

ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S AND KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS LAUNCH NEW BOOK BY MSGR. FRANCIS COADY

Msgr. Francis A. Coady, P.H., is the Archivist for the Archdiocese of St. John's. On Sunday, January 30, his new book, *Lives Recalled*, will be launched at a gala afternoon reception at the Knights of Columbus centre on St. Clare Avenue.

In *Lives Recalled*, Msgr. Coady offers brief biographies of the priests who served in the Roman Catholic dioceses of the island of Newfoundland, and also in the summer Labrador fishery.

Msgr. Coady says that, in writing these accounts, he was inspired by the dedication and devotion of the priests and bishops of whom he writes. He was moved by "the challenges that these priests faced, and by their response. They were persistent and undaunted." He put himself in the place of some of them, young men who came out, sometimes from Ireland, sometimes from Newfoundland, to work tirelessly for God and God's people in the towns and outport communities. They faced many challenges, and often contracted one or more of the diseases that were rampant before the advent of antibiotics.

In particular, he was impressed by "the dedication of the bishops; the early bishops worked so closely with the people."

Msgr. Coady describes *Lives Recalled* as a "labour of love." It grew out of a hobby that developed over his tenure as Chancellor and Archivist for the Archdiocese of St. John's. Msgr. spearheaded the metamorphosis of the Archives from a dusty vault to a working resource centre. Today the Archdiocesan Archives welcomes numerous researchers, students, genealogists and others, and features a summer museum exhibit and other exhibits throughout the year. As he oversaw the transformation of the Archives, Msgr. Coady took a lively interest in collecting biographical information on the bishops, priests and dedicated lay people who laboured in the Archdiocese. From this interest, the plan to compile the biographies into a book was hatched. It took many years to come to fruition, and Msgr. Coady says that he gave up three or four times. He did all the research on his own in his spare time, and typed the entire manuscript himself. However, there was always someone to encourage him to take up the pen again. Now, he says "The most enjoyable experience was when I saw the book in print. When I saw this, there was joy in my heart. This was something I never thought would come to fruition."

Anyone interested in researching the lives of the priests and bishops who served in Newfoundland will find a wealth of information in these pages. Some may wish to browse through the sketches, remembering men who served in their home parishes, or who touched their lives in a particular way.

Lives Recalled is published by the Knights of Columbus, Terra Nova Council 1252, and printed by the Mennonite Press in Manitoba.

Lives Recalled will be launched at a gala reception held from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, January 30, at the Knights of Columbus Rooms on St. Clare Avenue, St. John's. Books will be available for sale, and Msgr. Coady will be present to sign copies. All are welcome this event.