

Father Hippolyte Leduc

BORN : Évron, France April 30, 1842

ORDAINED : Ottawa, Ontario December 4, 1864

DIED : Edmonton, Alberta June 29, 1918

Hippolyte studied at the college of Évron and at the minor seminaries of Précigné and of Mayenne, entered the novitiate of Notre-Dame-de-l'Osier on October 31, 1860, professed his perpetual vows at the Scholasticate of Montolivet, on February 17, 1862. Having finished his studies at Autun, he was sent to Canada and ordained in Ottawa, on December 4, 1864.

From 1864 to 1867, he taught at the college in Ottawa, ministered in the logging camps along the Gatineau River, left for the Canadian west, worked at St. Boniface, St. Norbert and also at Pembina, North Dakota.

He then left for St. Albert, Alberta (1867-1874), where he built the cathedral in 1870, visited Fort Pitt, Fort Edmonton, Lac St. Anne, Lac-la-Biche (1874-1877), returned to St. Albert (1877-1886), was postmaster and taught theology (1880-1882). He was then sent to Calgary, visited Banff, Pincher Creek, Fort McLeod (1885-1893). In Edmonton (1896-1905), he built St Joachim's church, established the hospital, the convent of the Sisters of Misericordia (1900) and spent the rest of his life in St. Albert (1905-1918).

As procurator of the diocese and Vicar General of St. Albert, he defended the rights of the catholic schools and became a peacemaker during the Métis Rebellion of 1885. He wrote several books. He was proposed as a candidate to succeed Bishop Grandin; he became a member of the Board of Education of the Northwest Territories, and school inspector (1887-1889). A town in Alberta carries his name.

He was buried in the crypt of St. Albert's church.