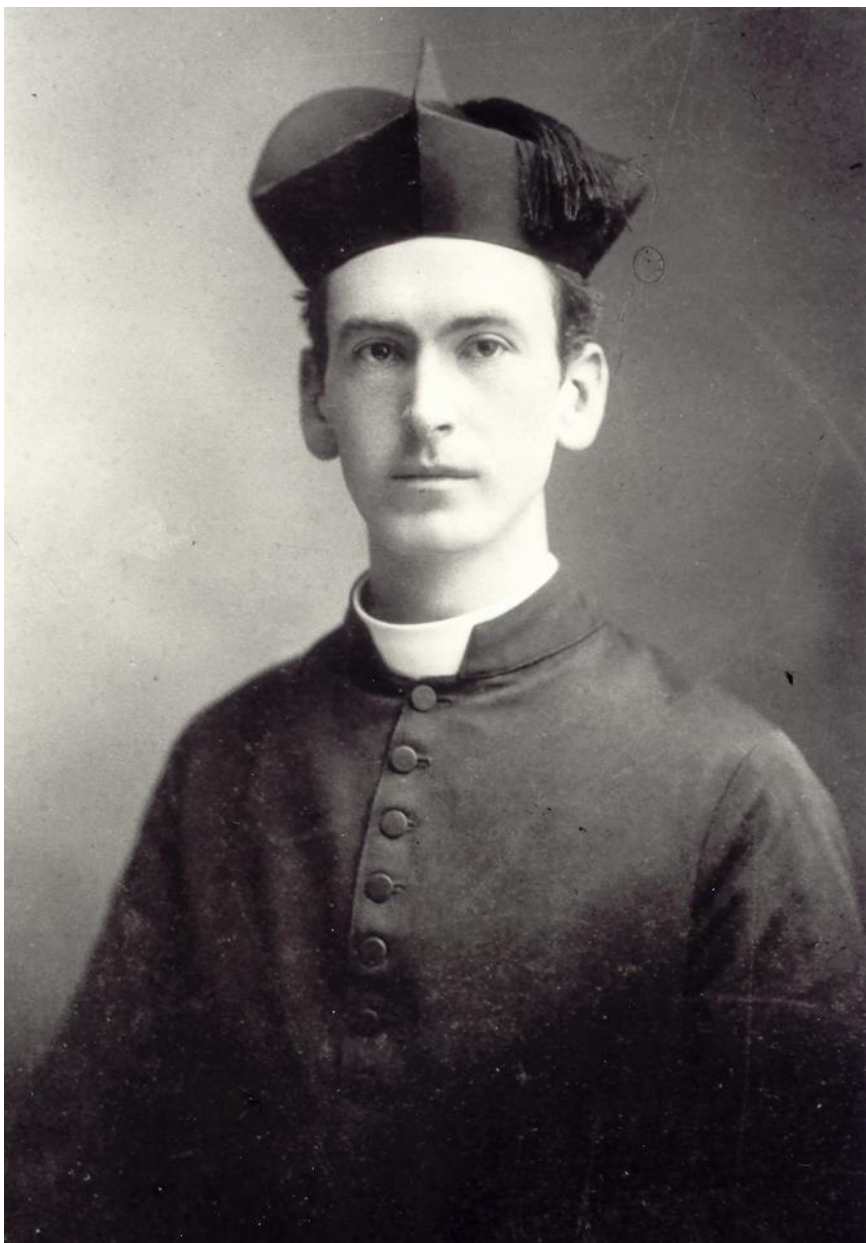


Scarboro Foreign Mission Society 1918-2018

Moments in History

Part One, 1918-1941

Beginnings and the China mission



Msgr. John Mary Fraser
(1877-1962)

The first Roman Catholic priest from English-speaking Canada to work in China, Msgr. John M. Fraser founded China Mission College, later known as the Scarboro Foreign Mission Society.



China Mission College

On November 9, 1918, Archbishop Charles H. Gauthier of Ottawa authorizes Fr. John Mary Fraser to establish a mission college in Almonte, Ontario.

It is founded for the purpose of recruiting, training, sending, and supporting Roman Catholic priests to China.

Almonte, Ontario



The 'x' in the distance marks the China Mission College. Circa 1920.

