



Diocese of Edmundston

Bishop's Office, 60 René-Bouchard Street, Edmundston, NB E3V 3K1

July 4, 2023

COMMUNIQUE

DEATH OF MGR FRANÇOIS THIBODEAU, C.J.M (1939-2023)



At the Résidence Domaine Mahonia, Quebec City, on June 26, 2023, at the age of 83 years and 11 months, passed away His Excellency François Thibodeau, C.J.M., Bishop Emeritus of Edmundston. Born in St-Odilon on July 27, 1939, he was the seventh of twelve children of the late Hormidas Thibodeau and the late Yvonne Poulin.

He was the brother of the late Henri-Louis (late Marie-Laure Vachon), the late Germain (late Pauline Pouliot), the late Jeannette (late Jules-Aimé Vachon), the late Monique (Lainé Gosselin), the late Cécile (late Normand Maheux), the late Marcel (Nicole Bellavance), the late Lucienne (late Roger Giguère), Marie-Claire (Jean-Noel Labbé), Juliette (John Enos), Paul and the late Rollande.

The family will welcome you for viewing at Complexe funéraire Lépine Cloutier at 1500, boul. Québec (Qc) G1N 3Y6 on Monday, July 3, 2023, from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

A diocesan funeral will then be held on **Wednesday, July 5, 2023 at 2:00 P.M.** (Maritime time), at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Edmundston, with interment in the Cathedral crypt. The remains will lie in state from 11:00 A.M. onwards.

After completing his elementary studies in St-Odilon (1945-51), Mgr Thibodeau did his classical studies at Externat classique St-Jean-Eudes in Quebec City (1951-57), his studies in spirituality and philosophy in Charlesbourg (1957-60), a pastoral internship at Université St-Louis in Edmundston (1960-61), his theological studies at Séminaire St-Jean-Eudes in Gatineau (1961-65) and his social work studies at Université Laval (1968-71).

He was incorporated into the "Congrégation de Jésus et Marie" on October 1, 1961 and ordained to the priesthood on May 8, 1965 in the church of St-Odilon by Bishop Joseph-Aurèle Plourde. He was in charge of pastoral care and taught religious studies at the Externat St-Jean-Eudes (1965-69). In June 1971, Cardinal Maurice Roy appointed him head of social pastoral care for the Archdiocese of Quebec (1971-86). In June 1986, Bishop Louis-Albert Vachon appointed him editor of the magazine Pastorale-Québec (1986-90).

In June 1990, he was appointed Provincial Superior of the Eudists in North America. On October 20, 1993, Pope John Paul II named him 5th Bishop of Edmundston; he was ordained bishop on January 9, 1994 in Edmundston Cathedral by Mgr Gérard Dionne. He fulfilled this ministry for 15 years. On January 5, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI accepted his resignation for reasons of exhaustion. Bishop Thibodeau left to live with his Eudist confreres in Charlesbourg. He has published 15 books, the last 4 of which are entitled: "Prêtres selon le cœur de Dieu", "Semaines de justice", "Saint Jean Eudes, prêtre missionnaire et l'Église de la Nouvelle-France" and "Journal d'un évêque".

In addition to the members of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Congregation of Jesus and Mary (the Eudists), he is survived by the diocesans of Edmundston, members of his family, as well as many nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

We are grateful to all those who accompanied him in his life and ministry.

Your expressions of sympathy can take the form of a message of friendship, an offering of prayers or a donation to those most in need, to the Diocese of Edmundston or to Œuvres Eudistes.

Source : <https://www.residencefunerairebellavance.com/avisdedeces/mgr-francois-thibodeau>

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On behalf of the Edmundston Diocesan Church, I personally wish to express my deepest sympathy to the Eudist Community and all the members of the families, and assure them of my prayers and solidarity in this difficult time.

United in prayer and fraternal sentiments.

+ Claude Champagne O.M.I.

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Bishop of Edmundston