

**Father Normand Ludger Thibodeau, O.F.M. collection**

MCC-00428

Total boxes: 1  
Cubic feet: 0.5ft

Prepared by  
Anne Chamberland  
Acadian Archives / Archives acadiennes  
University of Maine at Fort Kent  
Fort Kent, Maine  
February 2016

## **Father Normand Ludger Thibodeau, O.F.M. collection (MCC-00428)**

Shelf List Number: UM-428

### **Collection Overview**

#### Creator

James Thibodeau

#### Dates

1965-2000

#### Extent

2 folders (.05 cubic feet)

#### Provenance

Material was acquired from Mr. James Thibodeau, nephew to Father Normand L. (Ludger) Thibodeau

#### Language

English

French

Maliseet

#### Conservation Notes

Loose papers were inserted in archival sleeves for protection.

### **Conditions Governing Access and Use**

#### Restrictions

Access: No restrictions

Physical: No restrictions

Technical: No restrictions

#### Rights Statement

Copyright has been assigned to the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes.

#### Recommended Citation

Father Normand Ludger Thibodeau, O.F.M. Collection, (MCC-00428). Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

### **Collection Description**

#### Biographical Information

Normand Ludger Thibodeau, son of Paul D. Thibodeau and Mary Alice Nadeau, was born August 12, 1913 in Fort Kent, Maine. His primary education was done in Fort Kent, Maine and

his classical studies at College missionnaire franciscain de Sorel (1926-1928) and at College Séraphique at Trois-Rivieres (1928-1933). He did his novitiate with the Franciscans at Lennoxville near Sherbrooke, Quebec and started his religious profession August 15, 1934. He continued his philosophical studies at the Franciscan's Scolasticat in Quebec and his study in theology at the Séminaire franciscain in Rosemont, Montreal. He was ordained priest on June 29, 1941 at the Montreal Cathedral.

For the next 25 years, Father Thibodeau taught graduate courses in education at Franciscan's colleges of Biddeford, Maine, Trois-Rivieres, and Longueuil in Quebec.

He received his master's degree in education through St. Bonaventure University in New York and his doctorate degree in education from Calvin Coolidge College in Boston in 1960.

Father Thibodeau arrived in New Brunswick in 1966 and devoted many years in and around Perth-Andover as priest, chaplain, vicar, and administrator. He dedicated many hours as a member of different committees serving these parishes. While working in Perth-Andover, he adapted to the culture and mentality of the Maliseet natives and with a group of Maliseet, they transcribed the catholic mass and prayers into the Maliseet language. He was known as 'Norty' by his peers.

Father Normand Ludger Thibodeau died April 5, 2000 at the St. Pierre-Baptiste convent in Sorel, Quebec and was buried at "Le Repos de Saint-Francois d'Assise" cemetery in Montreal.

### Historical Information

The First Order or the "Order of Friars Minor" is commonly called the "Franciscans". This Order is a mendicant religious order of men, some of whom trace their origin to Francis of Assisi. Their official Latin name is the *Ordo Fratrum Minorum* (O.F.M.).

Mendicant Friars (Latin *mendicare*, "to beg") are members of religious orders in the Roman Catholic Church, who take a vow of poverty by which they renounce all personal and communal property. They live chiefly by charity. After overcoming the initial opposition of the established clergy, the chief societies were authorized in the 13th century. They include: Friars Minor, or Franciscans (received papal approval in 1209); Friars Preachers, or Dominicans (1216); Carmelites (1245); and Augustinians (1256). A fifth order, the Servites, founded in 1233, was acknowledged as a mendicant order in 1424.

Friar (Latin *frater*, "brother") is a term applied to members of certain religious orders who practice the principles of monastic life and devote themselves to the service of humanity in the secular world. Originally, their regulations forbade the holding either of community or personal property, and the resulting dependence of friars on voluntary contributions in order to live caused them to be known as mendicant orders. The founders of the orders used the term friar to designate members; Saint Francis of Assisi called his followers Friars Minor, and Saint Dominic used the name Friars Preachers. The larger orders were given popular names, derived usually from the color or other distinguishing marks of their habits, such as Black Friars (Dominicans), Gray Friars (Franciscans), and White Friars (Carmelites). Friars differed from monks in that the monk was attached to a specific community within which he led a cloistered life, having no

direct contact with the secular world. The friar, on the other hand, belonged to no particular monastic house but to a general order, and worked as an individual in the secular world.<sup>1</sup>

### Scope and Content

This collection consists of documents referring to Father Normand L. Thibodeau: curriculum vitae, personal notes, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination program for Father Thibodeau, Father Thibodeau's eulogy by Father Georges-A. Robert, photographs, newspaper article, handmade books of catholic mass translated in Maliseet by Maliseet parishioners and coordinated by Father Normand Thibodeau.

### Arrangement

### Separated Materials (If Applicable)

Not applicable

### Subject Headings

Franciscans

Malecite Indians

Passamaquoddy language

Photographs

Tobique Indian Reserve (N.B.)

### Related Materials

Not applicable

## **Collection Inventory**

---

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	1 personal note from uncle Ludger to Nancy and Jim (drawing done by Norty) (English)
		1 personal note from uncle Ludger to Jim. (drawing done by Norty) (English)
		1 personal note from Ludger to Lorette and Omer. (drawing done by Norty) (English)
		2 Fiftieth anniversary program of the ordination of Father Normand Thibodeau, O.F.M. – pamphlet (English)
		1 note of gratitude by Fr. Florian-M. Villemure, O.F.M. 1 sheet. (French)
		1 curriculum vitae – 1 sheet (French)

---

<sup>1</sup>[http://www.franciscanfriarstor.com/archive/friars/stf\\_franciscans.htm](http://www.franciscanfriarstor.com/archive/friars/stf_franciscans.htm)

1 typescript eulogy by Georges-A. Robert, O.F.M. 1 sheet (French)

1 newspaper article "Father Thibodeau Named Head of Biddeford College"  
March 1955

3 photos: #1 Father Normand Thibodeau. 9cm x 9cm

#2 Paul Thibodeau and Father Normand. 1964-65. 9cm x 9cm

#3 Father Normand Thibodeau, Mary Alice Thibodeau, Sister  
Paulina (Juliette Thibodeau)

1 2 1 handmade booklet of *The Maliseet Mass*, 1988. 5.5 in x 8.5 in. 44 pages.  
(English and Maliseet)

1 handmade book of *The Maliseet Mass*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Limited Revised Edition, August  
1990. Contains handwritten notes inserted in plastic sleeves by staff. 8.5in. x 11in.  
53 pages. (English and Maliseet)