



The Catholic
Archdiocese
of Edmonton

Joy in Christ
100 Jubilee
1912-2012

Jubilee 100 Biography Project

Biography of Donna and Maurice Galarneau

Submitted by Annunciation Parish, Edmonton



The Church of the Annunciation celebrated its 50th anniversary a few years ago. Initially named St. Francis Xavier, its first services took place in St. Francis Xavier School. Rev. Joseph MacNeil, and Rev. Brendan Megannety, Oblates from St. Peter's Province, initiated the building of the new church, under contract with the Archdiocese of Edmonton, at the direction of Archbishop Anthony Jordan.

The first mass in the new church, under the spiritual guidance of the first parish priest, Rev. Myles Power OMI, took place August 15, 1959. The name change to Church of the Annunciation took place on May 12, 1963.

Donna and Maurice Galarneau, a young couple with a young family, living in Lynnwood, were one of four families who were the first to start attending this Church. One of their early memories involved the mound of backfill that everyone had to climb over to access the church building.

Fundraising was important when the church was first built. The costs of the new church and rectory totalled approximately \$310,000.

Maurice was one of many involved in a canvass drive to raise funds which culminated in accumulating \$87,092 in a short time. This was a fine start in a major effort to pay down the debt incurred by the new parish facilities.

Church life was, and is, very important to the Galarneau family. Their three children attended Catholic schools in the neighbourhood, and received their sacraments at Annunciation church. Close relationships developed with many of the pastors over the years. Having priests over for dinner was a common practice for the Galarneau family. They have fond memories of many of the pastors that have presided at Annunciation.

Donna and Maurice have been directly involved in various ministries over the years including Eucharistic Ministry, Visitor's Ministry, and Lectors Ministry. They continue with these ministries and also volunteer their time with the Catholic Women's League and the Knights of Columbus. The Galarneau's have joined many other families over the years in helping to build a vibrant parish community at Annunciation. They have shared in the life of the parish as a real and living faith family.