

## **Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Evron**

St-Raphael Mission - Le Goff, Alberta

Chronicles - Second booklet (1957-1967) about the second presence of the SNDE in LeGoff. (I borrowed this book of chronicles - 200 pages - from Sister Ann Yuhasz, in Edmonton, on November 23, 2021)

### **August 1957 - page 1**

After an absence of 37 years, and in response to repeated requests from Oblates Fathers in charge of the mission, of the Indians themselves, and at the pressing invitation of His Excellency Philippe Lussier, C. Ss. R., Bishop of St. Paul, it was decided to take over the St. Raphael Mission in LeGoff.

This decision, taken on Pentecost Sunday, June 9, 1957, was welcomed in the little province with an explosion of grateful joy, especially since this foundation coincided with the one that our Most Reverend Mother intended to set up in Africa.

My Sister E. Verron was chosen as Superior of the little House and dear Sisters Thérèse Villeneuve and Laurentia Beaudoin were added as companions, in order to take charge of two classes newly added to those already existing.

### **September 1, 1957 - page 5**

A short visit was made to Rev. Father Le Calvez, in charge of the mission, who seemed happy to have the Sisters. We returned the next day, Sunday, September 1, for high mass to meet the Indians and their children. The Rev. Father welcomed us and told his parishioners, in English, Montagnais and Cree, that we had come to teach their little children and to do other things in the mission. It was beautiful to see the elders come to greet Mother Provincial and say to her: "Are you going to stay? ... No, I am bringing my three daughters. - Why not you?" [Note in the margin: It was because this dear Mother had already taught at LeGoff from 1916 to 1920].

The chief came to greet our Mothers and assured them that he would take good care of us. Everyone is happy to have Sisters. We are delighted with this first meeting.

### **October 1, 1957 - page 12**

Mr. McNeil, Inspector of Primary Schools, comes to see our Sisters to see if they have any problems to submit to him. It is to help them that he came. He found their time schedule good, but it was difficult for our Sisters to follow it exactly as it was planned, as they had not yet received the textbooks for the students.

### **October 1957 - page 14**

The reserve, the children and the Sisters go to the clinic. Everyone on the reserve is required to have an X-ray. A health inspector comes to analyze the water from the well. The water is not drinkable, useless for many services, being rusty, it is condemned. The water from the stream will be brought for the use of the residence and the classes. After having boiled it, we use it without fear.

**October 1957** - page 16

[Teacher's convention in Morley.] The Program of the convention was interesting: How to maneuver with little Indians who don't understand English. It all comes down to these two words: patience and repetition.

**October 1957** - page 21

The "Flue" continues and seems hard on the elderly. An old Indian lady, Mrs. Marie Anne Janvier, 92 years old, died of it. On the day of her burial, the church was filled with people. On her coffin was a crown of roses of all colors. In these circumstances, the Indians are very sympathetic to the family. Another 90-year-old woman, Marie Josephine Beaverfoot died the same day.

**November 2 to 5, 1957** - page 22

From Nov. 2 to 5, the reserve had a mission preached in two dialects: in Chipewyan by Rev. Fr. Haramburu, Oblate Provincial in the Mackenzie, and in Cree by Fr. Chataigner of Lac la Biche. The instructions were well followed. Haramburu gave the children very interesting films of the northern missions every afternoon. They are the same tribes, although the language is a little different for certain expressions.

**19 November 1957** - page 23

19 Nov. First conference of Fr. Le Calvez who speaks to us about the character of our Indians, wanting us to understand it so that we can adapt to them in order to do them more good. He encourages the Sisters to train the children in piety, to make small sacrifices. Although the reserve is all Catholic, there are still slave women, who work hard...

There has been progress in the last 40 years! We have the children of Mother Provincial's students; we notice more hygiene than in her time, less vermin..., but not everything has been done.

In the midst of these poor people, we want to show ourselves more and more as true daughters of our Mother Thulard by loving the little ones, the neglected ones... and there are some among the Indians.

