
« LET THE SPIRIT BURST FORTH! »



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11 June 2000
Pentecost Sunday

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Diocese of Edmundston,

For the seventh time in as many years I am writing you a pastoral letter on the occasion of the great feast of Pentecost. In this Jubilee year, the feast takes on a special dimension since it coincides with our fifth Diocesan

Eucharistic Congress whose theme is « Moved by the Spirit, Nourished by the Eucharist, Our Church Is Renewed ». I therefore wish to recall with you a few events of the 1999-2000 pastoral year and welcome with you what the Holy Spirit is preparing, in the days and months ahead. Some of you will recognise items that have already been mentioned, and others will discover new elements, in what follows. Just as to the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, a mission has been given to us who have been marked by the Holy Spirit at Baptism and Confirmation, the mission of « proclaiming the wonders of God. » The Acts of the Apostles are full of accounts of such wonders. In our turn, let us let the Spirit burst forth and let s acknowledge and welcome the fruits of the Spirit in our midst.

SINCE TWO THOUSAND YEARS

It is good to repeat once again the theme song of our great diocesan gathering, a song inspired by the writings of Pope John Paul II on the occasion of this Holy Year.

Since two thousand years the Church is the cradle
Where Mary presents Jesus, the Emmanuel.
May the Holy Eucharist shine out;
In it is found our strength and joy.

Let us sing, celebrate, and dance in the Spirit,
Let us sing, celebrate, dance imbued in the Eucharist.
Our Church grows and is renewed.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Since two thousand years, Jesus, the Son of God,
Is our companion along the way of our lives.
He is the Living One, the Faithful One, the True One.
He nourishes his disciples with the Eucharist.

Since two thousand years, the Spirit works wonders!
Thanks to Him Mary is Mother of Jesus.
Thanks to Him the Church remembers Jesus the Redeemer.
Thanks to Him the Church is beautiful and holy.

A vibrant faith, a trusting hope,
A lively charity, with strong witness:
These are certain signs of renewal
In a Church faithful to its mission.

EYES FIXED ON JESUS

On the occasion of the feast of Pentecost, last year, at the conclusion of the 1998-1999 pastoral year, I invited you to keep your « eyes fixed on Jesus » so as to better carry out the mission He has given us. I bid you recognise and welcome Jesus in your midst, to deepen the great mystery of the Church, the Body of Christ, and take assured paths in order to establish our Church of today and tomorrow on a solid footing. I once again stressed the necessity of the Sunday gathering in order to increase our faith in Christ. I mentioned the agencies recently established to help us carry out the mission of Jesus: parish pastoral councils, parish economic affairs committees, parish pastoral teams, refocusing of the priest on his particular ministry. I then called on you to profoundly experience the Jubilee Year 2000 in prayer, compassion, and reconciliation. A special message was addressed to

the youth, to the elderly, and to families. In other words, I invited you to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and to join in God's struggle. Throughout the summer of 1999, I continued my meditation on what this struggle of God could be, and I have discovered that the path of the Beatitudes taught by Jesus is the royal road of this struggle.

A DAILY STRUGGLE

It was a great grace for me to discover the central place occupied by the Beatitudes in my life as a baptised Christian and a bishop. Yes, a great grace indeed... The beatitudes advocated by Jesus call one to daily struggle. It is not easy to be poor as Jesus was poor, to be compassionate as he was, to be as merciful as him, to be humble, just, and a peacemaker as he was... It is an education in living with the heart through the impulse of the Spirit: it is learning to become a disciple of Jesus. More than a mere poem to compose, it is a direction to follow day after live-long day. On July 27, 1997, I published the following song:

Let us join in the struggle of God
With eyes fixed on Jesus Christ;
Let us learn the Way to Life
In the power of the Spirit.

