

The Anglican Church of Canada
THE DIOCESE OF MONTREAL
The Right Reverend Reginald Hollis, Bishop

SAINT FRANCIS MISSION

Odanak, Quebec

THE DEDICATION OF THE MEMORIAL

for

The Reverend

PETER PAUL WZOKHILAIN

Sunday, September 5, 1982

at eleven-thirty o'clock

Participants

Saint Francis Anglican Mission
Francis Christman, Lay Pastor
Irene Hoff, Rector's Warden
Margie Normand, People's Warden
Alice Masta Wawanolet, Treasurer,
Wzokhilain Memorial

The United Church Board for World Ministries
The Reverend Robert Howard,
Representative

THE LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE AND PETITION

We remember and give thanks for those whose spiritual vision in centuries past nurtured awe and worship among the Abenakis.

GRANT US, O GOD OF THE AGES, THE GRACE OF WONDER THAT YOU ARE THE SOURCE OF THAT LIGHT WHICH COMES INTO THE WORLD AND SHINES ON ALL HUMANKIND.

We recall all ministers of Jesus Christ and especially those Jesuits who first preached the gospel and shaped the fortunes of this people.

LORD OF THE CHURCH, WE PRAY FOR OUR ROMAN CATHOLIC BROTHERS AND SISTERS AT ODANAK, THAT THEY MAY EVER WITNESS OUT OF TRUST AND HOPEFULNESS IN YOUR WORD.

We remember those whose concern for the St. Francis Indians prompted Dartmouth College, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and the Congregationalists of Quebec, to develop native leadership.

ARCHITECT OF OUR UNITY AND DIVERSITY, WE PRAY THAT YOUR PEOPLE MAY BE SWIFT TO CLAIM THE GIFTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOTH MINORITIES AND MAJORITIES IN OUR SOCIETY.

Especially this day, we recall Peter Paul Wzokhilain, whose ministry bore fruit as he spoke and taught in his native tongue, kept school, gathered a congregation, translated the scriptures, and promoted temperance.

**AUTHOR OF PROVIDENCE, ESTABLISH US IN EVERY
GOOD WORK, THAT WE MAY STEADFASTLY PURSUE
IN OUR LIFETIME THAT WHICH HONORS YOUR NAME
AND UPBUILDS YOUR CHURCH.**

We remember the clergy and lay pioneers of the Diocese of Montreal and those of past generations in this place who have run the great race, finished the course, and kept the faith.

**LORD OF ALL THAT IS AND SHALL BE, EMBOLDEN
YOUR SERVANTS WITH THE POWER OF THE HOLY
SPIRIT THAT WE MAY BOTH DISCERN AND EMBRACE
THE FUTURE YOU DESIRE FOR US. THROUGH JESUS
CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.**

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“My people seem to think that when we shall have a place of worship built, there will be more turning to protestant faith than now. I told them, you must not think that a building will make you Christians, nor the name of protestants; you may all turn protestants, yet if you have not the love of Christ, you will not be saved; you must not only strive to turn to be protestants, but you must pray to God to turn you to be Christians indeed.”

(letter written at Burlington, Vermont, on October 27, 1835, and quoted in the *Missionary Herald* of February 1837, page 78)

HIGHLIGHTS OF WZOKHILAIN'S MINISTRY

- 1822 – enters Moor's Charity School at Hanover, New Hampshire, where, upon conversion, he unites with the Church of Christ at Dartmouth College.
- 1829 – prepares primer and tract in Abenaki for publication at Boston by the American Board in 1830.
- 1830 – assumes post as government schoolmaster at Odanak and circulates his new books.
- 1835 – loses position but gains American Board appointment as native preacher in November; collects \$40.00 in Sorel and \$110.00 in Montreal for projected chapel.
- 1836 – attains licensure in January and ordination as evangelist in June at Clintonville, New York, by Champlain Presbytery.
- 1838 – dedicates chapel and gathers church in January and is installed pastor in July under auspices of St. Francis Congregational Association.
- 1839 – recruits Melbourne teacher Caroline Rankin who, in 1842, becomes assistant missionary; claims forty-seven have kept pledge of total abstinence.
- 1841 – corrects translation of Mark — not printed until 1845 in Montreal.
- 1842 – preaches revival at Durham branch in May and examines twelve who are converted.
- 1848 – reports Simon Annance as native assistant.
- 1850 – translates twelve chapters of Matthew.
- 1851 – compiles portion of Abenaki dictionary.
- 1855 – admits sole new member of 1847-57 decade.
- 1858 – is released by Board, leaves St. Francis.
- 1860 – preaches at Tuscarora, New York, Mission.