**December 1957** - page 29

The winter is becoming vigorous; help has been requested from the Indian Department to dress the school children.

**December 1957** - page 31

From the beginning of December, our dear little Indians have the Christmas spirit; they bring beautiful trees, wanting to enjoy their Christmas trees before the vacations. All of them, young and old, want to decorate pictures, windows, doors ... they draw spontaneously and reveal their artistic gifts.

**December 20, 1957** - page 32

[Speech at the opening of new building.] Father Le Calvez then explained the progress already made and expressed his hope that in a few years the students who had graduated from the Le Goff elementary school would continue their studies and become good teachers, doctors, nurses, etc. But he added, in the most convinced terms, that the school would not be able to keep up with the demands of the times. But he adds in convinced terms that another great problem presents itself and must be solved and soon if we do not want to see the uselessness of our schools. This problem ... is to find work in the white man's trades for those young Indians men and women who have obtained their degrees or diplomas.

**December 24, 1957** - page 34

At the second mass, the Christmas carols, on the tunes we know, were sung in English, Chipewyan and Cree. How much we enjoyed these beautiful songs!

**January 1, 1958** - page 38

First New Year's Day at the Indian Mission. The "Happy New Year" are exchanged and the handshakes are distributed, but the Indian men and women being more civilized do not embrace as they did 40 years ago, which does not displease us.

**January 7, 1958** - page 36

The class will start at 9:30 am for 3 months. All the children are on time today. The little ones are happy to see my Sister Juliette again and look at her from head to toe; several of them had brought home the fact that their teacher had broken both legs. [She must have hurt one leg and was walking on crutches].

**February 19, 1958** - page 39

Visit of the classes by Mr. Kester, Federal Indian Inspector. His inspection was quite short, but he seemed satisfied and was sympathetic to the Sisters. It is Ash Wednesday; he knows that the children have to go to mass at 11:30. There is a great attendance at the church, even the little "papouses" in the arms of their mothers receive the ashes.

**March 17, 1958** - page 45

The Inspector from Bonnyville came to my Sister Juliette's house without being expected. The inspection lasted two hours and everything went very well. He should have come in February, but he had forgotten. The good Lord allowed everything in this forgetfulness, because since our dear companion has no more plaster cast or crutches, circulating better and better in her class, everything is easier. Her report sent to the University is good.

The Inspector is happy to have dinner with the Rev. Father. There is no restaurant in our village.

**April 1958** - page 46

The Indians are invited to come to confession from the first days of Holy Week, the times for each day are indicated on the "Le Goff Bulletin", a small pamphlet distributed every Sunday to each family after high mass and containing news from the reserve only.

**April 6, 1958** - page 48

Holy Day of Easter. Early in the morning, the women come with large jugs to get their supply of holy water. The Sisters hasten to fetch some too, because at the time of the high mass, at 10:30 a.m., the big tank is almost empty.

**May 21, 1958** - page 57

[There are visitors in the convent.] Mother Marie-Joseph does not want to leave the mission without going to the cemetery; the small dwellings above some of the tombs intrigue her very much; it is the superstition of the ancient Indians who think that the soul would be roaming and wandering if it did not find a place to stay.

**May 30, 1958** - pages 57-58

Treaty Day. Great civil celebration for the Indians. This day reminds them of the contract made between the Government and all the Indians of Canada about 1869. The former agreed to give them the land that each tribe would choose for itself and that would be called "Reserve", plus \$5.00 per Indian with hospitalization and instructional aid.

For their part, the Indians would remain on their reserves and lose the freedom to move here and there across Canada. The Indian Chiefs were unwilling to submit; it was through Bishop Grandin and Father Lacombe that the terms were accepted. This change helped the missionaries in their conversion work.

The children were discharged as soon as the X-rays were taken. That day also saw the appointment of the new Chief, Charlie Blackman, who came with one of his advisors to see the Sisters and recommend himself to their prayers.