There is Jesus, living in simplicity,
In solidarity with the most needy.
His word: « Forward, you poor in heart!
You have great value in the eyes of the Father. »

There is Jesus, meek and humble in heart.
To the leaderless crowds he shows his compassion.
To them he says: « Forward, all you non-violent people!
Be as innocent as doves and as cunning as serpents. »

There is Jesus, help of the afflicted,
Recovery of the sick, liberator of the poor.
To them he says: « Forward, all you who are crushed!
Come to me, you who are burdened and in need of rest. »

There is Jesus, the friend of justice.
To every human being he brings freedom.
To them he says: « Forward, honest people!
Because justice is the road to the Father. »

There is Jesus, the merciful.
Let us learn from him the meaning of compassion.
And his words are: « Forward, you merciful!
You resemble the Father, and you shall reign! »

There is Jesus: he gives his life for all.
In him is righteousness and truth.
And his words are: « Forward, you pure in heart!
You shall see God. I am the Way, the Life. »

There he is, Jesus the source of peace,
Peace promised to people of good will.
To them he says: « Forward, you peacemakers!
Because you are all children of God. »

There he is, Jesus the victim of hatred.
Tortured, flogged, put to death, crucified.
And his words are: « Forward, you persecuted!
The gift of your life is the proof of your love. »

PASTORAL READJUSTMENTS

For over two years we had been searching for new solutions to unprecedented situations confronting us; the people of the diocese spared no effort to find the best means of pastoral readjustment. All diocesan organisms were consulted, as well as those at parish and deanery levels. Many proposals and recommendations were made to me, and proved to be invaluable in the decision-making process. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who were part of the difficult process of pastoral readjustment. On February 18, 1999, the Priests Senate adopted one of the most momentous recommendations in its history when it proposed as a major direction of the diocese the establishment of parish pastoral teams. This would be of major short- and long-term import and would modify the life and ministry of every priest. Every diocesan council ratified this new direction. The Priests Senate took a courageous and realistic position and invited the priests in active service to focus on their essential priestly ministry, proclaiming the Gospel, celebrating the sacraments, and forming lay parish leaders.

A DYNAMIC AND PERMANENT PATH

Had we a choice to do differently? Yes, if all we wanted was a simple pastoral readjustment to cover a few months or years. No, if we were seeking a more durable way of doing things by taking into consideration the conclusions of Vatican Council II and the possibilities of the Church's actual legislation. Should we create mega parishes, new parishes, one or two pastoral zones or deaneries? Of course it could be done, but at what human cost? Suppress parishes or places of worship? We could certainly do this, but at what cost to the community? Have one priest minister to several parishes? This could be done, but what priest would have accepted this, and for how long? We had to be careful lest we exhaust the priests still in active ministry. So, what could be done? How should we act, considering the fact that actual legislation requires that there be one priest per parish, and that it be the same regarding parish pastoral teams?

AN APPROPRIATE SOLUTION

We thought it advisable that the most immediate solution, the one which would allow us to look at the longer term, was the implementation of parish pastoral teams to minister to one or more Christian communities, a team of three to five on whom would rest the responsibility of the parish, rather than on one person alone. The team would include a priest who would be discharged as much as possible from all administrative tasks in order to devote himself to his specific ministry. This is the process we have been going through, these past few years, and which has brought us to where we are today. This was the choice we made together, and I hasten to congratulate all those concerned by these changes: priests, religious, and lay people who support these changes. I admire them and they have my unconditional collaboration. I know that this way of doing is not easy and that it challenges our

practices in general. It does not happen overnight, to consider one's teammates as partners in a common mission.

15 AUGUST 1999

It was on August 15, 1999 that parish pastoral teams were officially established in our diocese. Nearly every parish - thirty out of thirty-two - took the risk of involvement in this new approach because of the need of safeguarding the present and preparing for the future. Still, it is one thing to commission a team, and quite another to experience the requirements of team work. The 1999-2000 pastoral year was more or less a learning year. In several places it was a joy to develop new-found strengths, while in others the going was more difficult. The sharing and requirements of the tasks involved are not always simple: to ensure that a community be given the possibility of developing its community prayer life, of developing the religious education of all, children and adults, sacramental preparation, concern for the poor... these are far from useless concerns. It takes quite a bit of courage, generosity, and faith. Then there is communication among team members, a particular way of being and doing. For my part, I marvel at what has been accomplished in ten months, a work of giants and worthy of our predecessors whose vision and courage are unsurpassed. My gratitude to the members of our parish pastoral teams: they are preparing the « garden » which will eventually bear abundant fruit! It is together that we can improve the instrument we have opted for.

