happiness and welfare --- Monsignor Jerome Marie Cloarec. Long before the service they began to arrive and when the service started every seat was taken and long rows of people stood in the aisles almost to the sanctuary and at the back there was hardly standing room. Then others sat in the balconies. The church was draped in the mourning colors, black and purple, the altar and pulpit being in black and the posts in purple, while purple streamers hung from the choir loft. These decorations will remain in the church for thirty days. The requiem mass was most impressive, the Rt. Rev. J. J. Rice, bishop of Burlington, celebrated and a large number of the clergy took part. The Rev. W. H. Cassidy of St. Mary's Cathedral was the master of ceremonies; the Very Rev. J. S. Gillis, V. G. of St. Mary's Cathedral was the assisting priest and the deacons of honor were the Rev. C. E. Provost of Bennington and the Rev. J. D. Shannon of Bellows Falls. The deacons of the mass were the Rev. Julian Racette of Plattsburg, N.Y. and the Rev. T. F. Leonard of Middlebury. The thurifer [incense] was the Rev. Norbert J. LaChance of Alburg. The Rev. F. A. Welch of Orwell was the assistant master of ceremonies and the acolytes were the Rev. P. E. Boivin of Hyde Park and the Rev. W. P. Crosby of Proctor.

Under the direction of E. J. Beaupre the music was beautiful, the organ, choir and chancel choir seeming to pour forth their music in a supreme effort to show the devotion of the people for their priest.

Following the program:

Introit, "Requiem Aeternam." Gregorian Harmonized, Dr. G. O. Coutu and chorus

"Kyrie Eleison." , Gregorian Harmonized, F. H. Beaupre and chorus

Graduale, "Requiem Aeterna," Gregorian;

Tract, "Absolve Domine," Gregorian, Dr. G. O. Coutu and male choir

Sequence, "Dies Irae," Vatican Chant, male choir and chancel boy choir

Offertory, "Domine Jesu Christi," Vatican chant, Arthur Dorey and the chancel boy choir

Sanctus and Benedictus, Gregorian Harmonized, N. J. St. Pierre and chorus

"Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi," Gregorian Harmonized

"Tutti," chorus

Communion, "Lux Aeterna," Vatican chant Urban H. Beaupre and chancel boy choir

"Veni Jesu," quartette, E. J. Beaupre, Mrs. Elizabeth Pine, Mrs. Jules Simays and Arthur Dorey

"Libera me, domine," Gregorian Harmonized, N. J. St. Pierre and chorus

“In Paradisum,” Vatican chant, chancel choir;
“Ego sum,” Vatican chant, male choir

THE SERMON

The Rev. Fr. Joseph Turcot, P. R. of Winooski, preached the sermon in French and when he finished there was not a dry eye in the church. He took as his text the seventh verse of the fourth chapter of the Second Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, as to the rest there is laid up for me a crown of justice which the Lord, the just judge, will render to me in that day” Tracing the life of Monsignor Cloarec from the time of his arrival in this country about 65 years ago, “A stranger in a strange land,” the preacher outlined the life of the priest so closely identified with the growth of the Catholic Church in Vermont. He told of the leading events in the life of the deceased, his arrival in Burlington, a young priest, in all the fervor of his ordination and with the burning zeal of a missionary. “As the Jews of old were given the prophets to be their guides, and watchful sentinels to ward off danger so is a Catholic priest a prophet in the midst of his people.”, said Father Turcot.

He told how Monsignor Cloarec spent his whole life in teaching from the pulpit, the truth which he believed. “He was the model for morality” the speaker said, “ministering to the people the sacraments, consoling them in time of sickness and trial.” It was here that many of the audience showed that they were deeply affected, as they were reminded of all that the dead priest had done for them.

He dwelt on the various activities which shall endure as a lasting monument to the memory of the beloved prelate and concluded by showing Monsignor Cloarec a model priest as a representative of God: urging the parishioners of St. Joseph’s not to forget in death the man who spent his life for their spiritual welfare. He said that the tribute of gratitude which they owe him should be paid by fervent prayer for the repose of his soul. His conclusion was most touching as he turned toward the body of the priest, bidding him farewell forever, a farewell from the clergy and the people.