Their celebration lasted several days, and on Saturday, the Sisters went to their grounds, where about twenty tents were set up; as soon as the children saw us, they came running to us. At the entrance of their tents, the Indians play cards and gamble money, and the most relentless are the women. The Sisters went to greet the Chief who was also playing checkers; the arrival of the Sisters did not interrupt the game. From there, the Sisters with the group of children went to Madeleine Blackman's kiosk who was selling a little bit of everything; the children were placed all around and the distribution of "suckers" was done: in all 150, so 150 children followed us. They disperse after this little treat.

**May 1958** - page 59

The work of the children: drawings, writing, etc. was sent to the Grand Centre for exhibition. Later, in June, others will be sent to the Edmonton exhibition.

**June 4-5, 1958** - page 59

On the 4th, the Indian ladies were cleaning the church, some men came to help them, taking out the pews, they were all in the yard. The men are heating the water and carrying it, there is a lot of activity and the work is going well. Really, the floor has changed color.

On the 5th, Father Tétrault admitted the children of my Sister Laurentia's class as "Handmaids Pages", blessed the emblems, and gave them a little speech to explain what they were

committing themselves to. They all seemed to understand and were proud to be little "Crusaders".

**June 1958** - page 63

The entire school won 21 first prizes, 14 second prizes and 15 third prizes. Winners receive money. \$39.00 was sent to Mrs. Principal.

**June 1958** - page 63

The children have finished their exams, nothing interests them anymore; they only think of running in the woods. They are looking forward to their "School Picnic" on June 24.

**June 1958** - page 64

The Picnic opened with the girls playing ball and then the boys who were more enthusiastic and full of life. The crowd was large since the parents were invited, which means the reserve was present and also many white people. After the ball games, it was the races. The children were most interested in this: they jumped, they exclaimed with joy, they all wanted to arrive first, but the lot fell only on the three best runners to win the prizes.

It was the turn of the "High Jump". You had to see all these little people, even the six-year-olds who don't come to school yet. It was so nice to see them lift their little legs to jump the rope and they were so proud of their move, successful or not.

Then came the Tug-o-war. Two opposing groups pulling on a long rope trying to knock off their rival first. This game was of great interest to the adults, as the children used all their strength, which made the loser's fall heavier. In all the games, the adults were very interested and even regretted not being able to take part. One witness said to me, "Sister, we should have a day like this for everyone, but today it is for the school children."

The parents were very friendly; they came to talk to us. A snack served by the ladies ended the day. It was lovely to see the children sitting in a circle on the grass waiting for their turn.

It was a wonderful day, better than I ever thought possible. Even a little white boy who had come to have fun with the Indians said to his mother, "Mama, I never had so much fun!"

Our Sisters returned delighted from this picnic, their first, and especially not too tired.

**June 27, 1958** - page 67

What an animation! Last day at school. It was the distribution of prizes. Around 10:00 a.m., the children all gather in the basement of the new school. Rev. Fr. Tétrault tells them about the beginnings of their ancestors embracing the Catholic faith, about their first missionaries, what they did to help them be firm in their Faith, about the books they wrote: grammars, dictionaries, hymns, missals in their language which is the most difficult to learn. He showed the children how much these missionaries loved them.

**September 2, 1958** - page 84

On September 2, our little Indians arrive joyfully to start a new school year. There are about a hundred of them who will be divided into four classes. Our Sisters will have 29 and 27 students respectively. But the parents of these dear children have difficulties with the Government and they think it is a good idea, in order to put more pressure on the Authorities, to keep their children at home for a few days, so the next day the classes are almost empty. We pray that everything will work out, because this time the Indians are determined not to give in. The Catholic reserves are having a hard time getting what they want, even though they are within their rights.

**October 4, 1958** - page 87

Sister Juliette and Sister Laurentia, under the guidance of Fr. Le Calvez, made a short visit to some Indian houses in Cold Lake. What misery! Our Sisters are all upset to think that people can live in such small houses!

