

LIVING WITH CHRIST THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 15:	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - white
Monday 16:	Ferial - green
Tuesday 17:	Ferial - green
Wednesday 18:	Ferial - green
Thursday 19:	Ferial - green
Friday 20:	St. Bernard, abbot, doctor - white
Saturday 21:	St. Pius X, pope - white
Sunday 22:	Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) - green

Our Sainly and Historical Heritage



8. Good Father Frédéric

Born on November 19th, 1838 at Ghyvelde, in the north of France, Frédéric Janssoone was ordained a Franciscan priest in 1870. He was a missionary in the Holy Land for twelve years before he established himself in *Trois-Rivières* in 1888. He died on August 4th, 1916 and was beatified on September 25th, 1988 by Pope John Paul II.

He was a gifted preacher who left an indelible mark on the hearts of the inhabitants of *Trois-Rivières* and the *Magdalen Islands*. There were many stories about *Good Father Frédéric*, as he was called. People from all over came to him for their physical and spiritual needs. In speaking of him, Father Luc Désilets of Cap-de-la-Madeleine said: *He is a true saint who performs miracles.*

Several qualities of this disciple of Saint Francis of Assisi attract our attention. Father Frédéric had a particular devotion to Christ and his message and the years he spent in the Holy Land had a profound influence on him. In his writings on the Gospel and his sermons, he portrayed Christ's teachings with simplicity and emotion. On one occasion it was noted that he preached for several hours on the fourteen Stations of the Cross to a very receptive congregation.

Father Frédéric led retreats in almost all of the parishes of the Diocese of *Trois-Rivières*. He successfully promoted the Third Order of St. Francis, a spiritual association that exists today.

Father Frédéric helped to establish the important pilgrimage site that is now the *Sanctuary of Notre-Dame du Cap*. With two other companions, he witnessed what has been referred to as the *Prodige des yeux*, when the statue of the Virgin with downcast eyes actually opened its eyes for several minutes on June 22nd, 1888. Father Frédéric correctly predicted that the old stone chapel would soon become *too small to accommodate the crowds that would make pilgrimages to the Virgin of the Rosary.*

Father Frédéric's crypt was unveiled in 1938. It is now known as the *Museum Frédéric-Janssoone* and is a place of homage and veneration for this blessed Franciscan priest. His tomb is located in the Chapel of Saint-Antoine, above the crypt on Saint-Maurice Street in *Trois-Rivières*.

Gilles Leblanc

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli