

## Stained Glass Windows

The first week in September, 1987, two new stained glass windows were installed in the sanctuary of the church. Both windows honour the Blessed Mother on the 25th Anniversary of her becoming the patroness of our parish under the title of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The windows were designed by Jacqueline Tremblay, a well known Montreal artist, and produced by Desmarais and Robitaille.

The dark shades in the lower sections of both windows represent the earth chosen by God as the place where he would assume our human nature. From the earth radiate in bright red and yellow, flames of eternal fire, sign of the Creator's presence in his work.

The sun in the upper section of the left side window symbolizes God the Creator, the eternal fire which burns without ever consuming itself.

The moon and the stars are symbols of hope because Jesus comes through Mary to destroy the powers of darkness.

The Virgin Mary is symbolized by the river which flows both from the earth to God and from God to the earth. Linking human kind to its origin in God and carrying from God the warmth, gentleness and strength that see us through life when guided by Mary.

During the same week of September 1987, the windows which originally decorated the sanctuary were installed in new heavy aluminum frames already fitted with thermo-pane and transferred to the front of the church. These windows were designed by Theodore Lubbers of Montreal. During the day they project colourful shadows on the otherwise plain surface of the church ceiling.

December 18-19, 1987, stained glass windows were installed in the side aisles of the church. Four of these windows honour the Evangelists who bring us the Good News proclaimed by Christ and entrusted to his Church and four honour the saints to whom we owe particular devotion.

### The Evangelists

The eagle symbolizes St. John and the sublimity of his Gospel.

St. Luke is depicted as an ox because his Gospel opens with the scene of the temple sacrifice.

A lion symbolizes St. Mark because his Gospel recalls the voice of John the Baptizer crying in the wilderness, preparing the coming of the Lord.

St. Matthew is represented as a winged man holding, as the other three evangelists, the book of Gospels.

### The Saints

St. Joseph the Worker, patron of the universal church.

St. Francis of Assisi, founder of the Franciscan Order who has served this parish from its very inception.

St. Marguerite Bourgeois, who established a new style of religious life for women so that her sisters might go out to the people of the new Montreal Colony and serve them both in schools and in preparation for Christian Marriage. She founded the sisters of the Congregation of N<sup>o</sup>tre Dame who played an important part in the pastoral life of our parish.

St. Patrick, because the families who first wanted and initiated the foundation of this parish were either from Ireland or of Irish descent. St. Patrick is portrayed as the great bishop who first organized the Church in Ireland.

Each of these theme windows is framed by two windows in matching colours that tie in with the colour scheme of the sanctuary windows and carry through the idea of the river that flows constantly both from earth to God and from God to earth.

These windows are meant not primarily as decoration but as reminders of the role of Mary within the Church which brings us the Good News of salvation through the Gospels which inspired the lives of the four saints who we hope will now challenge all who worship here to imitate them in their love of the Gospel and generous service to all in need.