**October 23, 1958** - page 88

On October 23, the Inspector, Mr. Kester, came to visit the classes. He seems satisfied. At four o'clock, the teachers' meeting. He announces that he intends to open a fifth class in Mrs. Levasseur's basement next year and that Grade IX will be taught here. Let us pray to the Holy Spirit that our good Mothers will find a Sister for this new class!

**February 4, 1959** - page 95

On February 4, the teachers, the Indians and Mr. Kester, Inspector, had a meeting concerning the school. It was very lively and, if the Indians do not always know how to express themselves correctly in English, they are not afraid to speak!

**June 1959** - page 101

The last Sunday of the month is the children's picnic. This year, however, the parents are invited and "everyone" has a good time. Our Sisters, because of their children, go there. There are races and ball games.

Two days later, certificates and awards are distributed and we wish "good vacation" to all the dear children who also need these two months of rest.

**Early November 1959** - page 109

From the beginning of November, the teachers are busy finding songs, ballets, plays and recitations for the Christmas concert. This year, there will be some changes. Our two Sisters agreed that one would take the girls from both classes to practice and the other would take the boys. This way, they will have larger groups and will produce more interesting activities. Also, the "little singers" in their pretty red and white costumes, the "three bears", the ballets of the little girls were applauded with enthusiasm. Our dear Sisters of Bonnyville are honored and pleased to attend our concert for the first time in our school.

Our children are happy to be on vacation and it goes without saying that their teachers share their happiness!

**December 15, 1961** - pages 121-122

The three of us accompany our children to the air base. About twenty cars came to pick us up around 12:30. A very cordial reception. It was dignified, cheerful and simple. Santa Claus came down from the helicopter to wish us a "Merry Christmas". The entrance was made to the sound of the orchestra, ladies and gentlemen taking care of the children and giving them each a big bag of candy and a bottle of refreshment. They were being children to give the children pleasure. We had brought our songbooks and the gentlemen sang with us.

**December 16, 1961** - pages 122-123

Sunday the 16th. Three tall young Indians, Solomon, Norman and Francis Scanie come to ask to decorate the classrooms' boards. The proposal was graciously accepted. What a precious help for the teaching of the Catechism and much appreciated ... the manger, the shepherds, the Magi make their appearance! The more we receive, the more we desire! These good guys are therefore "requisitioned" to make a small stable. Two small boxes of tangerines, brushes, boxes of tempera are lined up and a beautiful little crib with very bright colors made a marvelous place at the foot of the Christmas tree. They had not forgotten the manger ... it was rustic ... it was perfect.

**December 21, 1961** - page 123

Concert. Contrary to the usual, it started on time! The marvelous idea of using one of the small rooms, for the use of the Sisters, to dress the participants and that of keeping all these little people close to the theater, contributed in large part to the success of the enterprise. Everything was finished in an hour and a half. Parents and children were radiant, and the teachers were delighted with the harmony with which the preparations and the concert had been carried out.

**February 3, 1962** - page 123

First Friday of the month. The Indians, in a big meeting, expressed to the Superintendent and the Inspector their resolution to keep their children on the reserve and demanded the opening of a fifth class with "vocational training facilities". We are proud of them for behaving like sensible people who support each other and show guts in their decision and expression of their rights.

**May 26, 1962** - page 125

Saturday, May 26, at about seven o'clock in the morning, a bus from Cold Lake took Mr. Coady, my Sister Superior and my Sister Juliette and about fifty students to Blue Quills for the "Track meet". It was a perfect day. We were proud of our children. They were obedient, polite and good sport in the various games. Gordon Janvier won the medal in the races for the ten and eleven year old boys and Joan Janvier for the eight and nine year old girls. Many more of them won ribbons than in previous years. The girls even won a ball game. This is encouraging for the athletic director, Sister Juliette.

