
RESPONSES TO DISCUSSIONS ON THE GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

SESSION ON THE FUTURE OF OUR PARISHES EDMUNDSTON, JANUARY 6 ET 7, 1999

The first seven recommendations refer to the pastoral team.

Recommendations 8, 9, and 10 refer to people and groups.

Recommendations 13, 14, 15 and 16 refer to new parishes to be created.

Recommendation 11 refers to the pastoral team.

- 1 - (G. Routhier) would be tempted to place recommendations 8, 9, and 10 at the beginning because they are all linked to the mission.
Who are we looking after ?
To whom are we sent ?
These recommendations were those most readily accepted.
Approved unanimously.

- 2 - From then on, there are modifications.
All of the recommendations are generally approved even when amendments are asked for or remain as open questions with, here and there, qualifications being brought.

Number 1:

End of May '99:
This is coming fast, and implies that we cannot continue discussing and putting off indefinitely.
Maybe that not everyone moves at the same speed, and one must remember this.
Time for decisions, time to begin.
If you have not already started, you are already late.
May is like an electro-shock: it should be beneficial and not harmful.
One discussion group stated the opinion that this was « not realistic » for « small parishes » who cannot afford a number of things because of their small size.
It is urgent, therefore, to start working with others, otherwise, everyone involved will be on the PPC, the pastoral team, the PEAC...

If it cannot afford the necessary infrastructure, a small parish must work with others.

Number 2:

Sensitivity to the concerns of the different communities, especially in the new parishes.
Members of PPCs and pastoral teams must be from all the communities comprising the new parish.

Number 5:

8 discussion groups out of a total of 23 say that 1 meeting per week is not realistic.
2 groups say that « we must » have one meeting a week,

and others say « according to need ».

Number 7:

Parish pastoral council and pastoral team:

There is still misunderstanding, here.

- Pastoral team - Doing:
activation, execution, action, implementation, organisation

- The PPC: mouthpiece of the parish -
expresses needs and concerns of the community
outlines the pastoral project, indicates priorities

- Cut down the number of meetings, if necessary

- Perhaps one PPC for the pastoral unit or the new parish,
but all the communities must be represented.

Number 3:

Moderator = priestly ministry = presides the worship;

ministry of overseer (« watchman »).

The one who guarantees and authenticates the mission.

Watches for charisms in order to stir the dormant waters of baptism
in those who have something to offer.

He is not there to organise everything.

He presides.

Coordinating is ensuring that information is disseminated,
that members attend meetings,
and that functions are respected.

Number 6:

Expenses incurred while in pastoral ministry

should be reimbursed, at least for the volunteers.

There is a minimal norm.

Numbers 13, 14, 15 et 16:

Creation of new parishes

- Conditionnal « Yes »:

- that the local identity be maintained

- that where possible places of worship keep their names;

- despite these two conditions, no call to arms!

We are open to this solution

if it [the new parish] is well defined.