China Mission College students and faculty

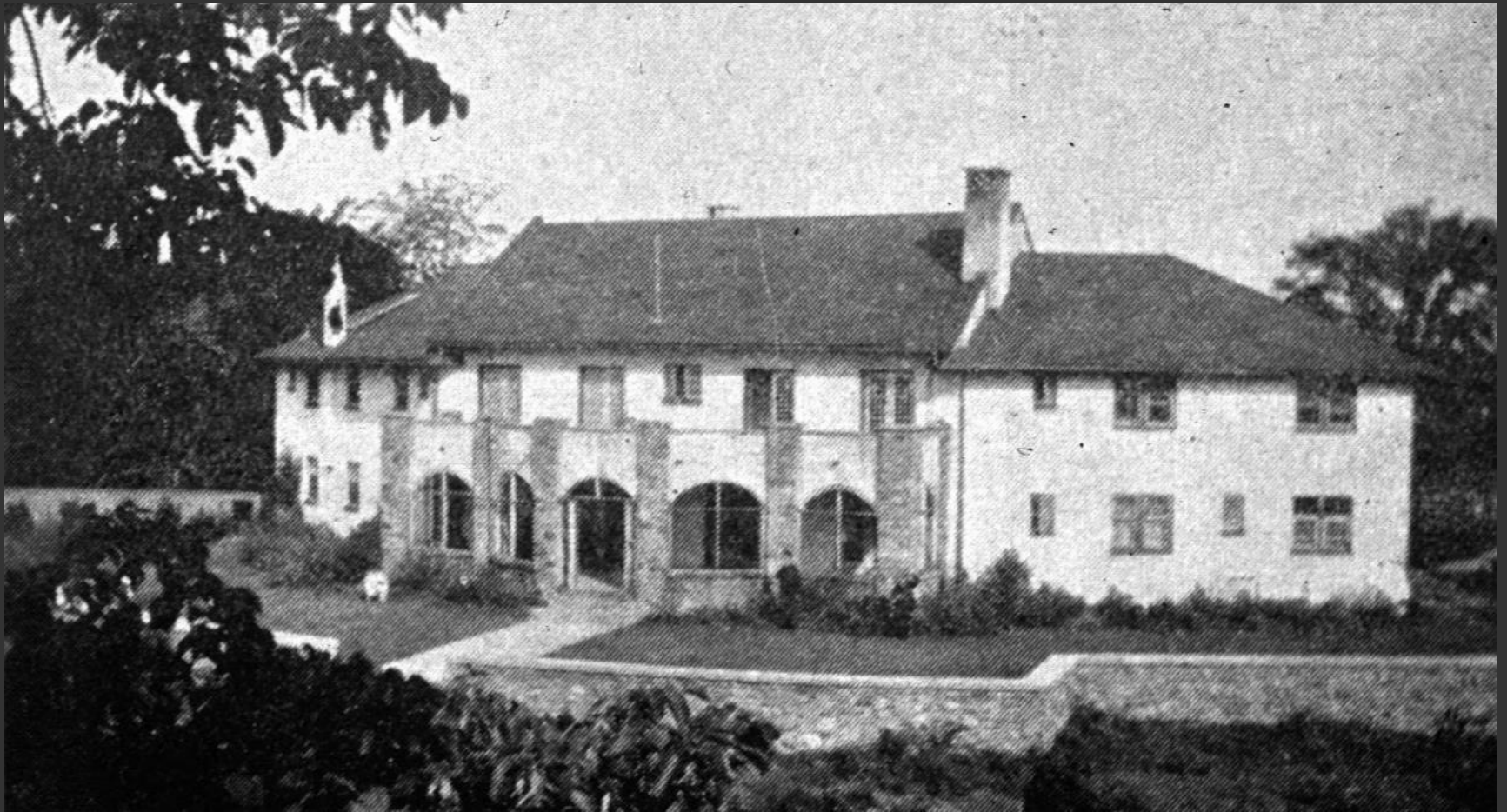


Back row, L-R: Paul Kam, Jan Van Kempen, Robert Carey, James Costello, Leo Ducey.
Front row: Frs. John M. Fraser and Michael Caralt. September 1919.



