

### **O'Neill CÔTÉ (1939-1986)**

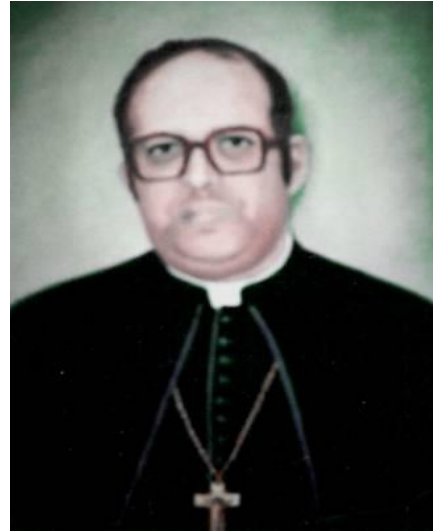
Born in Cloridorme and raised in Matane (Gaspésie), Quebec, O'Neill Côté was rector of the parish of Montreal-Longueuil when he became the third bishop ordinary.

He was mitred on July 25, 1974, by Old Catholic Bishop Thomas Fehérváry, established in Montreal after the failure of the Hungarian revolt. Bishop Fehérváry was then visitor of the Christian Catholics and had ordained Bishop Côté priest.

In 1978, the ministry of the Ordinariate was integrated into the Independent Catholic Church in Canada. At a synod held 1-2 July in Niagara Falls, he was elected and consecrated as Titular of Quebec. He took as his motto a quotation from the Gospel of St. John: UT OMNES UNUM SINT ("May they all be one", John 17, 21).

Bishop Côté was married and had a son. A graduate in pedagogy from Laval University, he studied theology at McGill University and at the College of St. Thomas, where he received a Bachelor of Theology. In civilian life he was Senior Education Advisor in the Federal Department of Indian Affairs.

He resigned from active ministry due to illness in 1981 and died on July 30, 1986. He had the satisfaction of seeing the Ordinariate become a rite of the International Council of Community Churches, with Letters Patent granted under the authority of the Religious Corporations Act of Quebec.



### **Casimir DURAND (1879-1957)**



Born in Glandage (Drôme) in France, Casimir Durand did his primary schooling in his native village, his maturity at the Juniorate of the Regular Canons at Saint-Antoine l'Abbaye (Isère) and his theology at their seminary in Manitoba, Canada (1898-1901). He was a missionary there, particularly among Native Canadians.

Ordained by Bishop Vilatte, he was parish priest in Chicago, Windsor (Ontario) and Minneapolis, Minnesota, between 1915 and 1957. During this period, he was diocesan theologian and led the Midwest Mission Board. He was married and had two twin sons, Paul and Rene. In civilian life he was a Medical Doctor.

Chosen as the second bishop, he was consecrated in Minneapolis on September 26, 1926, by Bishop Axel Z. Fryxell of the Swedish constituency of the church.

Bishop Durand died in Prior Lake, Minnesota, on January 6, 1957. Jean-Nicolas Baudot, ordained by him, assured the apostolic administration until his death in 1974.

### **René VILATTE (1854-1929)**

Born in Paris, René Vilatte came to Canada as a teacher and became a disciple of reformer priest Charles Chiniquy, at the origin of the Christian Catholic Church. He defended with him religious freedom and protested against the new dogmas imposed by Rome (universal jurisdiction and infallibility of the pope).

He was trained by the reformer Chiniquy in his seminary of St. Anne (IL), after studying theology at McGill University in Montreal. Appointed by him in Wisconsin, he founded there several parishes, and in Canada, after his ordination by Bishop Edward Herzog of Switzerland, June 7, 1885.

In 1888 was established the Ordinariate of Christian Catholics in America, incorporated on February 13, 1890 and recognized alongside the Roman, Anglican, Orthodox and Protestant churches. René Vilatte, elected by synod on November 16, 1889, was confirmed as the first bishop ordinary. His consecration took place on May 29, 1892, presided by Archbishop Antonio Alvares of the Independent Catholic Church of Sri Lanka, Goa and India, attached to the Syriac Patriarchate of Antioch.

He was a generous humanist and earned the esteem of the church, despite his critics, until his death on 1 July 1929. He had retired in 1925.

