



Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall

This Week in History

February 16, 2015

Mass Stipends in 1916

In January 1916, the parish priests of the Diocese voiced their displeasure with the inconsistent stipend for serving mass.

On February 16, 1916, Bishop William A. Macdonell, the Diocese's second bishop, penned a letter to his priests. Below is a copy of that letter. Bishop Macdonell stated that he hoped that funerals, marriages and masses of immediate need would remain the duty of the priest to his flock and that these masses should not be charged for.

Dear Rev. Fathers,

As you are aware, the stipend for mass is not uniform throughout the diocese. In some parishes it is one dollar, in others, less than a dollar. I have therefore decided to equalize it; and I now fix it at one dollar for every parish in the diocese. In doing so, I believe, I am re-establishing the rate fixed when the first diocese in Upper Canada was formed. Tradition at least, says, that stipend was originally one dollar...

The letter is signed:

Believe me Yours faithfully in Christ
William A. Macdonell
Bisp. Of Alexandria



MOST REV. WILLIAM A. MACDONELL
Second Bishop — 1906-1920