FAMILY-AND PARISH-BASED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

A new challenge was awaiting us, at the beginning of the 1999-2000 pastoral year: the promotion of religious education in all milieus. In the English Sector we had to ensure the continuation of Sunday School with revised and adapted programmes, and find teachers; the task is ongoing and will continue in the coming months. In the French Sector we had counted on the availability of several school teachers, but with the rise of new challenges their workload became too heavy and the time allotted to religious education during school hours was too short to guarantee quality religious education.

A NEW DEPARTURE

A catechetical session held in August, 1999 was a success. Hundreds attended, priests, pastoral agents, parish pastoral team members, teachers and parents who optimistically and enthusiastically welcomed the process of faith formation suggested for the children. Led by Sister Jeannette Girard F.M.A. of the Diocese of Gaspé and Brother Rosaire Girard, S.C. of the Bathurst Diocese, we made an in-depth study of the guiding principles of catechetics and were informed on available programmes. The suggested format is for parents to share with their child; it is neither a course in theology nor in religion, but a faith journey with the child. Just like religious education, catechetics seeks to promote the child's total development. The discovery and loving welcome of Jesus Christ and his message who shows himself to the child is the very centre of Christian experience.

A PROMISING CONCLUSION

It is more than encouraging to realise what has happened in catechetics, this year, in several families and parishes. It is generally parents taking back their responsibility as the primary educators of their children in the ways of faith. This responsibility is not to be abdicated, it cannot be delegated but must be fully assumed. Oftentimes, this leads both parents and children to a rediscovery of Jesus at the centre of their lives, and enthusiasm wells up from such an awareness. The diocesan directors of religious education will continue their work with teachers and parents. Gradually, suggested

programmes will be made available, they will support the work already accomplished, especially in the area of sacramental preparation.

TIES TO MAINTAIN

In the fall of 1999 I visited Rome where I met the Holy Father and the heads of the Roman Congregations. I also attended a number of meetings: the annual meeting of Canadian bishops, the Atlantic bishops' meeting, meeting of major superiors of religious congregations working in the Atlantic provinces, etc. Just as a parish cannot close in on itself and must open to the deanery and the diocese, in the same way our diocesan Church must be open to the other Churches in our country as well as to the universal Church. It is a great privilege to live the « communion of saints » in this manner: the bishop is the sign of this unity willed by the Lord.

JUBILEE 2000

It was in November, 1994, that Pope John Paul II launched a preparatory programme to the Jubilee Year 2000, a very detailed plan to help us over the threshold into the third millennium. The biblical tradition of the jubilee gave us the main outline of the celebration. The deeds of Jesus of Nazareth as recorded by Luke the Evangelist repeated the message of liberation. As a sign of solidarity with the other Churches in Canada I expressed these traditions in a simple song where I sought to bring out the sense of commitment:

*Sound the trumpet! Beam with joy!
Free the captives! Forgive debts!
Respect the earth! This is the Great Jubilee!*

*« I have freed you », says the Lord:
« In return, free your neighbour, and you will change the world! »
Lord, make me a channel of your peace!*

*« I have forgiven you », says the Lord.
« In return, release those indebted to you, and you will change the world! »
Lord, make me a channel of your joy!*

*« I have satisfied your hunger », says the Lord,
« In return, give rest to the earth, and you will change the world! »
Lord, make me a channel of your hope!*

*« From age to age you shall celebrate the Lord's sacred Jubilee », says the Lord,
And you will change the world! »
Lord, make me a channel of your love!*

*« The Spirit is upon me », says the Lord,
« Scripture is being fulfilled in your presence, And we will change the world! »
Lord, make me a channel of your kindness!*

*Sound the trumpet! Beam with Joy!
Free the captives! Forgive debts!
Respect the earth! It is the Great Jubilee!*

I want to pay tribute to those who through food bank drives and Christmas Cheer donations helped in any way to alleviate the misery existing both here and in the Third World, by working to rid the world of poverty and injustice, through Development and Peace and the Year 2000 World March of Women.

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESSES

For us who had decided in the spring of 1995 to hold five eucharistic congresses in preparation for the great Jubilee, these proved to be exceptional times of evangelisation and of remarkable activities of solidarity and fellowship. So much thanks must be given to our God who has worked so many marvels among us! The Holy Spirit worked marvels in the Restigouche, Southern Victoria, Upper Madawaska, Grand Falls, and Edmundston deaneries. We do not regret having chosen these eucharistic congresses as the major preliminary activities to the year 2000; these eucharistic congresses helped us ponder all that the Lord Jesus said and did. We saw how mission is rooted in the Eucharist and we experienced the intimate connection between family, Sunday, and Eucharist, and we realised how the Eucharist builds up Christian community. What a happy coincidence it is to bring our Fifth Diocesan Eucharistic Congress to a close on this feast of Pentecost, truly one of the most memorable days of our jubilee year.