The body of Monsignor Cloarec will rest in the shadow of the altar to which he so often offered the sacrifice of the mass, in the beautiful church, consecrated by him to the glory of the almighty, the most fitting mausoleum which could be erected over his remains.

MANY OF THE CLERGY PRESENT

Among those who attended the service were: Mayor J. Holmes Jackson, members of the board of alderman, representatives of the police and fire departments: F. E. Kimball, John P. Murphy, M. J. Barnes, Gardener Brewer, W. O. Lane and John Hallihan, school commissioners and Superintendent of Schools, M. D. Chittenden, and other city officials, C. P. Smith, Dr. John B. Wheeler, George M. Besett and many others. Among the priests were the Reverends P. E. Boivin of Hyde Park, E. Marion of South Hero, T. M. Kennedy of Ludlow, C. L. Pontbriand of Lyndonville, R. Devoy of Waterbury, J. J. Cullion of West Rutland, C. C. Delaney of White River Junction, J. A. Campeau of Windsor, E. G. Howard of Woodstock, V. Nicholle of Swanton, L. A. Vezina of Vergennes, A. C. Griffin of Wallingford,

N. J. LaChance of Alburg, P. M. Mackenna of Barre, J. D. Shannon of Bellows Falls, T. J. Leonard of Middlebury, J. A. Cote of Montgomery, P. J. Long of Montpelier, T. J. Burke of North Bennington, J. A. Lynch of Northfield, F. A. Welch of Orwell, W. B. McMahon of Pittsford, M. S. O'Donnell of Poultney, W. P. Crosby of Proctor, A. P. Clermont of Richmond, J. M. Brown P. R. of Rutland, J. J. Boyle P. R. of St. Albans, L. Desrochers of St. Albans, J. W. Dwyer and E. C. Drouin P. R. of St. Johnsbury, C. A. Dame of Sheldon Springs, T. A. Carty P. R. and C. E. Provost of Bennington, E. F. Gray of Brandon, P. J. Rand of Brattleboro, J. J. O'Brien of Castleton, G. E. Lecuyer of Enosburg Falls, J. P. Pouliot of Essex Junction, T. C. McMahon of Fairfield, Napoleon LaChance of Graniteville and Father Regan of Hardwick.

SOCIETIES REPRESENTED

The societies which were present in a body were the DeGoesbriand Council, Knights of Columbus, St. Anne's Society of St. Mary's Cathedral; DeGoesbriand Council, L'Union St. Jean Baptiste d'Amerique, St. John Baptist Society, St. Joseph's Society, St. Joseph's Court of Foresters, St. Aloysius Society, congregations of the children of St. Mary's and St. Joseph's parish, Ladies of the Union St. John the Baptist, Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of Providence, Sisters of Nazareth and Sisters of Hotel Dieu.

The ushers were Jules Simays, Edward Bernard, Napoleon Thomas, Alfred Menier and Louis Menier. The decorations were in charge of Fred Bernard, Napoleon Thomas, Leon Gelineau, and Archie Ladue. The bearers were Clement Beaupre, Frederick Beaupre, Alexander Lucia, Alphonse Duhamel, Onisine Gagne and P. E. Crady.

After the sermon the casket of the late prelate was closed, escorted down the aisle with fitting ceremonies and taken to the chapel, where it rests beneath the altar. The vault will not be closed at once and the casket rests within a steel casket. The Very Rev. J. S. Gillis officiated at the entombment.

The undertaker was Arsene Boucher, assisted by Frederick Boucher. The vault, in which the body of the priest lies buried beneath the altar, is the construction of John L. Bergeron & Son.

\$10,000 BEQUEST TO PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

Educational Institutions of St. Joseph's Parish remembered in Will of the Late Msgr. Jerome M. Cloarec Allowed in Probate Court

By the Will of Monsignor Jerome M. Cloarec, late in this city, which was allowed in Probate Court Monday, the parochial schools of St. Joseph's parish receive \$10,000 for perpetual maintenance, or for any unseen cause or reason, these schools are closed, or discontinued, then this \$10,000 goes to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington to maintain parochial schools in other parishes of the Diocese.

