

## **BIOGRAPHY OF ARCHBISHOP DENIS O'CONNOR THIRD ARCHBISHOP OF TORONTO**

**Born - March 26, 1841**

**Ordained - December 8, 1863**

**Installed as 3<sup>rd</sup> Archbishop of Toronto – May 3, 1899**

**Died - June 30, 1911**



Born in Pickering, Denis O'Connor first studied at St. Michael's College in Toronto and then completed his education in France. He was ordained on December 8, 1863 by Bishop Lynch at St. Michael's Cathedral. After a long academic career as a professor at St. Michael's (1863-70) and Dean of Sandwich College (1870-90), Father O'Connor took up duties as Administrator of the London diocese. On July 18, 1890, Father O'Connor was named Bishop of London and was consecrated by Archbishop Walsh in St. Peter's Cathedral in London. On January 7, 1899, Bishop O'Connor was appointed Archbishop of Toronto, becoming Toronto's first Bishop born in Ontario. He was installed as Toronto's third Archbishop on May 3, 1899.

Due to ill health, Archbishop O'Connor resigned as Archbishop of Toronto on May 4, 1908. Before resigning Bishop O'Connor presided over a series of diocesan reforms in clerical education, religious instruction and canonical marriage law. A member of the Basilian Order, he retired to its Toronto novitiate where he died on June 30, 1911. He is buried at Mount Hope Cemetery in Toronto.

In 1903, Archbishop O'Connor blessed the altar stone of the new parish church of St. John the Evangelist in Whitby. His association with this parish and archdiocese is commemorated in this building and its work. "His efforts to promote the instruction of children of all ages and classes must ever stand as the chief glory of his episcopate."