SUMMARY REPORT OF CONGRESSES

The five eucharistic congresses highlighted certain aspects of the great sacrament of the Eucharist. At the first Congress, in the Restigouche in 1996, we recalled the words and actions of Jesus. « Do this in memory of me. » These words motivate us to continue the wonderful work of Jesus. Each time we celebrate the Eucharist we keep the commandment of the Lord who gave up his body and blood for us. We recall the death of Jesus, his glorious resurrection, his coming again in glory; He gave his life so that we in turn would give ours for the sake of others, by loving one another as he has loved us. In the Southern Victoria Deanery in 1997 we considered how the Eucharist is at the heart of our mission, not only the mission of pastors but of the whole People of God. From celebration to celebration, the People of God proceeds to the heavenly banquet when all the elect will sit at the same table in the Kingdom. In the Upper Madawaska Deanery in 1998, the Eucharistic Congress highlighted the bond which exists between family and Eucharist. Our Sunday gatherings are extremely important not only to the community but also to every faithful, as important as any gathering around the family meal. Just as it is necessary for members of the same family to take time together, to meet together, to talk and communicate with one another and share together around the family table, it is just as important for us to meet, share, pray, and celebrate together as Church. Sundays celebrated in dignity are necessary to every baptised person, as they are, also, to every community. In 1999, in the Grand Falls Deanery, we emphasised the Eucharist as community builder. Each eucharistic celebration helps build up and form the community; this is not always achieved in a spectacular way, but week by week the Christian community discovers the One who gathers together, it discovers the One who liberates, the One who nourishes. Our churches are not museums dedicated to yesteryear, they are sanctuaries of life and solidarity where the faithful come to restore their strength both as individuals and as members of the same community. The year 2000 congress, which will be held in the Edmundston Deanery, will motivate us to constant renewal as Church. Nourished by the Eucharist, we welcome Jesus in the midst of our lives, Jesus, true God and true man, the pre-eminent sign of God the Father. It would be impossible for us to do eucharist without the constant presence of the Holy Spirit. He is the one Jesus sent us, he is the one who reminds us of the words and actions of Jesus, he is the one who transforms the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, he is the one who transforms each baptised and confirmed person into a witness of God's wonderful deeds. It is this same Spirit

who gives life to the Church and enhances its beauty, making it more holy, perfect, charitable, and loving. He is the one who sends us forth along the mission road. For these five eucharistic congresses to become a living heritage, we must discover day after day who is the Body of Christ.

OTHER JUBILEE ACTIVITIES

While numerous Jubilee activities are unfolding in Rome - ecumenical jubilee celebration, artists' jubilee, workers' jubilee, etc. - several others are taking place or will take place in our milieu. It was in this way that throughout the diocese the opening of the Holy Year was marked in simplicity and hope at the threshold of the new millennium. On Good Friday, the Way of the Cross was observed in several places in solidarity with those who suffer. A sacred concert composed of the four Restigouche parish choirs performed marvellously, the second Sunday of Easter. The Bishops of New Brunswick's May Day pastoral message was favourably received by the population. For several people, the World March of Women against injustice and pover New Brunswick are invited to St. Michael Basilica in Miramichi City for the Priests' Jubilee. Other initiatives will surely be taken in the months to come in our parishes and deaneries, to mark « the 2000 years of proclaiming the Good News ».

A PRESENTATION OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

On Sundays before Lent, pastors were invited to talk about the sacrament of marriage as best they could. I had sent them five statements on the following topics: greatness of human love, miracle of Christian marriage, mission given to married couples, eventual problems of married life, and declarations of nullity of marriage. These five statements were published in full or in part in the local press or parish bulletins; in some instances they were given to future couples as topics of reflection. Our marriage preparation services, both French and English, was very supportive of this pastoral initiative; these services were awarded the 1999 Bishop Roy Prize. I felt it important that in these times of uncertainty and of questioning regarding the institution of marriage, in this period of indifference, cohabitation without benefit of sacrament, separation and divorce, to restate the mission of the Christian couple in the Church and in the world. Marriage and family ministry must reach couples preparing for marriage and those who are already well along the difficult and demanding, delicate and excellent road of marriage.

