

there in the summer of the following year.

Father Francis Norbert Blanchet was consecrated bishop in St. James Cathedral, Montreal, by Bishop Ignatius Bourget on July 25, 1845, for the Vicariate Apostolic of the Oregon Country. Bishop Blanchet left Montreal for Europe on August 12, arriving in Paris on September 8 to begin his work of obtaining funds, supplies and reinforcements for the Oregon Country and to petition Rome, on his own initiative, for the establishment of an ecclesiastical province in the Oregon Country. He was more than successful. Pope Gregory XVI, on July 24, 1846, issued a papal brief establishing the ecclesiastical province of Oregon City with three Sees of Oregon City, Walla Walla and Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Bishop Francis Norbert Blanchet was named Archbishop of Oregon City. The Archdiocese of Oregon City became the second oldest archdiocese in the United States since the United States and Great Britain had just settled their boundary disputes in the Pacific Northwest the previous month. A new brick church, the first in Oregon, was built in Saint Paul using sixty thousand bricks fired on the church site. It was dedicated on November 1, 1846.

Archbishop Blanchet arrived in Oregon on August 19, 1847, bringing with him seven more Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, six Jesuits, five diocesan priests and one seminarian. Archbishop Blanchet ordained Fr. J. F. Jayol to the priesthood on September 19, 1847, at St. Paul, the first ordination in Oregon. On October 31, Archbishop Blanchet ordained Fr. B. Delorme, future vicar general of the Oregon City Archdiocese, to the priesthood at Saint Paul. On the feast of Saint Andrew, November 30, 1847, Archbishop F. N. Blanchet consecrated Fr. Modeste Demers Bishop of Vancouver Island at Saint Paul. News of the Whitman Massacre had not yet reached St. Paul.

Archbishop Blanchet opened the First Provincial Council of Oregon in his archiepiscopal residence at Saint Paul on February 28, 1848. It was attended by Bishops Demers and A. M. A. Blanchet and most of the clergy and lasted three days. Archbishop Blanchet transferred his archiepiscopal residence to Oregon City on December 21, 1848.

Sr. Renilde, 30, a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, died at Saint Paul on April 3, 1849, probably of pneumonia. She was the first Religious to die at St. Paul.

On May 19, 1849, a large brigade of Catholic families of Saint Paul, Saint Louis and Vancouver left for the California gold fields. They contracted a fever upon arrival in California and forty died, half of whom were fathers of families.

In March 1852, the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur were forced to close their school at Saint Paul because of declining school enrollment due to the California Gold Rush. On December 1, 1852, five Sisters of Providence from Montreal arrived in Oregon City. They went to Saint Paul for two months as guests of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. They later became the pioneer foundation for the Sisters of Charity of Providence in Chile. One of the Sisters, Sr. Bernard Morin, became their Mother General in Chile.

Twelve Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary arrived in Oregon on October 21, 1859. On February 1, 1861, four Sisters of the Holy Names reopened the school at Saint Paul which had been vacated in 1853 by the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur.

The new Catholic Cemetery was established in 1875. Archbishop Francis N. Blanchet was buried there after his death in 1883. A mortuary chapel for the Sisters and Priests, located in the back of the cemetery overlooking Mission Creek, was razed in 1939. It was replaced by a fence and a granite monument.

Archbishop William H. Gross, CSsR, consecrated St. Paul Church on May 25, 1898, the first church in the Pacific Northwest to be consecrated.

—Fr. Gregory Moys