



The Catholic  
Archdiocese  
of Edmonton

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

## Jubilee 100 Biography Project

### **Biography of the LaGrange Family**

Submitted by St. Mary's Parish, Red Deer

Since 1942 when Bob's parents, Gerry and Lena LaGrange came to farm east of Red Deer, the LaGrange's have been part of the catholic community. First attending Sacred Heart Church, which was the only Catholic Church at the time, and later in 1968, the family, began their 44 year involvement with St. Mary's.

Bob, the eldest of Gerry and Lena's 7 children, married Lorna (Gould) in 1960 in Regina, Sask. and started their family in Burnaby B.C. They moved to Red Deer in 1967 and worshipped with the newly formed congregation in St. Thomas Aquinas Gym until the construction of St. Mary's church was completed in 1968.

In St. Mary's, along with their children (5 boys and 2 girls) and grandchildren, they have celebrated the life breadth of sacraments from Baptism, first Holy Eucharist, Confirmation and Marriage. The children's school graduations have been held in the church, and all 5 of their boys have been altar servers at St. Mary's. Nothing was more meaningful to Bob and Lorna than celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversaries with special blessings at Mass surrounded by both their natural family and parish family. Even death has been a close companion on their family's faith journey through St. Mary's. One death in particular, left an indelible mark in their hearts. It was the sudden death of a son, at the age 34 just before Christmas in 1998. Bob and Lorna were overcome by the immense outpouring of love and support from their St. Mary's faith family during that difficult time.

Bob is a life member of the Knights of Columbus, was past Grand Knight and is still involved with K of C Initiations. Bob served two terms on Parish Council, has been involved with RCIA, and today continues as an altar server at daily mass and an Extra Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

Lorna has been a member of the CWL for 45 years, served on the executive and entertained at local and provincial conventions. She's been a choir member since 1968, leader of song/cantor, choir director and more recently, since 1990, music coordinator for the parish. Her music coordinator duties extended from the stimulating and interesting service on the Liturgy and Sound System Committees to the mundane mending of hundreds of parish hymn books.

Now retired from music ministry, she only leads morning song at daily Mass, sings for special services, funerals and occasionally with the choir. One of the recent changes in 2011 and very dear to her heart, was the acquisition of a new grand piano that took her over 20 years of (some would say) relentless persistence to achieve, and which was finally delivered in 2011 just a few months before her retirement from music

ministry. (Lorna was overheard to comment: “Who says God doesn’t have a sense of humor with his timing?”)

Serving jointly in various ministries and committees over the years has been a source of great joy and allowed Bob and Lorna to strengthen their beliefs united as one. They have served on the Ad Hoc Committee for sacred art (to secure Stations of the Cross, the statue of Mary and a large Crucifix), the Social Justice Committee, taught Marriage Preparation courses for Sacred Heart Parish, been members of the Marriage Preparation team at St. Mary’s, volunteered as Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and as Proclaimers of the Word at Mass, and are committed members of the Union of Catholic Apostolate (UAC) a Pallotine Association.

The words from a hymn sung at St. Mary’s will continue to be the driving force of their faith lives; “What do you want of me, Lord? Where do you want me to serve you? Where can I sing your praises? I am your song.” (*Servant Song* © 1984 OCP Publications)