Other bequests in the Will are as follows: St. Joseph Orphan Asylum of Burlington, \$1,000, Fanny Allen Hospital \$1,000, masses for the soul of Father Cloarec, and the souls of his deceased parents and relatives, \$1,000, to Alfred Bernard, present sexton of St. Joseph's, \$100, to Louis Gagnon, sexton and grave digger of Mt. Calvary Cemetery, \$100, to the housekeeper of Father Cloarec, Georgiana King, \$100, for masses to be celebrated for my intention, \$500. The residue of his personal property in the United States of America he gives to the poor of St. Joseph's Parish. His library goes to St. Michael's College, his silver spoons, forks, etc, which bear the family initials or full name, to his nephew, Louis Cloarec, who is a curate of a parish in France.

Joseph F. Gillis of Burlington was appointed executor of this Will, with Norbert Proulx and J. A. Lacouture, also of Burlington, commissioners and appraisers of the estate.

Burlington Free Press 19 Jun, 1920

The Rev. J. A. Lacouture will leave New York this morning on the "Patria" for Naples, Italy. He will visit Rome and other places in Italy and then go to France. While in France he will call on the relatives of the late Monsignor Jerome M. Cloarec in Brittany.

Burlington Free Press 3 Feb, 1920

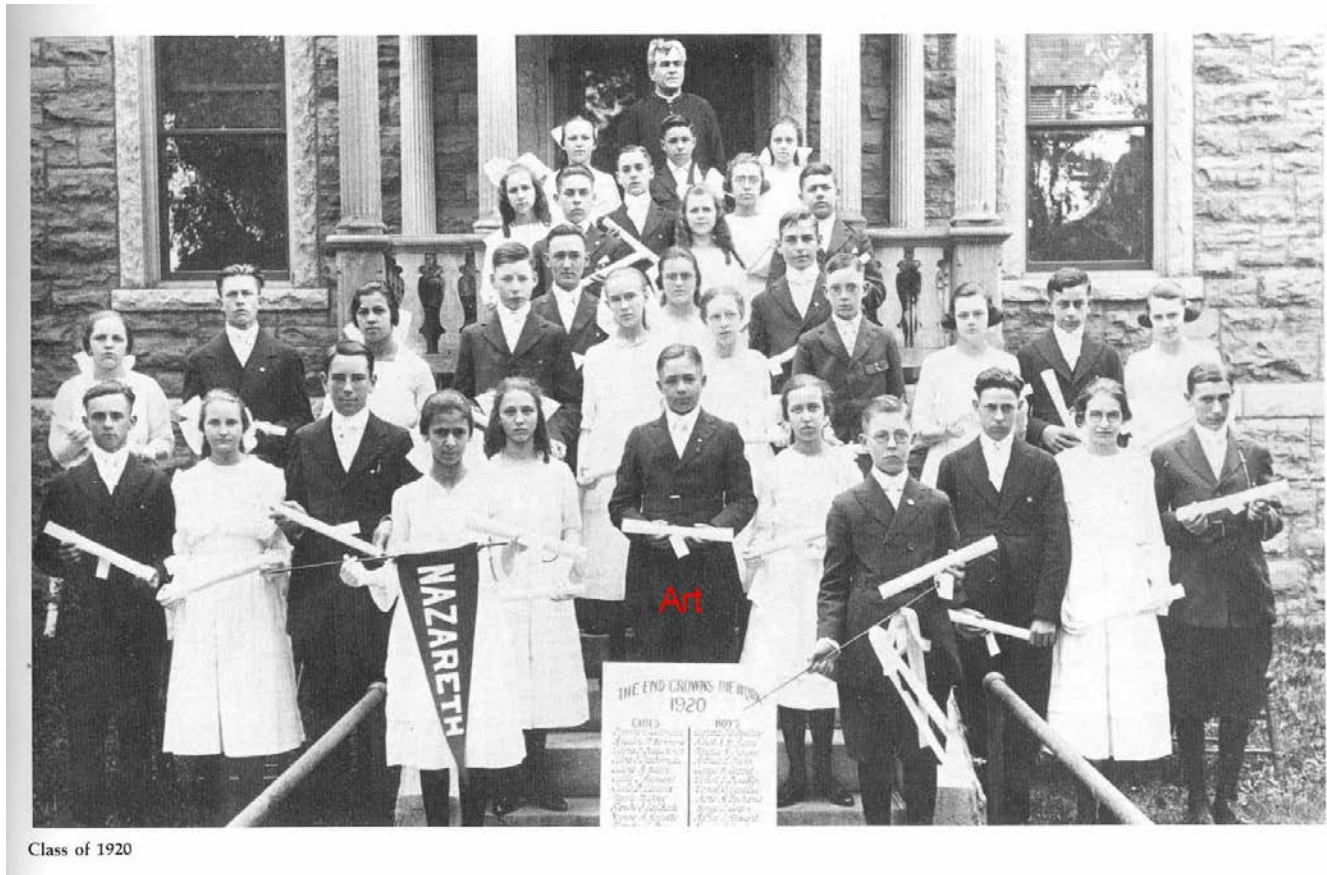
The funeral of Rita, the nine months old daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Victor Poissant was held at St. Joseph's church at two o'clock yesterday afternoon, Monsignor Jerome M. Cloarec officiating. Burial was in Mt. Calvary cemetery.

