

St. Maurice School History

In September of 1958, under the direction of Monsignor Maurice Cournoyer, St. Vital Church, with assistance from the Sisters of Sion, opened a four-room school on Pembina Highway, just south of Manahan Avenue. On September 22nd, the school was dedicated to the Martyr, St. Maurice, in honour of Monsignor Maurice Cournoyer (photo at right). The official opening and solemn blessing was conducted on September 28th by Archbishop Pocock. In the summer of 1960 four more rooms were added to the school building.



In 1967, Father John Currie (photo at left) succeeded Monsignor Cournoyer as Pastor and Director of St. Maurice School. Due to a declining enrolment over several years, the decision to close the school was made in June of 1970. After eight years of service, Father Currie was moved from the parish and Father Edward Morand was approached by Cardinal Flahiff to be the new Pastor of St. Vital Church.

On January 11, 1978, Father Patrick Morand arrived at St. Vital Parish to share the pastoral duties with his brother Father Ed until July of 1978 when Father Ed began as Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish. Through the relentless efforts of Father Patrick Morand, St. Maurice School was reopened in September of 1979, with the school becoming incorporated under the Corporations Act of Manitoba on September 4th, 1979.

The first St. Maurice School Board meeting took place on December 19th, 1979. In September of 1980, two additional classrooms were added and in the spring of that year a gymnasium and a parish hall were completed. Grades seven and eight were added in September of 1983 and two additional rooms were needed. Archbishop Adam Exner blessed the two new classrooms on December 11th, 1983.



On June 24th, 1984 St. Maurice School paid tribute to its first Grade 8 graduating class.

The High School wing was added on in 1987 and St. Maurice School opened its doors as the only Kindergarten to Grade 12 Catholic School in the Province of

Manitoba. A new Parish Administration Centre and Rectory was built in 1990. This facility physically and philosophically provided a connection between St. Maurice School and St. Vital Parish Church, which now existed physically “under one roof”.

Due to an ever-increasing enrollment at the school, a new wing of six classrooms was built in 1999 and now houses the Grade 4 to 6 classes. The St. Maurice Daycare and the Before and After School Program opened in May 2002.

Many new facilities were constructed during 2004-2005 school year. The three kindergarten classrooms were relocated to the second floor of 1619 Pembina Highway, just across Manahan Avenue from the main school and parish building. The library was moved to a central location in the elementary area of the school. The lower level below the gym was re-developed into a full service cafeteria and music/band room. The official opening and blessing by Father Morand took place on April 28th, 2005.

After 30 years of service as the Director of St. Maurice School, Monsignor Patrick Morand retired in 2009.

Father Barry Schoonbaert (photo at right) became Pastor of St. Vital Parish and Director of St. Maurice School on July 1st, 2009.

Today, with an enrolment of nearly seven hundred students, St. Maurice School is the largest co-educational Catholic School in Manitoba.

June 2016 will mark the 25th anniversary of the first Grade 12 Graduation from St. Maurice School. The School has graduated 672 students from Grade 12 to date, and current and former staff look forward to visiting with these alumni at the All-Alumni Reunion, with events being planned for May 13, 14 and 15, 2016. Click [here](#) for more information.



May God continue to bless St. Maurice School.