



Jubilee 100 Biography Project

Biography of Josephine (Nena) Timperley

Submitted by Assumption Parish, Edmonton

Assumption Parish acknowledges the life and volunteer service of Josephine (Nena) Timperley, who died April 21, 2001, at the age of 90. Nena's tireless volunteer service to her church, multicultural, humanitarian, and artistic causes earned her the gratitude of many.

She was the driving force behind the creation of the Edmonton Heritage Festival, the Edmonton Canada Day celebrations, the Edmonton Folk Arts Council, and several other community endeavours. She also helped opened Edmonton's first blood bank and helped many refugees immigrate to Edmonton.



Nena was an active member of the Assumption Parish and the Catholic Women's League who led by example. When the new Assumption Parish opened in 1954, Nena was enthusiastically involved.

Father O'Neil, parish pastor, had a great devotion to our Blessed Mother and processions in her honour were held the first Sunday in May. A May Queen was designated to crown the Statue of Our Lady, while five small boys in white carried a large white rope rosary followed by a little crown bearer and two pages. These children were dressed in white satin and blue velvet while the rest of the children in the procession were suitably dressed: the girls in white dresses and veils and the boys in white shirts and blue pants, each wearing a blue sash. The project was undertaken by Eileen Birch and Nena Timperley, who made all the clothes for the May Queen and retinue.

Nena's volunteerism didn't stop there. Nena was an active member of the CWL, she worked on fundraising projects to improve the church, and helped to organize special events, and she eventually served as the President of Assumption Parish CWL.

In the late 1970s Assumption Parish sponsored a Vietnamese family. Nena Timperley and Ron Homulos formed a close bond with the family. They arrived September 27, 1979, and on July 5, 1987, were baptized Catholics at St. Joseph's Chapel (Our Lady of Martyrs Vietnamese Mission).

In 1988 Assumption Parish celebrated its 75th anniversary. One of the many highlights of the celebration included when Pioneer Members of the Parish were honoured with the Pope's Papal Blessing. Recipients included Tom and Eileen Birch, Mattie Kelly, Maurice Margaret, Peggy Ross, Dorothy and Art Perron, Walter Rath, Hilary Fister, and, of course, Nena Timperley.

The caliber of our faithful volunteers such as Nena Timperley has made our parish history rich, varied, and interesting.