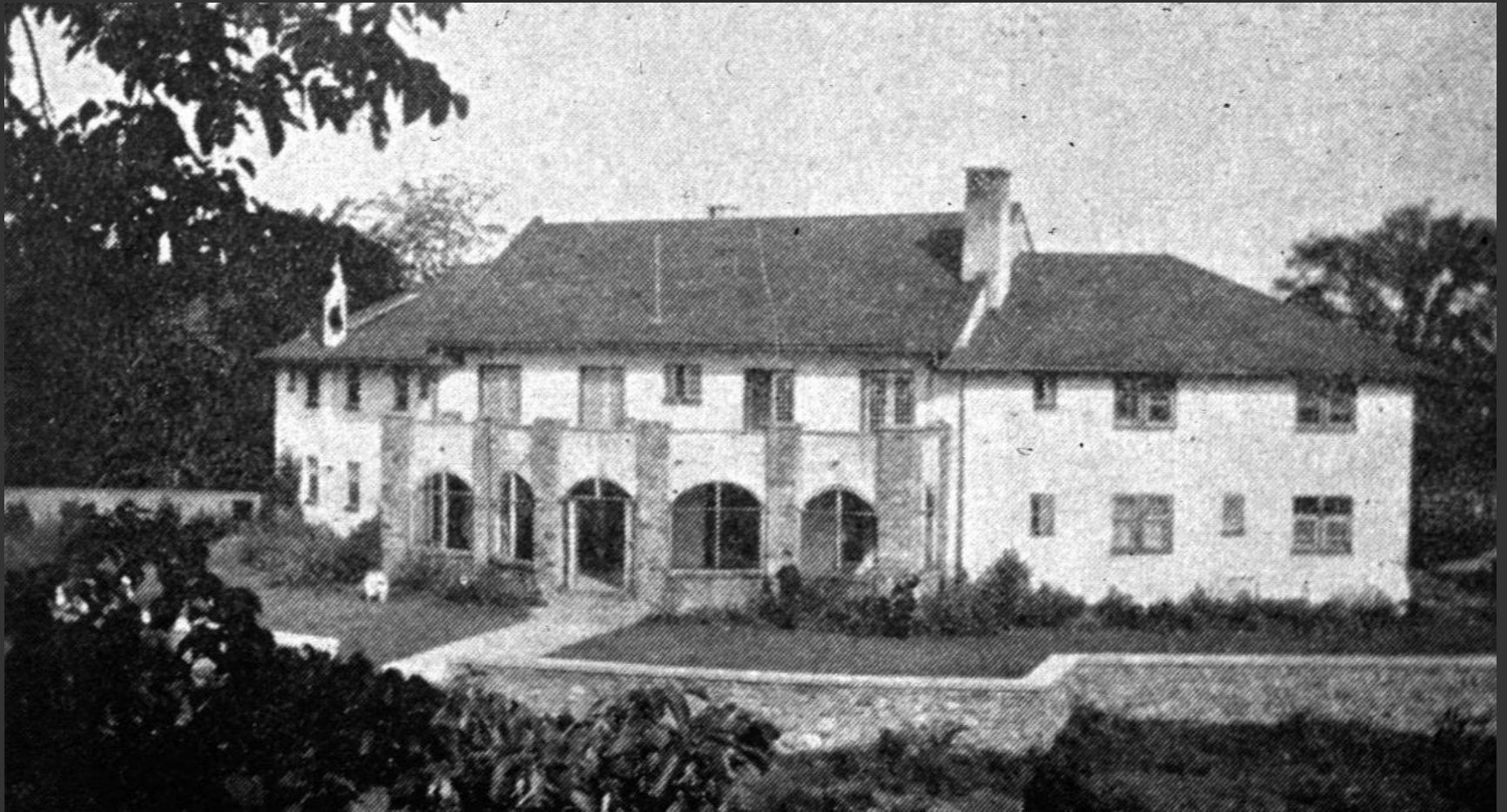
Fr. John J. Sammon is the first missionary from the China Mission College to set out for China. He departs on September 11, 1920.

Opening of St. Francis Xavier China Mission Seminary



In 1921, at the suggestion of Archbishop Neil McNeil of Toronto, a new property is acquired in Scarborough, Ontario.

Opening of St. Francis Xavier China Mission Seminary



A number of students from the overcrowded China Mission College are transferred to these new premises. The property is known today as the Guild Inn.

Fr. William C. McGrath

St. Francis Xavier China Mission Seminary

- In 1922, Fr. McGrath joins the seminary staff as a professor of Moral Theology.
- He succeeds Fr. Fraser as editor of *China* magazine in 1923.
- He will eventually go to China as part of the fifth mission band in October 1931.





