



Words of Gratitude

160th Anniversary of the Coming of the Presentation Sisters to St. Mary's
31 August 2019

Father Steve, Members of the St. Mary's South Historical Society, David, Sheila, the Holy Name Society, the Ladies Auxiliary, Distinguished Guests, Family and Friends,

I acknowledge in a special way David and Sheila who give all the credit to the Association members but who are clearly recognized by all present for their commitment and devotion to the heritage of St. Mary's Bay South which extends from Mall Bay to Peter's River.

What a magnificent celebration! This kind of finesse does not just happen. It comes from the commitment of so many members of the communities, many hours of detailed planning and much imagination and creativity.

The Presentation Sisters are grateful to you and congratulate you on a job well done.

Elizabeth, Mabel, Sandy and I are pleased to represent today those who are proud to call St. Mary's home. However, we must be place specific and include the Path End. Sister Monica, though unable to be here, sends her love and greetings.

We, in this time and place, proudly remember our ancestors, our family members and our Presentation Sisters. It is especially heartwarming that you acknowledged our beloved deceased Sisters from St. Mary's Bay South. *"We are part of who they were and though they have gone, because their story was shared with us, their story will live on."* (Call to Arms)

In our collective memories of the Presentation Sisters' time with you since 1859, there are stories of joy and sorrow, failure and success and times of pain, hurt and misunderstanding. Since every journey has its dark side we pray today for forgiveness and reconciliation and, at the same time, we rejoice with deep gratitude for the bonds of friendship that have grown and deepened through the years.

I also want to acknowledge Mr. Patrick Monsigneur. Patrick, the Presentation Sisters really appreciate all you do to preserve our history here and your special care of our grave site.

Please pray for us as we will for you.

Betty Rae Lee, pbvm
Provincial Leader