

# Tribute of Youth of Parish Paid to St. Michael's Pastor

## Music, Poetry, Pageantry Mingled to Express Joy of Children on Occasion of Joint Jubilee of Pastor And Church.

Tribute of the youth of St. Michael's Academy, culminating a series of celebrations in honor of his silver jubilee was paid Monsignor J.F. Nicholson, D.P., V.G., at a concert in St. Michael's Academy last evening when music, poetry and pageantry were happily blended to express in a particularly pleasing manner the joy of the children on this occasion.

The entertainment was the finest held in the auditorium where so many successful programs have originated. Before an audience that taxed the capacity of the hall, the children showed by the whole-hearted manner in which they took part in the evening's events and by sentiments so beautifully expressed in song, drama and oratory their deep affection and gratitude to a beloved pastor who has their interests ever at heart.

Upon his entrance, Monsignor was extended greetings by a choir of girls, trim in their school uniforms, who conveyed their congratulations in song which came straight from their hearts.

The program then proceeded with drama depicting scenes in the life of an Indian Maiden, Kateri, Lily of the Mohawks, whose virtues have merited the presentation of her cause for beatification. Miss June Bone gave a synopsis of the history of Kateri. Against a background showing the forest primeval, totem pole and wigwam, the girls and boys taking part gave realistic performances. Kateri, as a child, and a young girl, was especially well portrayed by Marie Chapelle and Joan Moher, and the final tableau, the death of the Christian maiden was very convincing and moving.

Members of the cast were:  
Kateri—as a little girl—Marie Chappelle.

Kateri—as a girl of twenty-one—Joan Moher.

Chief Hot Powder, convert of Oneida tribe—Jack Johnson.

Missionaries to the Mohawks—Father Fremin, S. J. Ray Peets; Father Bruyas, S. J., Billy Lynch; Father Pierron, S. J., Harry Taylor; Father Cholense, Jack Burkitt. Chief Lone Eagle—Jack Dell.

Braves of the Mohawk tribe—Big Bear, Ernest Poitras; Fleet Foot, Wilfrid Rolland; Lone Wolf, Jack Hamilton.

Silver Star, friend of Kateri—Ella Keon.

Indian Mother—Lorna Whalen. Daughter—Irene Savage.

Indian Maids—Leah Jones, June Boyd, Helen Huffman Helen Henry Bernice Boyle, Norma Maker.

Angels—Ailene McGowan, Mary Culhane.

Between acts a piano duet by Mary Dolan and Anna Moher, and a piano solo by Frank Robertson were well received by the audience.

The Junior Band of St. Michael's added to the interesting program by the splendid way in which they rendered their various numbers. Under the leadership of Teddy Boyle, these tiny musicians revealed the progress they have made in recent months. The addition of larger instruments capably handled by Bobby Young Saxophone, Eddie Barrett, trumpet, and Bobby Moher, cornet, gave a professional air to the group. Their playing of "The Merry-Go-Round Broke Down" left nothing to be desired.

A symbolic tableau honoring Monsignor Nicholson was a graceful and original tribute to the pastor. Entitled "Mystical Gifts," it had the following cast of characters:

Spirit of Music—Anita O'Connor  
Spirit of Flowers—Pat Alexander  
Spirit of Gratitude — Shirley Flynn

Angel of Prayer—Mary Culhane  
Spirit of Poetry — Evelyn Lorimer

Guardian Angel — Ailene McGowan.

Music by a children's choir, with Miss Carol Kiser as soloist, and poetry by Miss Evelyn Lorimer were introduced in this number. Miss Ailene McGowan then presented

Monsignor with a beautifully prepared spiritual bouquet, the gift of the students of St. Michael's Academy and the children rose to sing "Jubilate Deo."

Donald Dell, representing the student body of St. Michael's Academy, conveyed to Monsignor the congratulations, gratitude and heartfelt good wishes of his comrades. The priestly presence in the classroom of the pastor had been a source of blessing and inspiration to all and the children would continue to pray that he would be spared many years to guide the destiny of the youth of St. Michael's Academy.

Monsignor Nicholson expressed his cordial appreciation and deep gratitude to all who had made possible the magnificent events which had transpired during the observance of the jubilee, culminating in this wonderful entertainment. His Grace, the Archbishop deeply regretted the fact that he had to forego the pleasure he had anticipated in being present with the children tonight but it had been necessary for him to return to Kingston. The speaker pointed out that the success of the evening was another tribute to the work of the good sisters. He commented on the excellence of each part of the program. The drama depicting early days on this continent recalled to mind that Canada owed its first impulse to Christianity, to civilization and to national life to the missionaries; all of which was brought out so vividly by the pageant which none would forget. Monsignor called upon Rev. J.J. O'Brien of Sacred Heart Church, Peterborough, to address the gathering.

Father O'Brien spoke of the pleasure it gave him to come to Belleville, and join with His Grace the Archbishop, the Right Reverend and Reverend Clergy of the diocese and of all sections of Ontario, religious communities, with the people in general, Catholic and non-Catholic of the city, young and old in offering his humble tribute of congratulations and good wishes to Rt. Rev. Monsignor, on the observance of the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. During the years of his acquaintance with Monsignor the speaker had found him to be a man of such outstanding qualities that it was a privilege to be his friend; a man gifted with all good gifts of mind and body, and with the greatest gift, the grace of

faith. Besides exceptional qualities of mind Monsignor has shown not in word but in deed that he has a stout, brave heart by spending war years overseas looking after the souls of the men at the front, returning with honors and decorations.

The speaker expressed wonder at the beautiful church, magnificent school, the devoted and loving spirit of the people of Belleville. It has been said that the priest who has the love of the children, the lamb of his flock, is a good priest; the concert last night showed that Monsignor is deeply loved by the little ones, and all is well. In concluding the speaker wished for the jubilarian that the years to come would be as fruitful of good works for God and man as the twenty-five years that had passed.

Adding his congratulations, Father J. V. McAuley of Campbellford referred to the concert as the ending of a very perfect day, a day reflecting joy and happiness for the Monsignor surrounded as he had been by members of the hierarchy, and the clergy, by his own faithful and devoted people. This concert by the little children has made today a very happy and complete jubilee day. Father McAuley spoke of his friendship with Monsignor, a friendship which beginning thirty years ago in seminary days had grown with the years. Monsignor, signally honored by his country, and by the Pope, has also been honored by the love, loyalty and confidence of a devoted people. The speaker praised the Sisters responsible for the concert and the children who had taken part, and in congratulating Monsignor on his jubilee day hoped that the years to follow would merge as gracefully into the golden year of jubilee as the years that had gone by had culminated in the beautiful celebration today.

Monsignor responded to the words of the speakers and called upon Rev. Father Collins who took this occasion to convey to the members of the congregation his appreciation of the co-operation he had received from them in the planning and carrying out of the events of the jubilee.