



The Catholic  
Archdiocese  
of Edmonton

Joy in Christ  
**100** Jubilee  
1912-2012

## Jubilee 100 Biography Project

Submitted by Holy Family Parish St. Albert 1978-2012

It would be very difficult to write about just one individual or family who has contributed to our parish family. Holy Family Parish was built by matchless community spirit. We were blessed by the outstanding leadership of our pastors Rev. Paradis, Rev. Dick Theroux, Rev. Emmett Crough, Rev. Karl Raab, Rev. John Hess and Rev. Mitchell Fidyka as well as many faith-filled parish members.

In 1978 Archbishop Joseph MacNeil accepted a proposal suggesting that a new parish be established in St. Albert. A core committee was formed in 1979 and first met in the basement of St. Albert Church. It was, however, more than 10 years more before our church was built. Starting in 1980, Sunday masses were celebrated for the 20-30 founding families in the Vincent J. Maloney (now Richard Fowler) School. The Parish was placed under the patronage of the Holy Family in 1980.

In 1987 Derrick Harrison was appointed chair of the building committee. With data collected from a parish survey, parish council approved a proposed timetable for the planning, financing and construction of the church building. In 1988, when Fr. Karl Rabb was appointed parish priest, planning for the church started to progress more rapidly. In December 1988 we started a capital stewardship program; 200 parishioners were involved in a home visitation program and in various other aspects of the campaign. We set a goal of raising \$900,000. The home visitations disclosed there were 644 families who chose to be part of the parish. Of these, 322 became involved in the stewardship program. Pledges amounted to \$886,465. The construction for our church began in 1990 and was completed July 31, 1991. After having worshipped in schools for 12 years, the parishioners were happy and excited about their new church building. Fr. Leo Hofmann wrote in the Archdiocesan Liturgical Bulletin in 1992, "The members of Holy Family Parish have every right to be proud of their new facility. It is a warm and inviting complex built with hospitality in mind."

In the spring of 1989, the Brother Anthony Council of the Knights of Columbus was granted a charter, and in March 1990 the Holy Family Council of the Catholics Women's League was formed. The parish has grown over the years and continues to be a hive of activity under the spiritual care and guidance of our present pastor, Fr. Mitchell Fidyka. We continue to be blessed with an abundance of faithful and gifted parishioners fulfilling roles on many committees such as Parish Council, Youth Ministry, Music Ministry, Children's Liturgy, Liturgy Committee, Maintenance Committee, Pastoral Care and the RCIA team. Many prayer and social groups also flourish. As in any vital and healthy organization, new ideas are constantly coming forward and changes are being made.

As our parish family has grown from 200-300 families in 1987 to over 2,000 registered families in 2012, we continue to be a vibrant, welcoming and prayerful community. The commitment our parishioners continue to show is a splendid example of Christian faith and love which has been present from the beginning in the life of Holy Family Parish. We thank God for the many blessing he has bestowed on us, especially the many generous, gifted and faithful members we have in our parish community.