

# PEOPLE OF GOD IN NORTHERN NEW YORK

AMDG

Sister Mary Christine Taylor, S.S.J. May 26, 2010

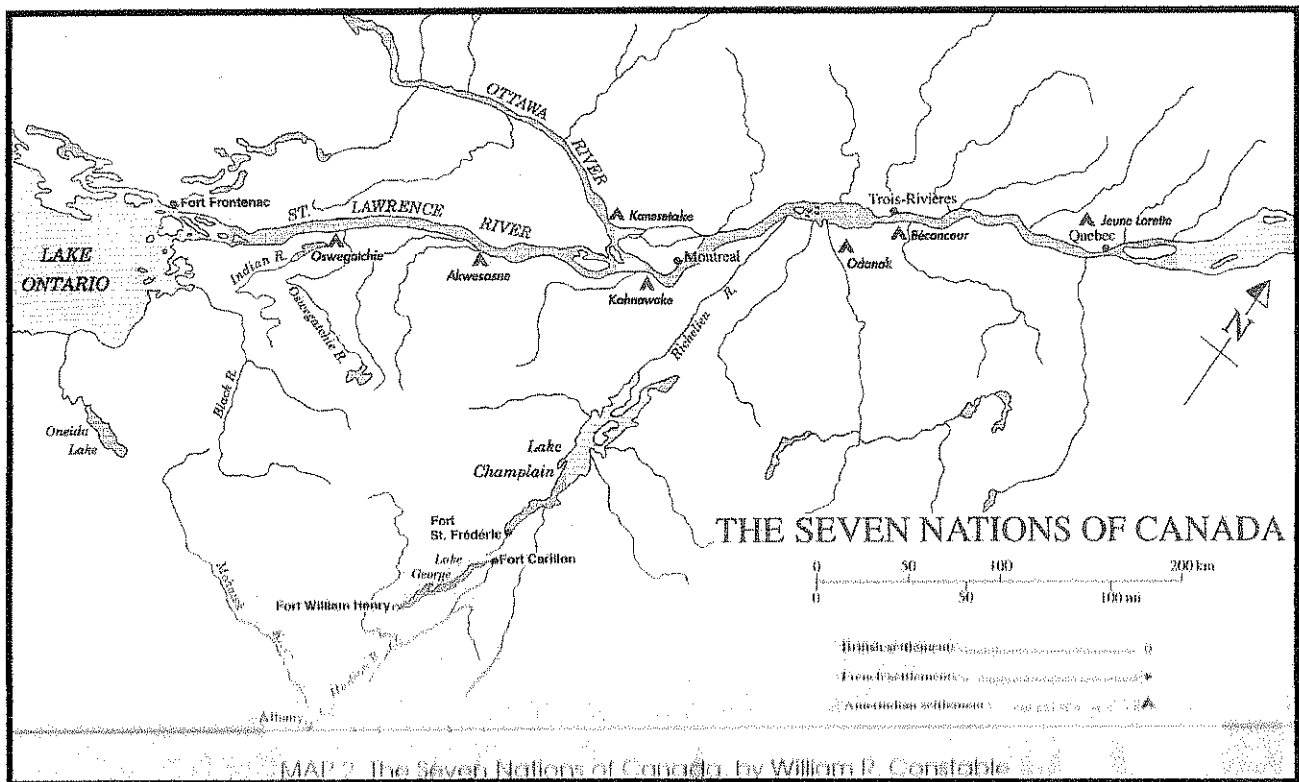
JMJ

“The universal Church is seen to be a People brought into unity from the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” Vatican II. *Lumen Gentium*. 1:4.

## CRADLES OF CATHOLICISM ST. LAWRENCE, CHAMPLAIN, AND BLACK RIVER VALLEYS

### I. THE NATIVE PEOPLES:

- A. Iroquois - Oneidas, Onondagas, and Mohawks (*Kanien' kehaka*) – Catholic Missions of *Kanesetake, Kahnawake, Oswegatchie, Akwesasne*
- B. Abenaki, Huron, Nipissings, Algonquins



### II. THE FRENCH

A. NEW FRANCE – As defined by Pierre Biard, S.J. in 1611 -Territory from 41<sup>st</sup> to 52<sup>nd</sup> degrees latitude, but by Rev. Francesco Bressani, S.J. in 1653, 36<sup>th</sup> to 52<sup>nd</sup> degrees (JR II,67)

#### 1. Explorers:

- Jacques Cartier –July 24, 1534 *la Pointe de Gaspé* – Hochelaga (*Montréal*);
- Samuel de Champlain-“Father of New France” – 1603 Tadoussac; 1608 *Québec*

*Memoirs* “The salvation of a single soul is worth more than the conquest of an empire . . . kings should seek to extend their domain in heathen countries only to subject them to Christ.”

