

Scarboro Foreign Mission Society 1918-2018

Moments in History

Part Two, 1941-1962

War and expansion beyond China

Mission in a time of war

Within a short time span, the China missionaries are impacted by both the Sino-Japanese War and the Pacific War. They seek cover during bombing raids and treat the injured and dying in the dispensary before it is bombed in April 1941.

In May 1942, Japanese forces invade Chekiang and a number of Scarborough priests and Grey Sisters are interned in China. Others manage to flee overland to India.

Msgr. Fraser is put under house arrest in Manila, Philippines.

Dispensary after bombing



Frs. Bernard Boudreau (far left) and Harold Murphy stand by the men's dispensary in Lishui, bombed during the Sino-Japanese War in April 1941, just prior to the Pacific War.

Mission to the Dominican Republic



Unable to go to China because of the war, the Society receives permission from the Holy See to respond to mission needs in the Dominican Republic. Frs. Robert Hymus (left) and Desmond Stringer (right) establish the new mission in April 1943.

Opening of the Novitiate



The Nazareth House opens on September 28, 1943, in St. Mary's, Ontario.
It serves as the Society's Novitiate until 1966.



Novices at Nazareth House. Class of 1943-1944.

Meanwhile, newly-ordained priests are being sent to the growing mission in the Dominican Republic, opened in 1943.



Retreat in Santo Domingo. May 1946.

Msgr. McGrath begins North American tour of the “Pilgrim Virgin”



The statue is first blessed by the Bishop of Leiria in Fatima, Portugal on October 13, 1947, the 30th anniversary of Our Lady's final appearance at Fatima.

Msgr. McGrath begins North American tour of the “Pilgrim Virgin”



Msgr. McGrath (at microphone) accompanies the statue of Our Lady. At the Inauguration Ceremony on the grounds of the University of Ottawa, the statue is crowned by Archbishop Vachon (kneeling).
October 17, 1947.

Mission to Japan

- In June 1948, Frs. Hugh Sharkey, Michael Carey and Allan McRae visit Japan to arrange a new mission in that country.
- The Japan mission begins in the Diocese of Nagasaki at the invitation of Bishop Yamaguchi.
- Msgr. John M. Fraser arrives in Tokyo on June 20, 1950.

Early missionaries of the Japan Mission



L-R: Frs. Gerald Kelly, Allan McRae, Charles Cummins, and Paul Flaherty in Yokohama.
November 21, 1949.



With missionaries unable to return to China, Msgr. Fraser begins work in Japan at the age of 73. He soon starts to rebuild Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church in Nagasaki (above), destroyed by the atom bomb in 1945. It is the first of three churches he builds in Japan.

Pilgrim Virgin's South American tour begins



Fr. Patrick Moore (in black cassock, next to Archbishop Pittini) accompanies the statue. The tour begins in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on June 6, 1948.



Archbishop Pittini at the crowning of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in Santo Domingo.
Fr. Moore can be seen in the right foreground. June 6, 1948.

Kenneth Turner is consecrated Bishop of Lishui on September 29, 1948.