PASTORAL VISITATIONS

On March 8 I undertook my fifth intensive pastoral visitation, this time to the Edmundston Deanery. I was really concerned whether I would be able to undertake one, this year, that would be as intensive as the other four, with its diversified and demanding programme. Thanks to God, thanks also to the parish pastoral teams, I was able to carry out this wonderful visit to the seven parishes involved throughout the Lenten season, this year, by dedicating nearly twenty-five continuous days to this particular pastoral activity. I thank God for all I experienced, this year as in preceding years, during these pastoral visitations. They are a true gift of the Lord in the course of which I was given the opportunity to meet a good part of the population, a population very respectful and devoted to the Church, to its bishop, priests and future priests, pastoral agents, and newly-formed parish pastoral teams. I had the opportunity to meet with both young and old who share a common faith, a common hope, a common love, who are truly united in the very foundation of our faith: Jesus Christ, Saviour of the world. I was able to meet several people with heavy burdens, crosses, and sufferings to bear, persons wounded by age, life, illness, and bereavement; persons marked by poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion. I met with people in the thick of things, people of boundless generosity, of limitless commitment; people who are socially, politically, culturally, religiously committed. It was a good cross-section of our population that I visited and listened to, but time was often too short to allow

these important and beneficial meetings to be pursued in length. These meetings would generally lead to discussions of particular situations: labour conditions, housing for the elderly, place of religion, religious education and pastoral ministry in our schools, the passing on of values, right to life, the place of the marginalised, rights of the handicapped and the sick, etc. In other words, the question was about the reign of God being constructed among us daily.

REASON FOR THE VISITATIONS

Throughout these visitations my one concern was to bring the message of Jesus to our people, in their workplace, schools and recreation areas, churches and health institutions. These words of Vatican II were constantly with me: « The joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well. Nothing that is genuinely human fails to find an echo in their hearts. For theirs is a community of people united in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit in their pilgrimage towards the Father's kingdom, bearers of a message of salvation for all of humanity. That is why they cherish a feeling of deep solidarity with the human race and its history ». My aim at these meetings was to remind each one of their dignity as children of God. I wanted to reiterate that not only at Confirmation but in the very midst of life the Holy Spirit rests upon each one of us. Just as the Holy Spirit rested on Jesus, this same Spirit of God rests on each baptised, confirmed, and ordained person.

EDMUNDSTON PRESBYTERIUM

In coming among you in January, 1994, I had before me the recommendations of the Diocesan Synod; more than that, I had before me 42 diocesan priests and 15 religious priests who were ready and willing to collaborate generously according to their means, in promoting the Kingdom of God; I am very happy to have met and to still meet this strength of soul and heart in our presbyterium. I count more than ever on the diocesan and religious priests to day after day vitalise, with the grace of God, our diocesan Church. I count more than ever on each one of them. I trust that they be men of prayer, men of God; nothing can diminish the ministry we accepted at ordination, neither age nor fatigue, nor illness, nor social or ecclesial changes. I count on their having the stamina to continue to be faithful in faithfully celebrating the mysteries of Christ, especially those of the Eucharist and of reconciliation according to Church tradition, for the praise of God and the sanctification of the people of God. I trust that they wisely carry out with dignity the ministry of the Word by proclaiming the Gospel and teaching the Catholic faith. I count on each and everyone of them to serve and guide the people of God under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Convinced that the same Holy Spirit animates our Church, it is with constant zeal that we must serve it. The Spirit himself will produce in us fruits of peace, unity, joy, and hope.