2. **Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction** of People of God in St. Lawrence and Champlain Valleys,
  - Sacred Congregation *de Propaganda Fide*
  - The Archbishop of *Rouen*, France named Vicars General
  - The Vicar Apostolic of London to include English colonies in America in 1763
  - The Cardinal-Protector of England from 1757 until 1789
  - 1771- Rome requested Mgr. Jean-Olivier Briand of *Québec* to administer Confirmation in American colonies for next 10 years.

## B. CHAMPLAIN VALLEY – *The Blood of Martyrs, the Seed of the Church*

1. **Jesuits:** Arrived, New France, 1611; expelled by English Argall; returned, 1625; driven out by English Kirkes’ fleet, 1629; returned, 1632. (Pope Clement XIV suppressed the Society of Jesus, July 1, 1773, except in White Russia. Pope Pius VII restored Society, August 7, 1814.)
  - Fr. Paul de Jeune, S.J. –“We do not lose courage . . . we believe that God will make a light in this darkness, and that some powerful Spirit will open the door to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in these vast regions.” (JR.XXI, 119)
  - August 2, 1642: Isaac Jogues, S.J. and 22 others including donnés Rene Goupil, Guillaume Couture, and Christian Huron Chief Eustache Ahatsistari, captured by Mohawks to Huronia. Tortured enroute to Mohawk Valley via *La Chute*, Ticonderoga
  - September 29, 1642: First Martyr on shores of Lake Champlain, *Réne Goupil*, S.J.,
  - April 1644: Francesco Bressani, S.J. captured near Richelieu, tortured, delivered to Dutch, returned via Oswegatchie Trail
  - October 18, 1646: Isaac Jogues, S.J. and Jean Lalande, S.J. martyred, Auriesville
  - 1676 Father de Lamberville, S.J. baptized Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, 1676 ( JR LX,71)
  - 1679 Jesuits baptized over 4,000 Iroquois who emigrated to *Québec* Catholic Missions
2. **Franciscan Fathers of the Recollect:** Arrived, New France, 1615; expelled by English, 1629; returned 1670; expelled by English, 1763; returned, 1881-*Trois-Rivieres*
  - Nicholas Viel, O.F.M., first martyr in Canada-*Sault-au-Récollet*, June 25, 1625
  - **Fort Saint Frédéric (Crown Point)** August 19, 1730-1759  
Franciscan Priests: *Jean-Baptiste La Jus, Pierre-Baptiste Resche, Bernardin de Gannes, Emmanuel Crespel, Pierre Verquaille, Daniel Normandin, Alexis du Buron, Bonaventure Carpentier, Hippolyte Colet, Didace Cliché, Denys Baron* (buried there).  
*Régistre:* 143 baptisms, 31 marriages, 198 burials
  - **Fort Carillon (Ticonderoga)** 1755-59 Military Chaplains: Pierre Joseph Antoine Roubard,SJ; *Abbé François Picquet*, p.S.S.; Jean Claude Mathevet, p.S.S.; Felix de Bercy
3. **Seigniories on Shores of Lake Champlain** 1733-1788 - Defense outposts given French officers : *Sieur Louis Lienard de Beaujeu, Sieur de Livaudière, Sieur Daniel Migeon de la Gauchetière, Sieur Louis-Joseph Robbert, Sieur Michel Chartier de Lotbinière, Sieur Guillaume Estebe; Demoiselles Louise de Ramezay and Louise la Gesse*

## C. ST. LAWRENCE VALLEY

1. **Jesuit Missionaries**
  - Joseph Poncet, S.J., 1653 Oswegatchie Trail to St. Lawrence
  - *Simon LeMoynes*, S.J., July 31, 1654 Ministered to Huron captives at Thousand Islands, Sackets Harbor, Onondaga