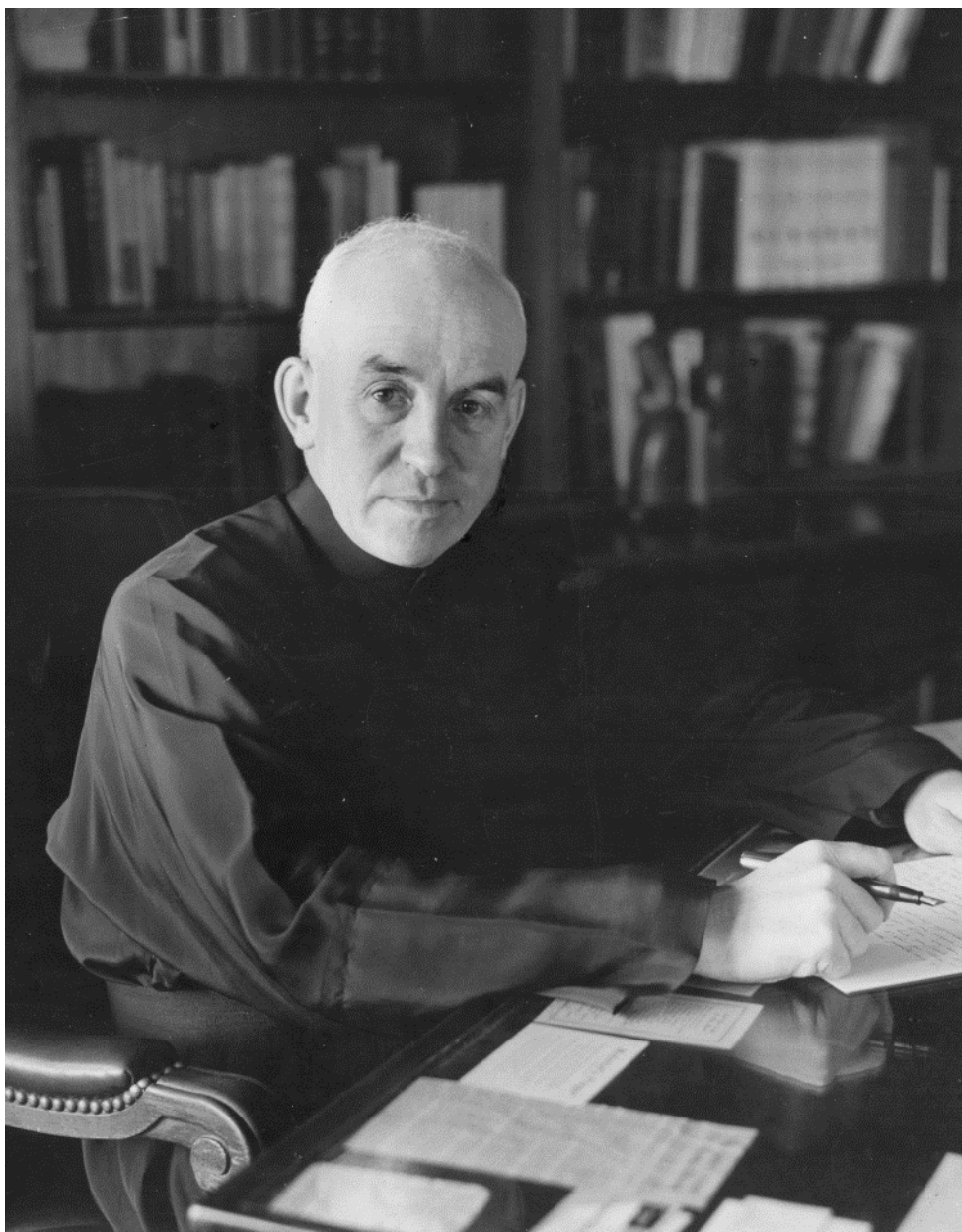


L-R: Bishop John M. O'Neill, Bishop Turner, Cardinal James McGuigan, Bishop Lawrence P. Whalen

Second General Chapter, Summer 1949



Seated, L-R: Frs. Alex MacDonald, Alphonsus Chafe, Msgr. Fraser, Thomas McQuaid, Msgr. McRae, Fr. William Cox.
Standing: Frs. William Amyot, Lorne McFarland, Sharkey, Leo Curtin, Michael Carey, Rogers Pelow, John Kelly,
and Francis O'Grady.



Second General Chapter

Fr. Thomas McQuaid is
elected Superior General.

In 1949, the Communist party comes to power in China.
Missionary activity is curtailed.

In 1952, Frs. Paul Kam and Arthur Venadam are arrested and imprisoned. All priests are deported by 1955, except Fr. Kam who remained in prison until 1957 and died February 1, 1958, in Tsingtien, Lishui.

Mission to Guyana



The mission is established in 1953. Above: Fr. Edward Moriarty stands by the first Rectory and Chapel in Georgetown, British Guiana (Guyana).



Mission to the Bahamas

Frs. Craig Strang (left) and John McGoey are the first to arrive in 1954, working in Eleuthera and Harbour Island, respectively.

Mission to the Philippines

On October 3, 1955, Frs.
James Gillis, Francis Moylan,
and Robert Cranley arrive in
Manila by ship to open the
mission.



Philippine Mission



The Society begins to serve in various parishes in Southern Leyte.
Here is the Church in Hinundayan. September 1957.

New extension to Seminary



The Mary Monaghan Wing (right) is completed in September 1956.



Mission to St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Frs. Leo Curtin and
Michael O'Kane are the first
to arrive in November 1957.

St. Mary's Catholic Church
in Kingstown (left) serves as
mission headquarters.

Our Lady of Fatima second world tour begins

Fr. Patrick Moore looks on as Bishop
James M. Hill blesses the new crown on
the statue of Our Lady in Victoria, BC.
February 10, 1958.



In May 1958, construction begins on a new chapel and motherhouse.

Approximately 66 students will be studying for the priesthood at the seminary that year.



Msgr. Fraser, Fr. McQuaid, and construction superintendent Charles Giardelli discuss the building specifications for the chapel and extension.



A view of the chapel during construction. This view is from the altar site to the chapel entrance. The expansion is due for completion by November 1958.