In 1923, construction is well underway on the new St. Francis Xavier China Mission Seminary at 2685 Kingston Road in Scarborough.

St. Francis Xavier China Mission Seminary



The new seminary at Scarboro Bluffs will house all students, including those from the China Mission College in Almonte.



Formal opening and blessing of St. Francis Xavier China Mission Seminary on September 21, 1924.

Fr. John E. McRae is
appointed President of the
new St. Francis Xavier China
Mission Seminary.



In 1925, the Holy See entrusts the territory of Chuchow in Chekiang, China, to the priests of the China Mission Seminary.



View of Chuchow taken from church tower. Circa 1928.

First Departure Group



On December 13, 1925, the Seminary's first mission band of Frs. Fraser, Vincent Morrison, and Ramón Serra departs for China to establish the mission in the district of Chuchow. Here they are (back row, second, third and fourth from left) with local catechists in 1926.

Second Departure Group



Departure of Frs. Daniel Carey and Paul Kam to China.
Fr. Joseph Venini left a few days prior. October 1926.

Third Departure Group



Frs. William Amyot, Lawrence Beal, and John McRae (L-R beside car) depart for China.
October 1928.

Fourth Departure Group



Frs. Bernard Boudreau, Hugh Sharkey, Aaron Gignac, Michael Dunne, Desmond Stringer depart for China.
October 1929.

Fr. Alexander MacDonald
is the first to be ordained
in the seminary chapel on
February 24, 1930.





Three more ordinations

Bishop André Defebvre,
Vicar Apostolic of Ningpo,
ordains Joseph King,
Alphonsus Chafe, and
Arthur Venadam in the
original seminary chapel in
December 1930.

Grey Sisters join China missionaries in Chuchow



In late 1930, the first Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Pembroke, Ontario, arrive in Chuchow.
L-R: Srs. St. Angela, St. Juletta, and Mary Genevieve with Frs. James McGillivray and Lawrence Beal.

Chuchow, Chekiang

- On June 23, 1931, Pope Pius XI creates the Prefecture Apostolic of Chuchow.
- Fr. William C. McGrath will be named its first Prefect Apostolic on March 4, 1932.
- The Prefecture Apostolic of Chuchow will be re-named the Prefecture Apostolic of Lishui on May 18, 1937.

Fifth Departure Group



Frs. McRae (left), Alex MacDonald (in car), Fraser (right), and seminary students bid farewell to Frs. McGrath and John MacDonald (centre). Frs. Arthur Venedam and Joseph King (not pictured) are also part of this mission band. October 1931.



In December 1930, the Holy See honours Fr. John Mary Fraser with the rank of Protonotary Apostolic in recognition of his work as a missionary priest.

Mission to Vancouver



In 1932, Fr. Hugh Sharkey is recalled from China to establish the Vancouver Mission.
It is founded to serve the large Chinese population in the city.



By 1940, the Chinese Catholic Mission in Vancouver, assisted by the Grey Sisters, consists of a church and the first Chinese Catholic elementary school in Canada. Above: Fr. Sharkey with assistant teacher Miss Violet Wong, Grey Sister Mary Gertrude, and kindergarten graduates.

Back in Scarborough, young men from across Canada are entering
St. Francis Xavier China Mission Seminary