- Peter Joseph *Chaumonot*, S.J., Claude *Dablon*, S.J., October, 1655. Grenadier Island
- 1658 – LeMoyne’s trade agreement allowing Dutch to ply waters of St. Lawrence “under condition....forbidding public exercise of their religion. . .contrary to the Romish.” Insured that St. Lawrence Valley would remain a Catholic domain
- Rev. (*Pierre*) Robert Jean Baptiste *Billiard*, S.J., 1752 Accompanied 30 Catholic Mohawk Families to **AKWESASNE –St. John Francis Regis Mission**
- Rev. *Antoine Gordon*, S.J., 1760 Christian Mohawks from Caughnawaga and Iroquois from *Fort LaPrésentation* settled at St. Regis, Center for Missionaries to NNY

## 2. Franciscan Fathers of the Recollect

- Luc Buissest, O.F.M.; Louis Hennepin, O.F.M. **Fort Frontenac (Catarouki)** Lake Ontario Region 1670. Fort taken by British, August 27, 1758. Troops moved to *La Présentation*.

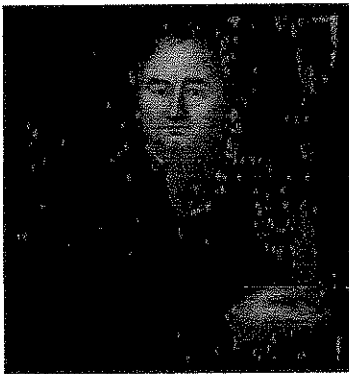
## 3. Sulpicians

### a. *La Présentation*. Church of the Holy Trinity. 1748-1760

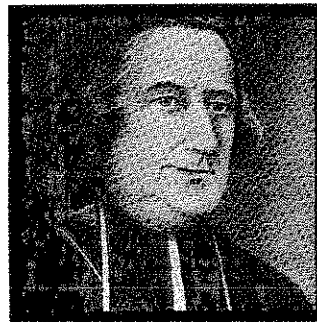
- Priests: *Abbé François Picquet*, p.S.S.; *M. Hamon Guen*, p.S.S.; *M. Elie Déperet*, p.S.S.; *M. Jean-Pierre Davaux Besson de la Garde*, p.S.S.; *M. François-Auguste Magon de Terlaye* p.S.S.; *M. Jean-Claude Mathevet* p.S.S.
- Bishop: *Mgr. Henri-Marie de Pontbriand*, (6<sup>th</sup> Bishop of *Québec*), with by *Jean-Olivier Briand*, VG (7<sup>th</sup> Bishop of *Québec*) confirmed 184 souls and dedicated Church of the Holy Trinity May 25-29, 1752
- *Régistre de la Présentation*: 473 Baptisms, 55 marriages, 160 burials, 184 Confirmations (Copy in Chancery Archives)

### b. *Île aux Galops* : *Abbé François Picquet*, p.S.S. offered Mass and blessed cornerstone of new *Fort Lévis* on *Île Orakouintone* (Chimney Island) August. 30, 1759

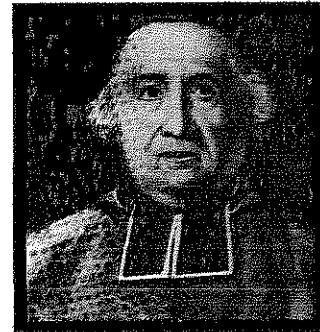
- July 14, 1760 – *Fort La Présentation* dismantled. Picquet with 70 women, children, and old men moved to *Montréal*. Father *de la Garde* remained to minister to troops.
- August 22-25, 1760. Attack by Amherst’s 11,000 British, who captured priest and renamed fort to *Fort William Augustus*



*Abbé François Picquet*, p.S.S.  
(1708-81)  
*La Présentation* 1748-60



*Mgr. Henri-Marie Dubreil de Pontbriand* (1708-60)  
6<sup>th</sup> Bishop of *Québec* 1741-60  
*La Présentation* 1752



*Mgr. Jean-Olivier Briand* (1715-94)  
7<sup>th</sup> Bishop of *Québec* 1776-84  
*La Présentation* 1752

