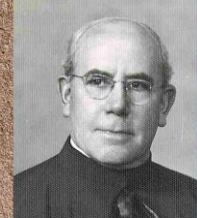
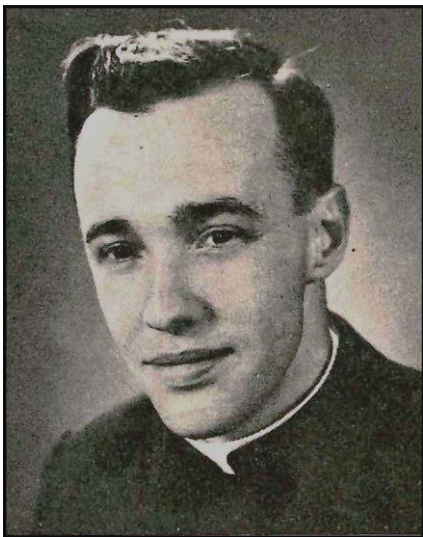


**THESE**  
are our brothers



## **‘Great Faith in God’: Reverend J.J. Bensette**

John Joseph Bensette was born November 22, 1924 to Albert Bensette and Aurora Burns. He grew up in Windsor, attending St. Clare’s School for his elementary studies, and later, Assumption College for secondary school. He showed great promise in his academic studies, and it was no surprise that he went on to study at both the University of Michigan and the University of Detroit, receiving his Master of Arts degree in Mathematics from the latter in 1948. He taught for a few years prior to entering St. Peter’s Seminary, and was ordained by Bishop John Cody on June 4, 1955.



His first assignment was as assistant pastor at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Tilbury from 1955 to 1956, and from there, he once again returned to academic life, teaching mathematics at Christ the King College in London from 1956 to 1959, as well as concurrently acting as chaplain at Brescia Hall from 1957 to 1959. In 1961, he briefly served as administrator of St. Peter’s Parish in St. Joseph.

He returned to the pastorate in 1965, serving as assistant pastor at St. Mary’s Parish in London from 1965 to 1966; 1966 to 1967 found him at St. James’ Parish in Seaforth; he briefly spent time at St. Mary’s Parish in Tillsonburg during August of 1967; and finally, he was assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Sarnia for a year, until 1968.

From there, he became pastor at St. Paul’s Parish in Thamesville from 1968 to 1973, and from 1973 to 1987, he served at St. Peter’s Parish in St. Joseph. Although he retired in 1988 due to a prolonged period of ill health, he was in residence at St. Gabriel’s Parish in his native Windsor, where he stayed until 1991. He died later that same year.

Father Bensette was remembered as a man with a keen mind and remarkable persistence, who kept in touch with the needs of his parishioners. His bouts with ill health did not make his faith waiver, as his brother priests knew him as a man of deep prayer and devotion.

*Tiffany Champagne, M.L.I.S.  
Volunteer Archivist  
November 30, 2016*