NOTE: This occurred just 8 days before the death of Msgr Cloarec. Victor was my great uncle and he was the Burlington Chief of Police until 1957. He and his wife Anna Labombard had another Rita later on.

Poissant – Fisher

In 1920 my dad, Arthur Joseph Poissant (who changed his name to Fisher about 1937) was 13 years old and in the 8th grade at Nazareth Elementary school on Allen Street, just across from St. Joseph church. He therefore was one of the 2000 students who were at the funeral, and being in

the highest grade, he maybe participated in the mass. My dad died in 1951 when I was 12 years old.



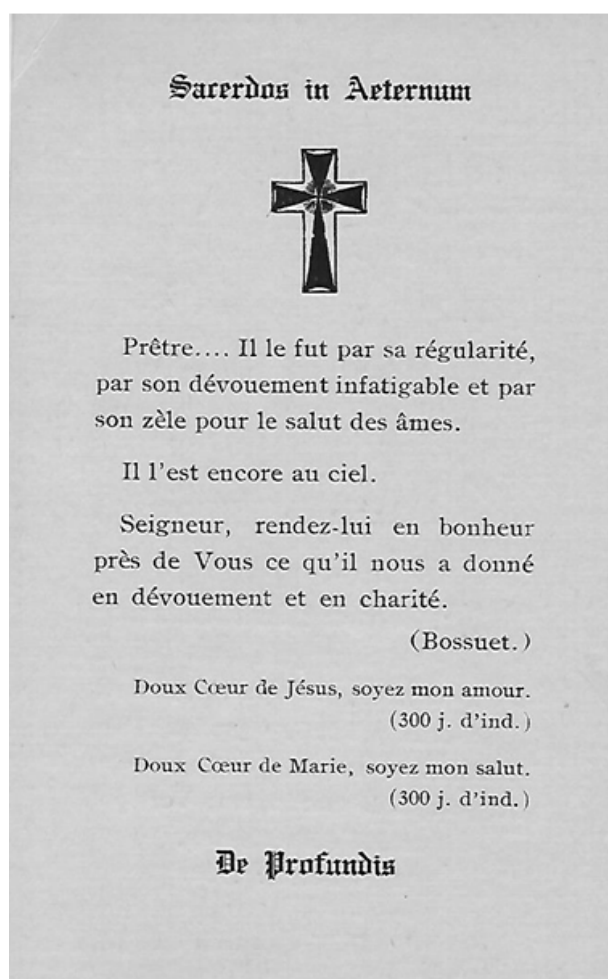
Arthur J. Poissant / Fisher – In center behind the sign

My grandfather, Joseph Arthur Poissant, was born in 1881 in North Adams, MA and moved to Burlington. He was about 39 years old at the time of Father Cloarec's death. He was a precepteur for the St. John Baptist Society and also was in the Catholic Order of Foresters. Both of these groups, and many others, met and formed up at St. John's Hall on Elmwood Avenue and marched over to the church for the funeral. He surely was also there. I knew him well. He died in 1960 when I was in the US Navy. Oh how I wish he would have spoken about Monsignor Cloarec!

Father Cloarec was naturalized on 29 Feb 1868 in Burlington, VT.