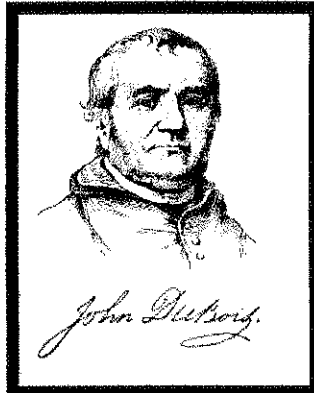
## D. BLACK RIVER VALLEY

### French Emigrés - French Revolution Era

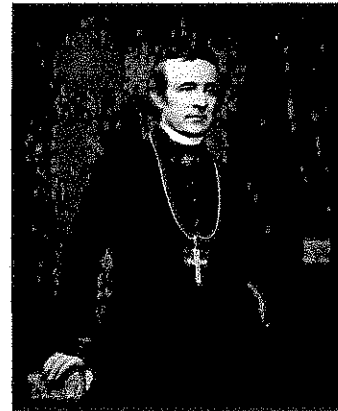
- 1790's – William Constable obtained Tracts 4, 5, 6 from Macomb's Purchase. Gouverneur Morris encouraged James *Donation Le Ray de Chaumont* to purchase and settle lands. 20 families settled the Chassanis Tract.
  - 1799- *Abbe Pierre Joulin*, chaplain of Chaumont Estate, France, came with Gouverneur Morris, Madame Chaumont and her two children. Pine Plains Chapel
  - Castorland. Father Perrot ministered to Oneida Indians. Petition to Pope Paul VI to make Father John Louis Victor le Tonnelier de Coulonges the first Bishop of Oneida and Primate of the Six Nations in 1799. Rejected.
  - Vincent *Le Ray de Chaumont* –Church at Rosiere dedicated by Bishop Dubois, 1832
  - Joseph Bonaparte, King of Spain; Caroline Bonaparte Benton; Madame Jenika *De Feriet*
  - *Jean Frederic de la Farge* - Penet's Square
- LaFarge's Mansion at LaFargeville - purchased by Bishop John Dubois, September 20, 1838.** St. Vincent de Paul Seminary opened under Fathers Francis Guth, Moran & Haes



James Donatien LeRay de  
Chaumont 1760-1840  
Catholic Benefactor



Most Reverend John Dubois  
1764-1842  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bishop of NY, 1826-42



Most Reverend John J. Hughes  
1797-1864  
4<sup>th</sup> Bishop of NY  
1<sup>st</sup> Archbishop 1842-64

## III. THE GLENGARRY SCOTS

- A. **Macdonells (John, Allan, Alexander)** with 600 Scots, army of "Bonnie Prince Charlie Stuart" who failed to restore English throne to the Stuarts in 1745 came to Mohawk Valley, 1773. Land from Sir William Johnston. Loyalists in Revolution (U.E.L.). Scots (Papist Tories). In 1776 fled with Fr. **John McKenna** to Oswegatchie, St. Regis, Upper Canada. Settled near Cornwall (*New Johnston*)
- B. Fr. **Roderick Macdonell** emigrated from Scotland, 1785. Missionary at St. Regis serving Glengarry and NAY region until 1806. Built 3rd St. Regis Church, 1791. Buried under church, 1806. Bishop Octave Plessis of *Québec* sent Rev. *Jean-Baptiste Roupe* to St. Regis, October 19, 1807.
- C. Fr. **Alexander Macdonell (Scotus)** brought his entire parish of 500 on the SS *McDonald* to Upper Canada. September 7, 1786. Died, 1803. Fr. **Francis Fitzsimmons** succeeded him.
- D. **Bishop Pierre Denault** of *Québec* confirmed 190 at St. Regis, 1801. Mass at Oswegatchie.
- E. Fr. **Alexander Macdonell (The Warrior)**, chaplain of *Glengarry Fencibles*, sent by England to quell Irish rebellion, 1798. Brought more Scots to Canada, 1803. Bishop Plessis of *Québec* appointed him Vicar-General of all Upper Canada and *Oswegatchie*, **November 1, 1804**. War of 1812 Chaplain

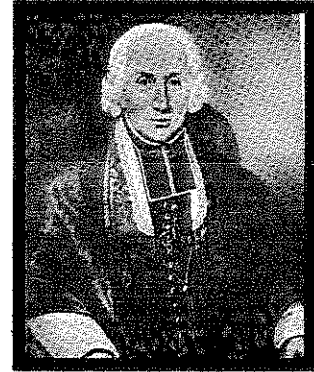
of *Glengarry Fencibles* that conquered Ogdensburg. Appointed 1<sup>st</sup> Bishop of Kingston, first new diocese established in any British colony since the Reformation.