TOWARDS A CHURCH-AS-COMMUNION

In the midst of the countless changes we have experienced these past few years, the Holy Spirit was there; he was even ahead of us. Is it not the same Spirit who inspired the Fathers of Vatican Council II to promote a true Church-as-communion? The forty years or so which have elapsed since the announcement of the Council in 1959 resemble the long march of the Chosen People across the desert: there are striking similarities. But what is even greater is « God's time » given to help us to fully live as a Church the present moment. Our youthful Church was able to pick up many challenges and go ahead, without always knowing the outcome of the journey... This was true even before the creation of our diocese... Without the persistent and humble intervention of Sister Maillet on September 18, 1876 with the Bishop of Montréal, what would have become of the foundation of the Religious Hospitallers at Saint-Basile? What would have been the state of health services in our

milieu ? Without the opening of Saint Louis College in 1946, what would have happened to [French] higher education in this part of our province ? Without the perseverance and enthusiasm of parents and families, what would have happened to the Christian faith in our midst? Without the apostolic zeal of our predecessors and of today's valiant pastors, what would have become of our Church ?

RICHNESS OF OUR PRESBYTERIUM

I often hear the comment, « We hardly have any priests left; there are about fifty left and they are getting older and older ». Yes, but this is a richness in itself! And the Lord has just added another to our numbers, Father Ivan Thériault. Then there are seven aspirants to priestly orders. Of the 50 priests of our presbyterium, one third are at work full-time in parishes, and this is a richness, too. There are also the wonderful occasional ministry of our retired priests, who are so greatly appreciated. Imagine all the potential there is: in the Lord's eyes and in my own, the priests are of inestimable value. Their witness of life, prayer life, sufferings, concerns, and friendships are priceless.

Men of the Deep

Fashioned by the Word of the Lord,
Passed through the sifter of his Passion,
And having overcome all fear,
Apostles of Jesus, of his Church
You are the foundation
Which nothing can shake.

He makes of you his workers,
And surrenders himself to you;
He, the architect, the work site manager
Becomes the cornerstone holding you up,
Living stone and daily bread
For whomever proclaims and offers him.

What intoxication, pure and sober, catches you ?
What folly of love and of fire?
What wisdom more deranged than the wind?
The Spirit breathes upon you, men of the deep.
Cast over us the thirst for God,
And set us back on our way.

TEN YEARS AFTER THE DIOCESAN SYNOD

The unforgettable Diocesan Synod which was held from 1987 to 1990 helped the Holy Spirit speak to our Church in a very special way. What remains with us, of these words of the Spirit ? What directions, what recommendations will especially mark us ? Would it not be a good thing during the year 2000-2001 pastoral year to take stock of this ecclesial gesture? I was not a part of this Synod, but I sought to seek constant inspiration from it. I believe that it would be good if at the parish, deanery, and diocesan levels we referred to these recommendations and eventually adjusted ourselves to the new ecclesial context which is ours. The urgency of evangelisation, pastoral ministry to youth and to families are paths which we cannot sidestep. What means are we to employ, to promote evangelisation? What do we do to reach our children and youth ? How are we to reach out to families, so as to better respond to their expectations ?

TURNED TO THE FUTURE

In 1999-2000 our priorities had been the setting up of parish pastoral teams and the promotion of home-based religious education. If we evaluate the 1987-1990 Diocesan Synod we shall have happy surprises. In these recommendations there are a few which deal with the urgency of a bold and dynamic vocation ministry: this in itself could be a year-long project. Let us let the Spirit surge forth, let us be led by him, he will surely guide us to a safe haven. He is always ahead of us. May the Virgin Mary who welcomed the Holy Spirit so well in herself and responded so positively to God's project for us find us ever available to carrying out God's will in all things.

AN UNFINISHED LETTER

Dear brothers and sisters of the diocese, I have called to your attention several events which have marked our beloved Church during the 1999-2000 pastoral year. I would sincerely hope that as a first step you would complete « the list », make an inventory of the wonders which have been unfolding in your milieu during this period, where you have seen the Holy Spirit at work. And secondly, I wish that you would take the time to thoroughly study one or the other of the Edmundston Diocesan Synod recommendations, to see what has been done. Thirdly, I would request you to specify, with your brothers and sisters of the Christian community, one or two pastoral priorities to be implemented in the next few months. Finally, I urge you to let your heart speak a prayer of gratitude and awe for everything that the Spirit of Jesus has accomplished in you. « All-loving and all-lovable heart of my Saviour, be heart of my heart, soul of my soul, spirit of my spirit, life of my life, and the first principle of all my thoughts, words, and actions, of all of my soul's faculties, and of all my inner and outer senses. »

+ François Thibodeau

+ François Thibodeau, C.J.M.
Bishop of Edmundston