

"We Are Very Proud of our Father Rémi"

(Hubert David)

For two years Father Rémi Tremblay, Son of Mary, has resided, along with two priest confreres, Fathers Bruno Ruel and Stéphane Gamache, O.F.F.M., in L'Isle-Madam on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia, where, since 1998, the Sons of Mary have had the charge of several parishes.

Last May 31 (coinciding with the feast of the Lady of All Peoples, Patroness of the Community), in the course of a televised newscast, RDI-Atlantic gave a report on one of the parishes of the Sons of Mary. With the permission of RDI-Atlantic, here is a transcription of the text of the report of May 31.

Saint Joseph's Church of Cape Breton Island was a hundred years old last year, and as an anniversary gift its parishioners gave it a facelift.

So workers have invaded this place of worship for the Francophones of Isle-Madam, and the most zealous among them is probably the parish priest, Father Rémi Tremblay, whom Sylvain Bascaron met.

The exterior calm is deceptive. Inside it is a beehive of activity. At the age of 101 years, Saint Joseph's is being given a beautiful face-lifting.

Fr. Rémi Tremblay: Already, on that side, half the church has been redone. That already gives an interesting



Father Rémi Tremblay, Son of Mary, in front of the restored painting.

effect for the brightness. The gilding also gives an interesting touch of sobriety, as well as having an effect on the brightness of the church.

The Father was only commenting the work in progress. As he himself has a degree in the plastic arts, he is retouching the frescoes and the lunettes.

Fr. Rémi: Because that is much more detailed.

Hubert David: Father Rémi never (contractor) stops. If you're looking for someone who works 16 to 18 hours a day, he's the one. I'd like to hire him for myself, but they'd never let him go!

As soon as he arrived two years ago, Father Rémi began rummaging in Saint Joseph's church. In the attic, he found a mysterious treasure. An unsigned painting that could be more than a hundred years old.

Fr. Rémi: A good cleaning had to be done, retouching, repairs. And we've decided to put it here. What happened was that during the rummaging in the attic, I found pieces of wood. I couldn't make out what they were for. But on bringing them down and checking them against old photos, they turned out to be the frame of a painting that itself was the old baldachin of the main altar.

It's all been set up in the sacristy. The believers can only be better believers, and the parishioners who are taking part in beautifying the place are both proud and modest.

Mr. David: We are very proud of our Father Rémi.

And Father Rémi is convinced that this culture of the beautiful is a form of evangelization.

Fr. Rémi: Our spiritual emotion comes from the beautiful things seen and heard and that we can share with others.

Sylvain Bascaron, RC, Petit-de-Grat

"O Cross, Our Only Hope!"

"God's ways are love and truth: the humble He teaches to follow its path."

Fear not, Army of Mary, for it has pleased our Father in heaven to treat you as He treated His own beloved Son Jesus. It is the history of salvation that is continuing...! Jesus was betrayed, repudiated, abandoned by His own. Barabbas was preferred over Him. He was taken for a blasphemer, someone gone mad... "Crucify

Him!"

As it was the case with Jesus, there is no cause for condemnation in you and in the Army of Mary... And Jesus was handed over... He carried His cross... He was crucified... Before dying for the salvation of the world, He turned to His Father and said: "Abba, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they are doing!"

Marie-Paule, is that not presently your prayer and that the of the Sons and Daughters of Mary?...

Just as it happened for Jesus who rose gloriously from the dead, so will it be for you and the Army of Mary.

While waiting for the hour of God, have patience, courage and holy abandonment as you sing: "O Cross, our only hope!"

Friends in Jesus and Mary

- I have often thought of thanking the editorial staff of *Le Royaume* for its writings of an elevated and edifying spiritual caliber. After having read *Le Royaume*, one can only LOVE. **Diane Ducharme**