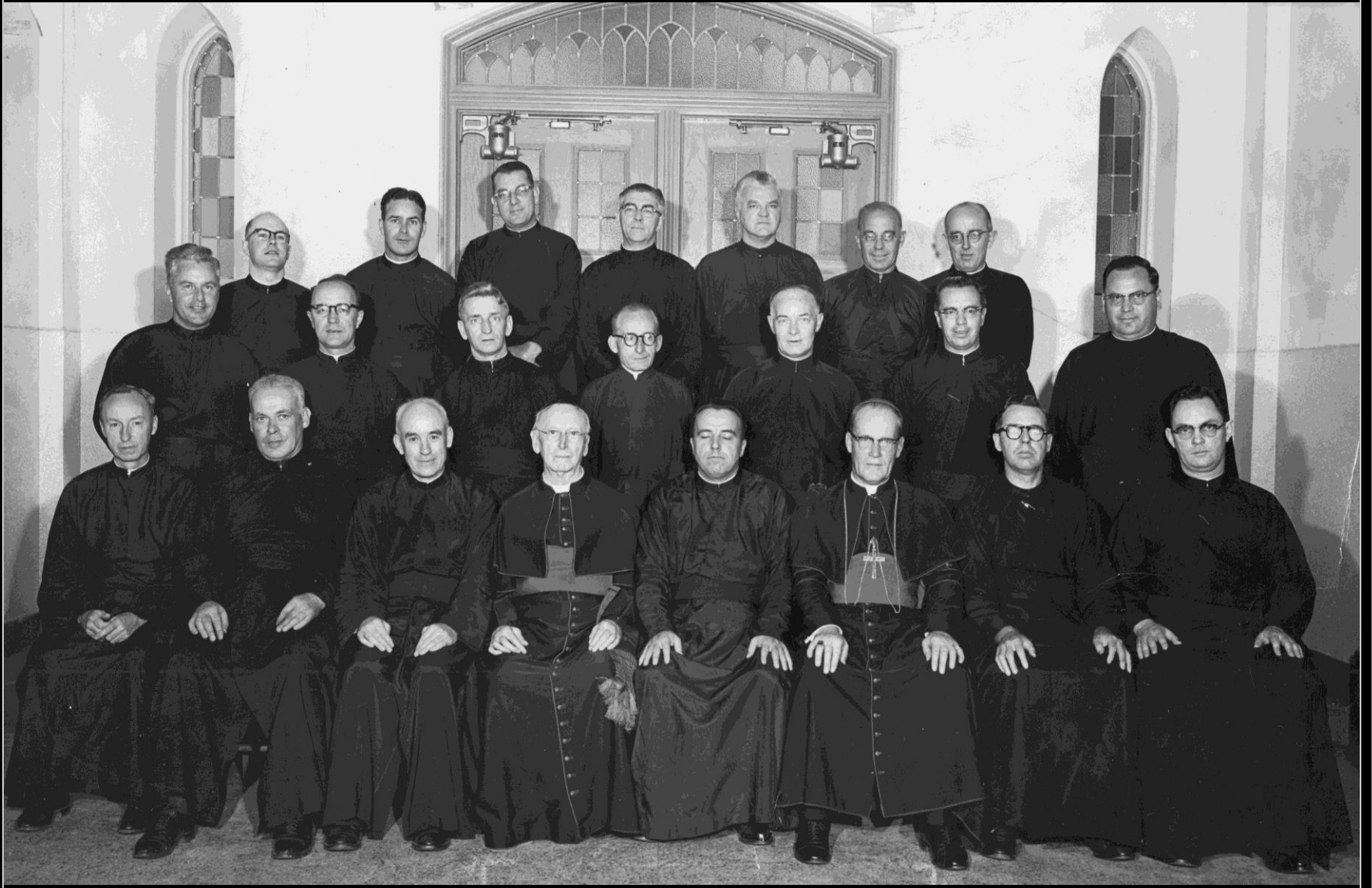


Construction of the chapel (background) and motherhouse (foreground) continues.



New chapel and motherhouse are completed in the Spring of 1959.

Third General Chapter, July 1959



Third General Chapter

Fr. Francis Diemert is elected
Superior General.





Mission to Brazil

- In autumn of 1961, the Society accepts the district of Itacoatiara as a new mission area.
- In October 1961, the first mission band arrives in Brazil for language school.
- They begin serving the parish church in Itacoatiara in August 1962.

Brazil Mission Pioneers



L-R: Frs. Paul McHugh, George Marskell, Vincent Daniel, Michael O'Kane, Douglas MacKinnon. December 25, 1961.



**Msgr. John Mary Fraser
dies in Osaka, Japan, on
September 3, 1962.**



The funeral Mass is held at the
Shukugawa Pro-Cathedral.



He is buried in the priests' plot in the Shukugawa Catholic cemetery in Osaka.