**June 19, 1962** - page 126

Treaty Day. Too bad it is held during the school year. The children are so tired that they cannot work at school.

**September 4, 1962** - pages 131-132

Opening of the classes. 136 students are registered ... 27 starters! Disappointment ... the government persists in refusing a fifth class in spite of the promise to do so when the number of students reaches 120.

**September 7, 1962** - page 132

Home and School Assembly. Members of the Cold Lake Indian Day School Committee, legally organized since last winter, send their "perpetual petition" for two classes directly to Ottawa.

Considerable improvement. The said Committee is authorized, according to Mr. Knapp, to offer a free lunch to every student. The government commits to give 25 cents a day per student. This plan is working elsewhere. The ladies are faithful in coming to prepare it and everything works well to the satisfaction of the teachers who thus keep their pupils punctual at the afternoon class and of the pupils who are happy with their milk, fruit, sandwiches and cookies.

**September 12, 1962** - page 132

Counter-order from Mr. Knapp ... lunch cancelled by Ottawa. Consternation, but confidence in the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

**February 8, 1963** - page 138

... no more water in the little creek. The water trips from Cold Lake are resumed and, on the 16th, we are put back on the old well which had been condemned. We are there until the snow melts. May the good St. Joseph answer our prayers and provide us with water in quantity and quality!

**June 1, 1963** - page 139

On this day of our consecration to the Sacred Heart, we take our children to Blue Quills for the usual Track and Field Meet. It was an ideal day, except for the absence of our dear companion, Sister Marie-Louise, who was obliged to do a short internship at the Hospital in spite of her strong desire to come.

At the ball field, our boys, for the first time, won the annual trophy. Congratulations to them! Two little girls brought home medals in their respective groups and more ribbons were awarded. All in all, the school came in second to Blue Quills and the teachers came back proud of their students and encouraged them to participate in athletic endeavors.

**Christmas 1963** - page 144

The church is full, but we notice that attendance at Sunday mass is dwindling. The alcoholic drink is doing its work and the bingo games at Grand Centre are keeping many stay up until dawn on Sunday.

**January 13, 1964** - page 145

The school buses arrive empty. The Indians decide to keep their children at home until the Department of Indian Affairs gives them "drinking" water. We remain at our post in front of empty desks in "waiting".

**May 9, 1964** - page 148

Saturday, May 9 ... we go to the church for a wedding mass ... the groom, Jim Janvier, leaves for Cold Lake to get his marriage license and has a game of "pool" before returning. The ceremony takes place at three in the afternoon. He is in no hurry to unite his destiny with a young girl he is old enough to be her father.

**May 14, 1964** - page 148

Three other families receive us with kindness: Henry Marchatis, Maurice Janvier and Ben François. On our way back, we enter the house of the old lady Sampi, in bed for several days. Her husband is not far away and comes quickly to tell us his joy of seeing us.

**22 May 1964** - page 149

We visit Ben Matchatis, Dominique Scanie, Harry Janvier and Madeleine Blackman families whose mother, Virginie, one of the oldest women on the reserve, is dying. This old lady is so happy to see the Sisters and prays a lot for them, she says. Madeleine is interesting as can be, showing us all the family photos and memorabilia. Her brother, Charlie Blackman, was Chief in 1957, and he claims to be the one who brought the Sisters back. We could have spent the evening there.

**May 28, 1964** - page 150

Annette Scanie (Abraham) receives us in her turn. She is always a model of charity and devotion in looking after her "little children". We go to Baptiste Blackman's house. This young mother, Pauline Janvier, was very proud to receive us; her little children and her house are very clean. It is true that we warned them the day before. We bring the children with us after school and this makes the meeting easier. We receive many invitations from the parents and the children. Pauline drives us to her mother, Josephine Blackman, who works in her garden. Her husband, John, makes a fence. We've known them for a long time and we have a great desire to see their home; but no, we had to mortify ourselves. They come, not immediately to the car ... John has to hammer three, four more nails and plant three, four potatoes before they bother. They say they are happy to see us, but they don't offer to let us in. However, Joséphine whispers, in Chipewyan, a few words to Pauline who leaves for the house and returns with a small box of potatoes for us.

