

**This is a big weekend for us in Cameron. A lot of you probably think the main reason for all the celebration is that our office manager, Tammy Mallen, turns 40 years old this week, but that's not it at all. Tammy is very humble and would not want anything special, so I will not even announce that she turns 40 this Thursday. The real reason for the party is the birth of the city of Cameron, which is even older than Tammy. City leaders have worked hard to make this weekend happen, and for most of us the hardest part of the sesquicentennial has been learning how to pronounce it. We just hope we won't have to spell it.**

**Back in 1855 the site for a new town was established on property owned by Sam McCorkle and Edward Samuels. McCorkle laid out the town and donated a city park. He also chose the name for the new town, after his wife Malinda's family name, Cameron.**

**They were Scots, but several Irish families had already moved to this area from Limerick to help build the railroad in 1851. Even they were not the first Catholics here. Father Thomas Scanlon of St. Joseph had celebrated a mass in this area in 1846, nine years before Cameron was founded. In 1857, the diocese established a mission church here for 12 families, served by Father John Hogan, originally from Limerick. He named the frame church after the founding bishop and patron saint of Limerick, St. Munchin, and we became a parish in 1867.**

**Meanwhile, one of our members was making a name for himself. In 1856, the year after Cameron was founded, A. T. Baubie moved here from Windsor, Canada. He became the first postmaster, the first freight and ticket agent, the first judge in the Court of Common Pleas, the first mayor and the first insurance agent. He served as a major in the Civil War, and continued to develop the town afterwards. He died around 1891, survived by his daughter Maggie Fitzgerald. A couple years after his death, the frame church was taken down and this St. Munchin Church was built. I suspect it was Maggie and the members of her family who decided that A. T. Baubie, known as the Father of Cameron, should be commemorated in the new church. That stained glass window carries a very simple inscription, the name of the first mayor of Cameron, Major A. T. Baubie.**

**Cameron was founded for the peaceful purposes of commerce, not for the strategic purposes of war. It was not so for the ancient people of Zion. The prophet Zechariah tells them in today's first reading that their king was coming to rescue them from war and poverty, and he would do it without horse and chariot and without weapons of war. He would bring peace to a place that needed it.**

**A town like Cameron survives 150 years partly because of its location, more because of its people, and most of all by the favor of God. Today we give thanks, and we pledge ourselves anew to continue what our ancestors**

**began. In our families, our schools and our businesses, let us build a city where faith guides our actions and we choose to live in peace.**