Most Rev. Alexander Macdonell, 1760-1840  
1<sup>st</sup> Bishop of Kingston, ON, 1826-40  
Missionary to *Oswegatchie*, 1804



Mgr. Pierre Denault  
10<sup>th</sup> Bishop of *Québec*  
1797-1806



Mgr. Joseph Signay  
Champlain Valley, 1802-14  
13<sup>th</sup> Bishop of *Québec*, 1833-50

#### IV. THE FRENCH-CANADIANS

##### A. ERA OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION – Champlain Valley

1. Treaty of Paris, 1763 – “free exercise of the Catholic, Apostolic, and Roman religion to Canada”; Québec Act, 1774. Bishop *Joseph-Olivier Briand* received faculties from Cardinal Prefect to confirm in American colonies
2. Father John Carroll and Benjamin Franklin- journey to *Québec* to enlist Canadian aid, 1776. Opposition of Bishop Briand who excommunicated Catholics helping American Revolution.
3. Canadian Settlement -Champlain Valley – Hazen and Livingston Regiments “Congress’s Own” Chaplains: Fr. *Pierre René Floquet* (Hazen); Fr. *François Louis Chartier de Lotbinière* (Livingston), Fr. *François Valleeé*
4. 1790-92 –*Abbe Pierre de la Valinière* (1732-1806). First Pastor, Corbeau.

##### B. ERA OF PAPINEAU AND MACKENZIE REBELLIONS 1830’s and 1840’s

1. Great influx of French-Canadian Catholics to Clinton, Franklin, St. Lawrence, Jefferson Counties
2. Demand for French Clergy and Religious
  - **Oblates of Mary Immaculate** – 1853 – Clinton County
  - **Soeurs de la Charité d’Ottawa (Grey Nuns)** – 1860 – Plattsburgh, D’Youville Academy and 1863- Ogdensburg – *Nôtre Dame des Victoires* Boarding School

#### V. THE IRISH

##### A. EARLY 1800’s – due to English landlordism, religious persecution, poverty

1. **Hogansburg.** Michael Hogan, wealthy Irish ship captain, purchased 20,000 acres. Town of Bombay. Invited Irish. Over 600 settled IRISH RIDGE. Served by Fr. Marcoux, St. Regis Mission priest.
2. **Father James Salmon** – Waddington, Ogdensburg 1825. Began St. Patrick’s Church at Hogansburg. Buried at St. Regis Church, July 14, 1835. Succeeded by Father Foley.
3. **Father John McNulty** sent by Bishop Lartigue of Quebec, November 9, 1835 “. . . to learn Indian tongue, teach English to Fr. Marcoux, offer Mass at Hogansburg 2 Sundays a month.” Built churches: Hogansburg, Fort Covington (St. Mary’s), Malone (St. Joseph’s), Massena (St. Peter’s)

B. 1840's Potato Famine Irish settled St. Lawrence, Champlain, Black River Valleys

**VI. THE GERMANS, ALSATIANS, AND SWISS**

**A. EARLY 1800's -- LEWIS COUNTY**

1. Joseph Kiefer, land agent for the Chaumonts, brought Alsatians Swiss, and Germans. Settled Croghan, Belfort, French Settlement, Dayansville, Mohawk Hill, Constableville, West Turin, Martinsburg.
2. Missionaries to Germans and Alsatians:
  - **Rev. William Beecham** (died 1876) – from St. Peter's Church, Rome to all settlements
  - **Father Johann Stephan Raffener** (born 1785 Austria; died 1861) – appointed Vicar General for Germans by Bishop Dubois
  - **Father Joseph Prost, C.s.S.R.** (1830-43) Established first permanent Redemptorist foundation in the U.S
  - **Father Kapp**

**B. JEFFERSON COUNTY**

1. **Rev. Francis Guth and Father Haes** – LaFargeville Seminary
2. **Father Michael Guth** (Father "Good") – labored 16 years in Jefferson County. Built churches at Clayton, Evans Mills, Lafargeville; Catholic school in Clayton.