**December 18, 1964** - pages 156-158

Every year at Christmas, the "41 Club" Organization (Cold Lake Air Force Base Pilots) invites the teachers and students of the school to a "Christmas Party". This consists of treats: toys, lunch - almost meal - films for children, etc. This trip to and from the school is a real celebration for the students.

This year, twenty-four family cars came to pick them up with the Royal Canadian Police in the lead. Mr. Coady, the Principal, called the children family by family, up to 6 per car. Once all were on board, the signal was given and all followed the police. When they arrived at the main road, the latter placed himself in the middle of the road in order to stop the traffic until the long procession of cars was underway. Then, at full speed, he returns to his position at the head of the parade and everything goes uniformly to the Base.

A little before arriving at the destination, we see a helicopter named "Rescue" flying very low, next to the road. All the children look at it, and suddenly the door of the plane opens and we see "Santa Claus" who waves his hand! How much joy there is in the cars!

Soon, it is the arrival by an intense cold - 40° under zero, but in a few minutes, we find all our children inside where, helped by the "airmen", they put their coats in the checkroom. Quietly, they line up to sing Christmas carols while Santa Claus takes his place next to the Christmas tree decorated by the ladies of the Base. A small mountain of 140 gifts is on a nearby table and as we look at them, we can see the little ones' eyes rounding!

After the songs in English, French and Chipewyan, a little girl, Valerie Machatis, thanks the President and the members of the 41 Club for their kindness and presents the Season's greetings from the Staff and the students of Le Goff. Then, it's the "films" – most of them are cartoons, always enjoyed by the children. Meanwhile, a delicious lunch is served.

At about 4:00, the signal was given by Mr. Coady and everyone prepared for the return trip, happy to bring home a large box and candy.

The two Sister Teachers received a nice black desk pen-holder with their name on a gold plaque - very handy for their classroom desk!

This annual outing is always a celebration for the children and on this day, the parents care about seeing their children all dressed up and clean!

**May 6, 1965** - page 161

Each Indian receives \$410.00 - Oil Royalties - from the discovery of oil on the reserve. Some of them make good use of it: they furnish their houses, build new ones, buy cars! Surprisingly, there was only one horse-drawn carriage at the church door! And about thirty cars made a circle in the yard...

**May 1965** - page 162

At the beginning of the month, a "kindergarten" was opened in the basement of the school, under the direction of Mrs. McGilchrist and Annie Minoose - a first-year student at the University. There are about 20 children registered. The idea of the government is to prepare the children a little before they enter Grade I.

**December 17, 1965** - page 168

[Visit to Cold Lake Base].

**December 26, 1965** - pages 169-170

The day after [Christmas] everyone who can - young people, middle-age people, and even old people - go fishing 70 miles away. A good grandmother of more than 70 years of age takes the honor and glory of being part of it! This is one of their traditions that they treasure. After breaking the ice of the lake, they lower their nets and wait patiently for them to fill up, after

which the fish are taken out, frozen on the spot and then sold in the neighboring villages or even very far away. This is how they earn a little bit of money.

Our neighbor, Mr. Charlie Minoose, is always proud, when he comes back, to bring a dozen beautiful fish, well cleaned, to Sister Georgette. It is because the Indian has naturally a good heart, when one has won his confidence.

**February 22, 1966** - page 172

Mr. Ovide Jacko invited us to go to his house to see another Totem Pole of 8 feet high that he had made with the idea of putting it at the entrance of his yard. But this work of art is coveted by the authorities in Cold Lake who are looking for it for their tourist office in 1967. Perhaps it will become a livelihood for this dear Indian who has no other job and a family of six children. The house, well laid out and fairly modern ... for the reserve, consists of 5 rooms that barely contain the necessities ... not even chairs. The lady, very discreetly, tells us that she is very honored to receive us in her home. After two pictures in front of the Totem Pole, we go back home, happy to have pleased them.

