

PAROCHIALIZING THE METROPOLE: RELIGIOUS SPACE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN INDUSTRIALIZING MONTREAL

Joshua Werber | ARIA 2019 Summer Project | Prof. Samuel Nelson

ABSTRACT

This research focuses on three themes. First, it tracks the creation of Catholic “territorial parishes” and churches in the Diocese of Montreal, highlighting the political significance of such projects. Second, it examines the various public services that the municipality outsourced to The Church. Third, given Montreal’s historical diversity, this project gathers data on the creation and spread of “national Parishes” in the city, that is, parishes whose membership consisted of all Catholics of a given ethnicity within a territory. In addition to these three broad themes, the research notes all instances in which the history of The Catholic Church in Montreal contributed to the development of Montreal’s urban landscape. The findings indicate that The Church was instrumental in shaping Montreal’s urban institutions and public services.

Significance and Objectives

Significance

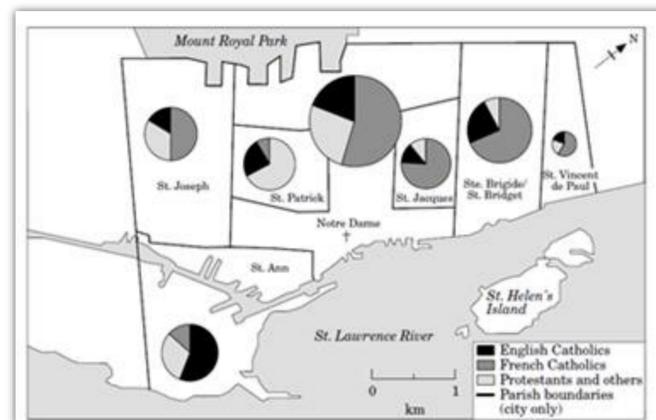
- Demonstrates urban environments and public services are results of cultural dynamics;
- Underscores the power of ecclesial institutions;
- Highlights the historical roots of Montreal’s diversity.

Learning Objectives

- Uncover tensions surrounding the parochial development of Montreal;
- Track the development of National Parishes in Montreal;
- Identify the role of the Parish in the delivery of Public services;
- Understand how ecclesial buildings shaped perceptions of public space.

Methodology

- **Secondary source reading:** Textbooks and academic articles
- **Primary Archival sources from provincial, municipal, and ecclesial archives:** maps, parish registries, and images of parochial activities
- All research was bilingual



Public Services

- Cath. Public Services/poor relief via reli. Orders in every parish
- Prots. had Central coordination via “**Charity Organization Society**”
 - Birth of the professional social worker in mtl
- Municipal money, 1913: \$497 712 in total (**11.5M**)
- Education run from w/in parish
 - Liberals push to modernize it, esp w/depression
 - As parishes weaken, more turn to public institutions for support

National Parishes

- **Non-territorial**
- Requested and partly administered by family leaders who determine membership
- Precedent set by Irish situation lead to very diverse city
- From all over, but Anglo and Italian are huge
 - 30+ Anglo and 5 Italian by 1980s

The Dismemberment of Notre-Dame: First National Parishes

- Montreal was one Sulpician Parish: Notre-Dame
- Bourget wants to subdivide in 1860s
- Opposition: Sulpician-Irish alliance
 - Sulpician resistance to loss of control/money
 - Irish fear becoming a minority in every parish and forced mingling with French
 - Hold up civil recognition of Parishes until Rome decree 1875
- **Solution:** National Parish over French Parish

Urban Architecture

- Baroque as an U.M. statement and Prot. pushback
- Sulpicians used Gothic while Latrigue proffered gothic
- Bourget strategically places **Baroque** to distinguish from Gothic Anglican (Christ Church)
- Cath goes on to build larger and larger churches with less coherent styles, just trying to impose dominance

Aknowledgments

The completion of this project would not have been possible without the generous contributions of Mrs. Barbara Keenan, The Arts Internship Office, and McGill University’s School of Religious Studies and Professor Samuel Nelson for directing the research and providing guidance throughout.

References

- The geopolitics of the Irish-Catholic parish in nineteenth-century Montreal, Rosalyn Trigger;
- L’Église de Montréal, 1836-1986 : aperçus d’hier et d’aujourd’hui;
- La Paroisse, Courville et al.;
- Montreal in evolution: historical analysis of the development of Montreal’s architecture and urban environment, J.C. Marsan;
- Montreal : the history of a North American city, Dany Fougères and Roderick Macleod;
- Histoire de Montréal depuis la Confédération, Paul-André Linteau’ Church;
- BANQ;
- Municipal Archives of Montreal;
- St. Gabriel’s Church;
- St. Charles’ Church