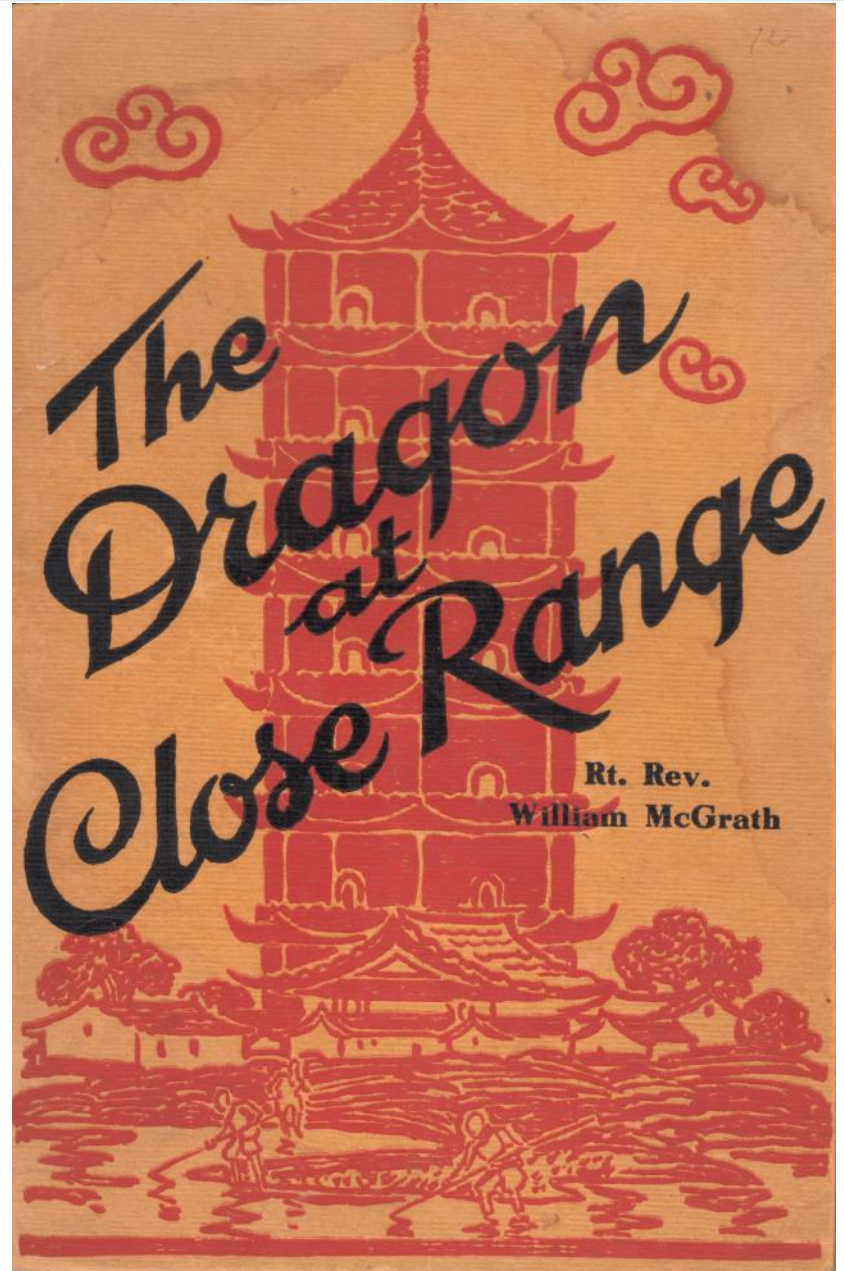


Seminary Students. 1934.

The Dragon at Close Range

Msgr. William C. McGrath
publishes his book on China
in 1935.

It was re-adapted, translated into
Chinese, and republished in Lishui
in 2014.



James McGillivray, 1897-1935



Fr. McGillivray dies of malaria in Lishui in August 1935. He is the first priest of the St. Francis Xavier China Mission Seminary to die.

**In 1937, the Sino-Japanese War breaks out.
The Society continues its work in China.**



Annual Retreat in Lishui. September 1939.



Mission to Victoria

On the invitation of Bishop John C. Cody of Victoria, British Columbia, the Society opens a mission for the care of local Chinese in the city and diocese in May 1940.

Fr. William Matte is recalled from China to establish the mission, assisted by the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of the Angels.

Toronto Mission

Established in 1940 at the request of Archbishop McGuigan, St. Anne's Chinese Catholic Mission is pastored by Fr. Edward Moriarty after he is recalled from China.

Originally located on Chestnut Street, the mission moves to Simcoe Street in 1942 (right) and becomes a social centre for Toronto's Chinese Catholic community.