**March 7, 1966** - page 173

Mr. Philip Grandbois, age 74, went to his eternal reward after a 10-month illness. A pioneer of the reserve, he was always a good Christian. As we have many of his grandchildren in our classes, we went to pay our last respects to him. According to the custom of the Indians, he was laid out with his face veiled, in the coffin, placed on the ground and surrounded by lanterns and pious images. The friends, almost all women, were sitting on the floor against the wall in an attitude of prayer. The family was so happy that the Sisters had come to show their sympathy on this occasion that they wanted to take a picture of the Sisters kneeling beside the coffin. R. I. P.

**April 18, 1966** - page 174

School starts again on April 18, the last leg of the school year. Regularity is difficult for the Indians at this time, because as soon as the sap rises in the trees, the call of nature seizes them and they easily succumb to it. Also, illness plays its part and absences complicate teaching.

**May 27, 1966** - page 175

Our field day in St. Paul was a real success and, in spite of all the difficulties of having reasonable practices, the little girls brought home a trophy. Congratulations to the students and their dedicated coach, Sister Laurentia.

**July 24, 1966** - page 179

Mr. Ovide Jacko, recently appointed Chief, invites us to go to Cold Lake to see his large Totem Pole completed and erected on the lakefront at the crossroads. It is a 20-foot, axe and saw carved monument; it stands in a cement base, welcoming visitors to the "tourist center". We congratulated him and encouraged him to undertake a second one to match. With no instruction and no other instrument than the electric saw, this Indian is developing a hitherto latent talent.

**September 1966** - page 181

[Confirmation.] Unlike in previous years, Msgr. did not question the children, but he was delighted with the discipline and good organization of the ceremony. Our four altar boys,

Adélar Blackman, Lloyd Minoose, Leslie Janvier and Floyd Jacko, did us a real honour and were congratulated by Fr. Têtu, the Bishop's assistant.

**December 16, 1966** - pages 184-185  
[Christmas outing at the Cold Lake base].

**May 5, 1967** - page 188

On May 5, we went to Cold Lake for the graduation of the 17 graduates, among whom were an Indian girl from LeGoff, Miss Janvier, and a Métis from Elizabeth Colony, Miss Collins. We were proud of them. After the evening, we went to the Oblate Sisters for a snack.

**June 19, 1967** - pages 189-190

On June 10, one of Sister Henriette's Grade 1 students died from an explosion at home. He suffered terribly for a month. God called him to his eternal home. We went several times to pray by his coffin and to console the grieving mother. The whole school attended the funeral mass. The small white coffin was placed on the steps of the church and all those present sang hymns in English and Cree. After the mass, the coffin was taken to the cemetery while the crowd sang hymns. This little boy, Roland Piché, was the son of Mrs. Piché who worked for so long at the mission.

**September 5, 1967** - page 193

Classes opened at 9:00 a.m. Where are the many children? Only about fifty! ... they will come back later ... at this time, (it's fashionable, isn't it) the Indian parents are on "Strike" and don't send their children. In a few days, all this will be over and the majority of the children will return to school and by "School Bus". Since Grade I does not have a teacher, Sister Eugenie is the substitute teacher until the new teacher arrives.

**September 1967** - page 196

The children come to school warm and well-dressed; they got their Treaty on September 20 - money or clothes.

The classes are now organized and all these little people are busy as a bee. My Sister Superior has 30 students (grades 3 and 4). Sister Laurentia has, among her people, a little Cree Indian girl named "Rita Almighty Voice"; she must have had a good voice when she entered this "Beautiful World" to deserve such a beautiful title.

♦ Translated by Eloi DeGrâce with [www.DeepL.com/Translator](http://www.DeepL.com/Translator) (free version)  
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