This card above was probably signed by Monsignor Cloarec in 1915





C'est une sainte et salutaire pensée de
prier pour les morts, afin qu'ils soient
délivrés de leurs péchés.—II MAC 12-46.

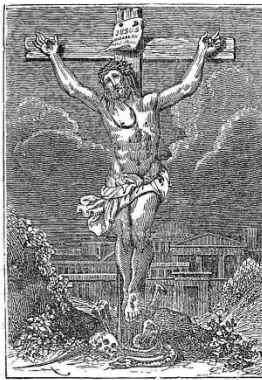
CALVARY CEMETERY.

This is to Certify--That Joseph Carter
Is hereby licensed and authorized to exercise the right of burial in
that certain lot known as No. 1 Row 17 in Calvary
Cemetery.

PROVIDED, that nothing herein contained shall be construed
to grant any other right or privileges whatever than the right of
burial therein, and, provided further, that the said right shall not
extend to the burial of any deceased person who shall have departed
this life not in communion with the Catholic Church.

Dated at Burlington, Vt., 4th day of December 1890

Received payment, Jerome M. Clowee



C'est une sainte et salutaire pensée de
prier pour les morts, afin qu'ils soient
délivrés de leurs péchés.—II MAC 12-46.

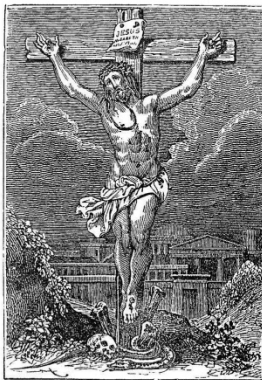
8370 - 838. CALVARY CEMETERY.

This is to Certify--That Mrs. Felicia Young
Is hereby licensed and authorized to exercise the right of burial in
that certain lot known as No. 351 & 352 Row _____ in Calvary
Cemetery.

PROVIDED, that nothing herein contained shall be construed
to grant any other right or privileges whatever than the right of
burial therein, and, provided further, that the said right shall not
extend to the burial of any deceased person who shall have departed
this life not in communion with the Catholic Church.

Dated at Burlington, Vt., the 25th day of April 1890

Received payment, Jerome M. Clowee



C'est une sainte et salutaire pensée de
prier pour les morts, afin qu'ils soient
délivrés de leurs péchés.—II MAC 12-46.

CALVARY CEMETERY.

This is to Certify--That Mrs. Felicia Young
Is hereby licensed and authorized to exercise the right of burial in
that certain lot known as No. 351 & 352 Row _____ in Calvary
Cemetery.

PROVIDED, that nothing herein contained shall be construed
to grant any other right or privileges whatever than the right of
burial therein, and, provided further, that the said right shall not
extend to the burial of any deceased person who shall have departed
this life not in communion with the Catholic Church.

Dated at Burlington, Vt., the 5th day of April 1890

Received payment, Jerome M. Clowee

Monsignor Jerome Marie Cloarec



Mgr Jerome Marie Cloarec
Prelat
Domestique

Monsignor Jerome Marie Cloarec
Domestic Prelate

What is a Domestic Prelate?

An honorary distinction conferred by the Holy See upon clergy, entitling them to some of the privileges of a bishop.

Most domestic prelates are named directly because of merit or because of their position in authority (e.g., most are vicars-general).

Sculptor: Sherry Fry

Dimensions: 7 feet high & 3 feet wide

Born in Brittany 1833. Ordained Priest
At Burlington 1858. Pastor of St Joseph Church
From 1871 until his death on 10 Feb 1920
Erected in 1922 by his Parishioners

Ne en Bretagne 1833 Ordonne Pretre
A Burlington 1858 Cure de L'Eglise St Joseph
De 1871 jusqu'a sa mort le 10 fevrier 1920
Erige 1922 par ses paroissiens

Burlington Free Press - 4 March 1922

Erected in St. Joseph's church and to be unveiled tomorrow afternoon

The erection was completed yesterday afternoon of the tablet in memory of the late Monsignor Jerome M. Cloarec. The tablet has been placed on the west side of St. Joseph's church, between the first and second windows. It will be unveiled by the Rev. Norbert Proulx at the dedication service, which will be held Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, follow the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament which starts at 2:30. Immediately after the unveiling, the choir will render the Libera and a sermon will be delivered by the Rev. E. M. Salmon of St. Michael's college. At the end of the ceremony, all wishing closer view of the tablet will be given an opportunity to view the same. All those interested are invited to the ceremony, which will be held at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

