



Dr. John Francis Dunn
1871 – 1961

John Francis Dunn was born on May 19, 1871 in South Crosby Twp. of Leeds & Grenville County, Ontario of Irish ancestry and lived on his parent's farm. Tragedy struck early in his life when his mother contracted tuberculosis and passed away when he was only 11 years old. This traumatic experience may have impressed on him a particular compassion for the sick.

After an attempt at farming and then teaching, he found neither of these careers were his calling. He enrolled at McGill University and graduated from the Faculty of Medicine in 1904. Upon graduation, he also contracted tuberculosis. He worked as a ship's doctor and during this time made a complete recovery possibly due to a combination of fresh air, rest, sunshine and Divine Providence.

Dr. J.F. Dunn came to Almonte in 1910 at the request of newly appointed Fr. J.T. McNally of Holy Name of Mary Church to replace Dr. Lynch who had recently passed away. He later married Mary Helena Moynihan of Almonte in July 1917 and they had 13 children.

Dr. J.F. Dunn's medical practice in Almonte lasted nearly 50 years touching almost everyone in the community. Even at the age of 88 he was still visiting patients. During his long medical career he made an indelible mark on the people whom he served. It was a sense of sympathy and compassion for his patients which set him apart.

In early May 1961 he became one of the first patients of the new Almonte Hospital and passed away later that month on May 28, 1961 at the age of 90.

Council 5153 were granted a charter later that same year on July 12, 1961 and chose to be named as the Dr. J.F. Dunn Council because of the high regard in which Dr. Dunn was held.