**VI. THE ITALIANS, EASTERN EUROPEANS, LEBANESE**

- A. Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries – Poor found jobs on Railroads, Canals, Mines, ALCOA
- B. Italians – Watertown, Norwood, Ogdensburg, Massena
- C. Polish – Witherbee, Mass
- D. Lebanese – Tupper Lake, Carthage
- E. Massena work on Canal and ALCOA attracted over 20 national groups of immigrants

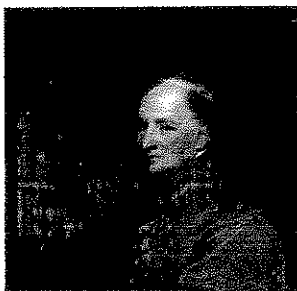
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**NORTH COUNTRY UNDER DIOCESE OF BALTIMORE  
November 6, 1789 to APRIL 8, 1808.**

A. **June 9, 1784** Father John Carroll of Baltimore, Maryland appointed Prefect-Apostolic of the new United States of America

B. **November 6, 1789** SEE OF BALTIMORE established by Pope Pius VI. John Carroll, first Bishop. U.S.A. had 25 priests (Md., 19; PA, 6)

- C. Bishop Carroll gave faculties to priests of *Québec* to continue ministering to Catholics in NNY
- Fr. Joseph Signay, *Abbe Pierre Mignault* - Champlain Valley
  - Fr. Alexander Macdonell and Fr. Roderick Macdonell, St. Lawrence Valley
  - Bishops Jean-Olivier Briand, Pierre Denault and Joseph O. Plessis received faculties to confirm Catholics in Northern New York



**Most Reverend John Carroll  
1735-1815**

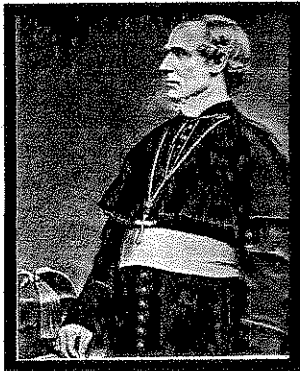
**1<sup>st</sup> Bishop and Archbishop of Baltimore  
1789-1815**

## NORTH COUNTRY UNDER DIOCESE OF NEW YORK APRIL 8, 1808- APRIL 23, 1847

A. **April 8, 1808** -Pope Pius VII established four Sees: Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Bardstown  
The new Diocese of New York had 4 priests for 17,000 Catholics.

### B. Bishops of New York

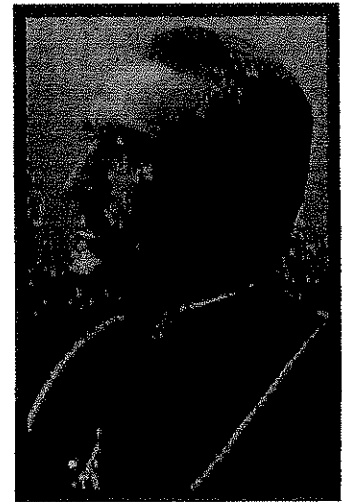
1. **Bishop Richard Luke Concanen, O.P.** – never arrived – Napoleonic Wars – died at Naples, 1810. Rev. Anthony Kohlmann, VG, administered Diocese until 1815.
2. **Bishop John Connolly, O.P. (1815-1825)** Delayed arrival due to War of 1812.  
1816 – **Resident Pastor at Albany**, responsible for all Catholics northward to the St. Lawrence Valley. Fr. Michael O’Gorman, 1816. Organized St. James Parish, Carthage, 1818
  - **1821 –Resident Pastor of Utica**, Father John Farnan ministered to NNY. Reverend John Power, VG administered diocese at death of Bishop Connolly
3. **Bishop John Dubois (1826-1842)** – Episcopal visit to NNY, Ogdensburg, St. Regis. Appointed Fr. David W. Bacon to Ogdensburg, 1839
4. **Archbishop John Hughes (1842-1864)**- Visits to LaFargeville, Plattsburgh
  - Appointed Father James Mackey to all St. Lawrence County
  - Appointed Father Francis Patrick McFarland to Jefferson County
  - Restored Father Joseph Prost to Redemptorists – Lewis County
  - 1845: Requested new Sees: Albany, Rochester, Buffalo, Plattsburgh with whole state of VT



**Bishop Francis P. McFarland (1819-74)**  
Pastor of Jefferson County (1846-51)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Bishop of Hartford, CONN  
1858-74



**Bishop David W. Bacon (1813-74)**  
Pastor of St. Mary’s Ogdensburg (1839-40)  
1<sup>st</sup> Bishop of Portland, Maine 1855-1874



**Bishop Narcisse-Zéphirin Lorrain**  
1842-1915  
Pastor of Redford (1869-79)  
1<sup>st</sup> Bishop of Pembroke, ON  
(1882-1915)

