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## IN MEMORIAM : FATHER JEAN-ROCH ST-LAURENT, C.J.M.

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Father Jean-Roch St-Laurent, who had given twenty-five years of his life to the Edmundston Diocese, died September 25 at the age of 79. He had been ordained a priest only three years when he began his ministry as educator-priest at the Université St-Louis, in 1947, and where he continued until 1972 with a hiatus between 1947-1949 when he became director of St-Coeur-de-Marie Minor Seminary in Québec City. As a teacher, spiritual guide, preacher, and "beggar," he carried out his ministry with generosity and enthusiasm. He worked untiringly for the Club 200, for the life and survival of the University. He was also twice chaplain of the Edmundston Regional Hospital (1973-1979 and 1982-1984), chaplain of the Blessed Sacrament Sisters in Edmundston (1982-1984) and assistant at St-Jacques (1972-1973) and St-Quentin (1979-1982). Last summer, on the occasion of his fiftieth anniversary of ordination, he came back to our region to visit friends. While serving as pastor in Clarence Creek, Ontario (1984-1991) or retired at the Maison St-Jean-Eudes in Laval [Québec], he always entertained fond memories of our people: he sought news from one or another, and he always shared in their joys and pain. Following the funeral liturgy at Bon Pasteur Church in Laval, his body was sent to Charlesbourg [Québec] for burial in the Eudist Fathers community cemetery. He who always welcomed others, especially the youth and the poor, may the Lord welcome him as His good and faithful servant.

### PASTORAL AFFAIRS

The Study Committee on the pastoral and financial situation of the diocese, presided by Mr. Carmel Caouette, held an important meeting on September 12 in the evening. The chairman of the pastoral affairs subcommittee, Father Armand Plourde, reported on the need for pastoral readjustments throughout the diocese, in order to be as available as possible to the 60,000 people making up our diocese. Our priests have already received the Episcopal Council document on these readjustments and on an eventual redistribution of the clergy. On 44 priests incardinated in the diocese of Edmundston, 10 are outside our diocese in the teaching ministry or military chaplaincy, or for reasons of health; we also have five priests who are members of the Québec Foreign Mission Society [P.M.E.]. Of the 34 priests living in our region, ten are retired and three are on sabbatical leave for study or health reasons. The diocese counts on the ministry of 8 religious order priests or priests belonging to a secular institute. The parish pastoral councils and deanery councils are invited, during the year, to submit suggestions and recommendations regarding these new situations: it will be important to specify what is a parish and what is a mission, and what are the expectations, the structures, and the possible resources: these will be forwarded to the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

### FINANCES

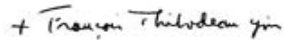
The chairman of the financial sub-committee, Mr. Rino Nadeau, has reported on the study made regarding the buildings owned by the Roman Catholic Bishop, placed at the disposal of the parishes, and administered by the pastors and persons approved by the bishop. The parishes balance sheet indicates neither great surplus nor great deficits; most parishes find the wherewithal to administer themselves, but it would be difficult for them to increase their contributions to the diocese. The subcommittee raised questions regarding the number and use of buildings, especially rectories. The committee is aiming at a moratorium on all new construction. In order to reduce the financial burden, we are wondering whether services could be grouped together or whether we could have simpler and more functional lodgings. Regarding the diocesan services [at the Diocesan Centre], the personnel has already

been reduced and we are relying more and more on volunteers. The Diocesan Centre has rendered and continues to render major services to the diocese as a whole: it is an important entity in our diocese; it serves as a turntable in our lives. True, there are good meeting halls in each of our deaneries, but the question remains that if we are to keep this Diocesan Centre, long-term solutions will have to be found. As far as the episcopal residence is concerned, the actual quarters are plain and functional, but if there are to be changes to the Diocesan Centre, other arrangements will have to be considered. The Committee continues its work: its next meeting will be on November 7. More specific recommendations regarding short- and long-term readjustments are expected by December 30.

#### **A PENTECOSTAL BREEZE**

I want to congratulate the organisers of the first [French] Charismatic Renewal Congress [in the diocese], all those who were instrumental in making it a success, as well as all the participants. A special Thank You to all the priests who took part in these hours of prayer, reflection, and reconciliation. Thank You to Trinitarian Father Roger Paulin, the Congress facilitator. A second congress is already in the works for the fall of 1995, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of our diocese. The Congress theme, "*His Love Is from Age to Age*," refers to the praise and welcoming of God's love; it is a call to constantly discover this sacred history of the divine love throughout the ages, and it is an invitation to share in the spiritual experience of the Virgin Mary who experienced, on the day of her visitation to Elizabeth, this total love of God.

Have a good week!



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

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