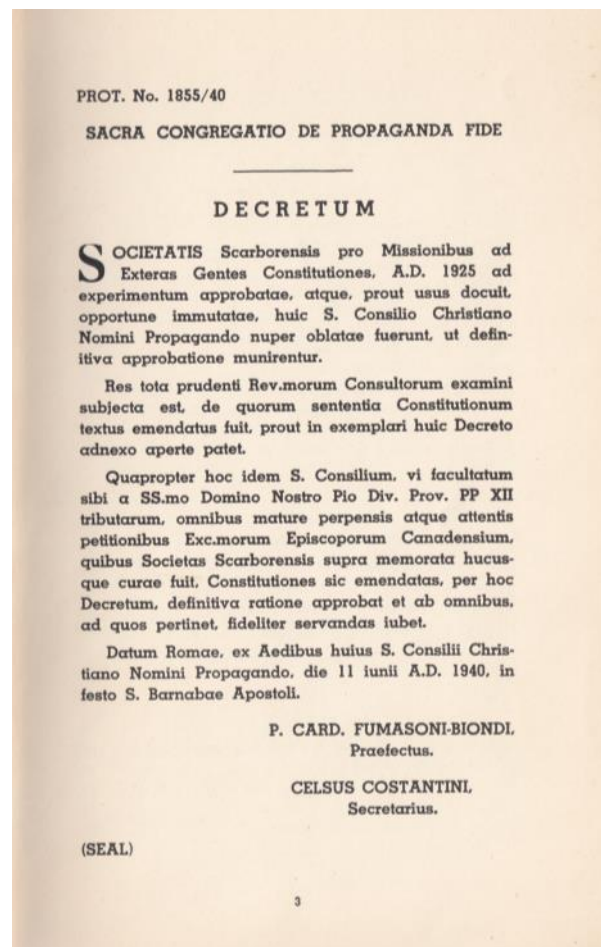
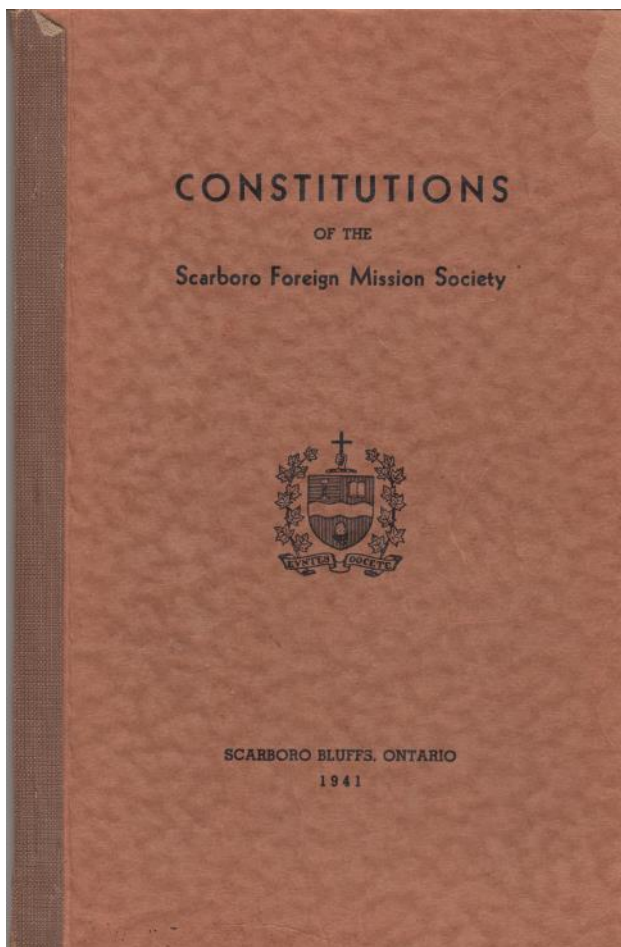


St. Francis Xavier Seminary Women's Auxiliary



Also founded in 1940, the Women's Auxiliary helps the Society with fundraising. Many of the Auxiliary's members are mothers or sisters of the China Mission Seminary priests and students. Its first president is Mrs. Anne Hymus, mother of Fr. Robert Hymus.

Scarboro Foreign Mission Society



With the approval of its constitutions by the Holy See, St. Francis Xavier China Mission Seminary becomes the Scarboro Foreign Mission Society on June 11, 1940.

First General Chapter, June 5, 1941



While it is in session, the General Chapter is the governing body of the Scarboro Foreign Mission Society. It directs the work of the Society, enacts legislation, and elects the Superior General and General Council who administer the Society between Chapters.

First General Chapter, June 5, 1941



Back row, L-R: Frs. Desmond Stringer, Alphonsus Chafe, Alex MacDonald, Hugh Sharkey, Lawrence Beal.
Front row: Msgr. John McRae, Archbishop James McGuigan, Msgr. William McGrath, Msgr. John Fraser

The Society elects its first
General Council during the
Chapter of 1941.

Msgr. John E. McRae is
elected Superior General.