## VII. NORTH COUNTRY UNDER THE DIOCESE OF ALBANY APRIL 23, 1847-1872

A. **New Diocese of Albany** established by Pope Pius IX; 34 priests for approximately 60,000 Catholics

### B. Bishops of Albany

1. **Bishop John McCloskey (1810-85)**. 1<sup>st</sup> Bishop of Albany (1847-64); Archbishop of New York (1864-85); appointed 1<sup>st</sup> American-born Cardinal, March 15, 1875
2. **Bishop John J. Conroy (1819-95)**. Bishop of Albany, 1865-77 (resigned)

**C. Some Problems:**

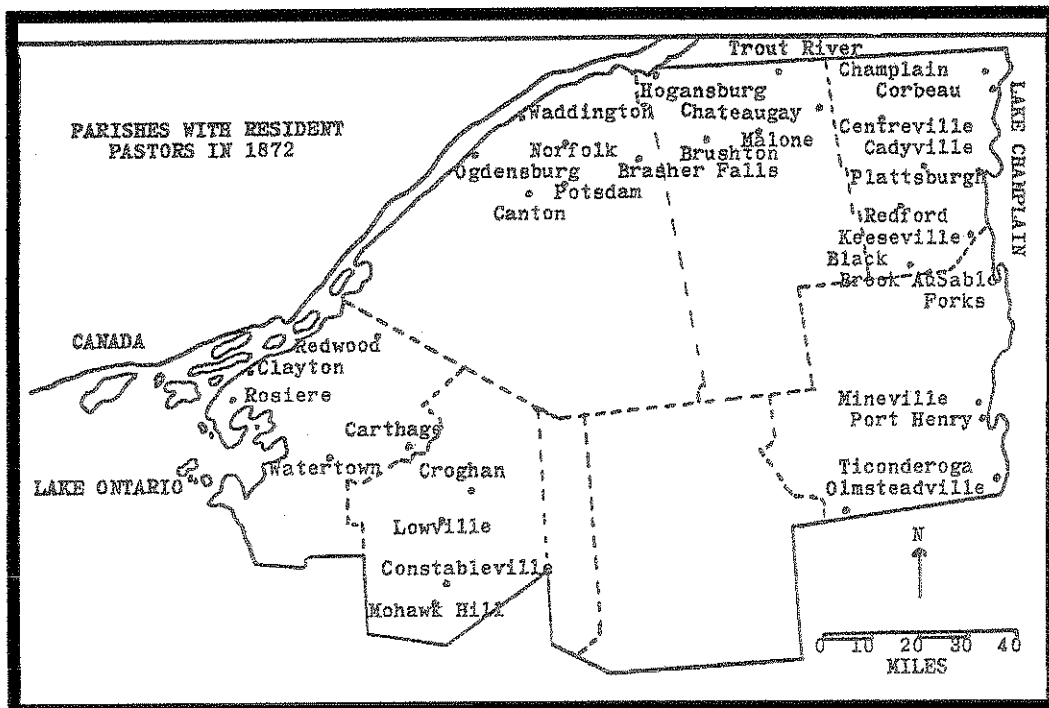
1. Nativism – “Friends of the Reformation in NNY” Imprisonment of Fr. McNulty
2. Nationalistic Rivalries – Irish vs. French-Canadians
3. Poverty of Parishes. Disputes over Parish Limits
4. Lay Trusteeship: NYS Act of 1813 for Incorporation of Religious Societies, amended March 25, 1863
  - Interdicts: Carthage (Gallagher Faction); Rouses Point
  - Schisms: Rosiere (Desumgrumal); Cape Vincent (Dufort) Schism
5. Transient Clergy – Irish, French-Canadian, German
6. Malone : Fr. McCabe burned to death (1857) Railroad riots; Church burned twice and blown down by wind; Fenian arms seized, 1870
7. Loss of St. Patrick’s, Chateaugay – 128 homes and church hit by tornado (1856)
8. Law Suits over Church Building – Ogdensburg; Potsdam
9. Loss of Priests: Port Henry (Father Olivetti murdered); German pastor opposed (Croghan)
10. Dissension over administration of Bishop John J. Conroy (resigned)

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**DIocese OF OGDENSBURG**

February 16, 1872

**Pope Pius IX established the Diocese of Ogdensburg** to include all of St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, Jefferson, Lewis, and Essex counties and that part of the counties of Hamilton and Herkimer counties above the northern lines of Ohio and Russia.



**FIRST BISHOP OF OGDENSBURG**  
**THE MOST REVEREND EDGAR (PRINDLE) PHILIP WADHAMS (1872-1891)**