Burlington Free Press - 5 March 1922

Tablet Unveiled in Memory of Pastor

**Parishioners at St. Joseph's Church pay tribute to late Monsignor Jerome M. Cloarec
Eulogy by the Rev. E. M. Salmon**

The unveiling and dedication of the tablet to the memory of the late Monsignor Jerome M. Cloarec occurred yesterday afternoon at St. Joseph's church before a large congregation of the parishioners and friends of the late pastor. The ceremony took place at 3 o'clock, following the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The tablet, which was placed on the west side of the church, was unveiled by the Rev. Norbert Proulx, assisted by four altar boys. Immediately after the dedication service, St Joseph's choir rendered the Libera, assisted by the boys choir which was in attendance in the chancel.

The Rev. E. M. Salmon of St. Michael's college delivered the sermon and gave a eulogy of Monsignor Cloarec. He told of his affection of St. Joseph's parish and how his parishioners joys were his joys, and their sorrows, his sorrows. He enumerated the works of the Monsignor in the parish, such as the erection of Mount Calvary cemetery, the schools of the parish, St. Joseph's church and the rectory, the church being consecrated in 1903, free of debt. Father Salmon drew from the teachings and works of the late pastor a lesson that can be expressed in the word "Loyalty". Loyalty to the church, to the family traditions and to the parochial schools, where where the moral education and sound, secular instructions are the building of good citizenship for future generations.

The tablet dedicated yesterday to the memory of the late pastor of St. Joseph's church is the work of Sherry Fry of New York and was pronounced by many to be a good likeness of Monsignor Cloarec. It is a national size figure, with the base seven by three feet in size. The money for the tablet was raised in April, 1920, among the parishioners and friends, by the following committee: The Rev. Norbert Proulx, P. E. Crady, George Gratton, F. H. Robillard, Eugene Chausse, Henry Lavigne, Arsene Boucher and A. H. Duhamel.

FATHER CLOAREC'S LONG AND USEFUL LIFE

Monsignor Jerome Marie Cloarec was born June 17, 1833, at St. Sauveur, Brittany, France. In 1855 he came to America, spent three years at St. Mary's seminary, Baltimore, MD., preparing for the holy priesthood. He was ordained in the old St. Mary's Church in this city by the late Bishop De Goesbriand on July 4, 1858. The Rev. Father Cloarec was given Bennington as his first parish, where he remained for two years. He was called to Burlington in 1861 to become rector of the Cathedral. For eight years he labored zealously to develop St. Mary's parish and was later transferred to Rutland to take charge of the French-Canadian parish. He was made pastor of old St. Joseph's Church in this city on August 7, 1871. Father Cloarec was appointed Vicar General of the Diocese in 1899, when the Rt. Rev. J. S. Michaud was installed as Bishop of Burlington. His crowning honor was conferred in 1901, when he was raised to the rank of domestic prelate by the Pope and invested with the insignia of that office. The imposing ceremony took place on the consecration of St. Joseph's Church in 1903 after which date he was more familiarly known as Monsignor Cloarec. He died Tuesday afternoon, February 10, 1920.

Sherry Edmundson Fry (September 29, 1879 – June 9, 1966) He was an American sculptor, born in Creston, Iowa. After completing high school, he enrolled at the Art Institute of Chicago, where he studied sculpture with Lorado Taft. He then moved to Paris, where he attended the Académie Julian and the École des Beaux-Arts, and worked with Frederick MacMonnies, who had been a student of the famous 19th-century American sculptor, Augustus Saint-Gaudens. He also created a statue of Ira Allen at the University of Vermont in Burlington.

The 2001 Renovation of the Church by Father Steven Hornat



In 2001 the tablet was removed from its original position and was cleaned by Steve Richer, Raymond Nichols, Donald Lacroix and Fred Dusablon. It was then reinstalled on the left side of the church, to the right of the existing entryway where there was originally an altar, which had been removed in a previous renovation.

Richer

