



**Name:** Joseph Gérard Alphonse LaPlante  
**Date of Birth:** November 10, 1941  
**Place of Birth:** Causapscal, Québec  
**Father:** Alphonse Laplante (St-Germain, Kamouraska, P.Q.)  
**Mother:** Maria Paradis (Kamaouraska, P.Q.)  
**Studies:** Causapscal, P.Q. - Elementary School  
Sacred Heart College  
Bathurst, N.B. - Secondary School - 1956 - 1960  
Univerité of Moncton - 1960 - 1962  
Universite de Montreal - 1962 - 1964, H.E.C.  
**Date of Ordination to the Priesthood:** 5. October, 1975  
**Place:** Toronto - Chapel of Bishop Ernest W. Jackson  
**Officiant:** +Rt. Rev. Ernest W. Jackson  
**Date of Ordination to the Episcopate:** September 30, 1979  
**Place:** Blessed Trinity Cathedral, Liberal Catholic Church,  
Hamilton, Ontario  
**Consecrator(s):** Most Rev. Donald Berry, M.A.  
Most Rev. Joseph H.V. Russel

*Has served St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church since 1972  
as a working priest (unpaid).*

## In Souvenir

**“For you I am a Bishop; with you I am a Christian”**  
*Saint Augustine, homily for the anniversary of his ordination as Bishop, 4<sup>th</sup>  
century, Divine Office, September 19.*

**“I wish to thank all the clergy, friends, and parishioners  
that participated in the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary of my ordination. Your good wishes and  
gifts were greatly appreciated.**

*+ J. Gérard A. La Plante*

**Rt. Rev. J. Gérard A. LaPlante, Bishop  
The Old Catholic Church of BC**

## The Old Catholic Church of BC

Churches have declared themselves to be Old Catholic in various times and places. The first group of Churches to proclaim themselves Old Catholic appeared in the Netherlands in the 18th Century when the Dutch Catholics extended sympathy and hospitality to French Catholics who were denied religious liberty in France. Their defense of religious liberty brought them condemnation from Rome, and since 1739, the Archbishopric of Utrecht has remained independent of Rome. Old Catholics have always held that under Christ, one finds perfect freedom. Rather than disavow their historic principles, they have maintained separate existence from Rome since the 18th Century. Other Churches joined them in 1870 when the first Vatican Council proclaimed the doctrine of Papal Infallibility. Since only Christ is infallible, many Churches in Austria, Germany, Bavaria, and Switzerland, realizing their position was closer to Utrecht than to Rome, proclaimed themselves Old Catholic.

The Old Catholic Church of British Columbia, with its Church of Saint Raphael's, established in 1921, is an independent communion which derives its Apostolic

Succession from the Old Catholic Church in Holland, thus assuring the Catholic validity of its rites, sacraments and clerical orders.

We do not receive any grants or funds from municipal, provincial or federal governments. We are duly registered in BC and Ottawa. In the past 30 years we have provided room and board for over 300 people in need, and helping them back on their feet. Our clergy are not paid. We hold secular jobs for a livelihood. Celibacy is optional.

The majority of our people attending the church are very different ethnically, socially, religiously. All are welcome. Members of the Old Catholic Church are joyful Christians happily sharing their glorious Faith with others; a love for Christ, and a warm commitment and devotion to Jesus Christ is the criterion for membership in the Old Catholic Church.

**St. Raphael's Old Catholic Church, Vancouver, BC**  
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**outside**



**inside**

