
APPOINTMENTS 1995



HEARTFELT THANKS

As we reach the end of the 1994-1995 pastoral year I want to express my gratitude to all who have made possible the pastoral animating of our diocese, to all those who took on the burdensome tasks and ministries in the midst of our Church. I heartily thank those who were members of different councils and committees either at the diocesan level or at the deanery or parish levels. Every day, every week, hundreds of volunteers make it possible for us to have more vibrant Christian communities, and therefore a more vibrant diocesan Church. What a marvellous collaboration there is among the people, in our different milieus. Our Church is alive of the aliveness that is generously brought to this Church by the baptised, the confirmed and the ordained among us. In working regularly with the diocesan councils and committees, I am constantly aware of all the richness of heart and intellect, and of the unstinting availability that is there, and I can do no other than thank the Lord. I ask him to give back a hundredfold all that these devoted people accomplish in his Church.

May he bless in a special way those priests who are retiring, this year: Msgr. Fernand Boucher and Fr. Rino Albert who for 49 years gave the best of themselves to the cause of the Gospel and of the Church. May Fr. Alfred Ouellet benefit from a fruitful sabbatical year. Since it is only now that he asked to be relieved of his parish duties, the name of his successor at Clair will be announced only in a few weeks. May the Lord kindly bless Fr. Renaud Côté, C.J.M., who was pastor in St. Leonard these past four years and who has now been appointed chaplain to the St.-Louis-de-France Sisters in Pont-Rouge, near Québec City.

May he also bless these priests who have made themselves available for occasional ministry in the diocese, especially Msgr. Eymard Desjardins, Fathers Benoît Bossé, Georges Fournier, Léon Gagné, Narcisse Gagnon, Edgar Lavoie, C.J.M., Lewis Long, and Frédéric Poitras. Thank you for your needed collaboration.

CHANGES IN DIOCESAN SERVICES

Good and devoted friends are leaving their posts at the end of this pastoral year: Sister Berthe Lavoie of the Sisters of the Child Jesus (Rivière-du-Loup, Qc): for the past six years she held the position of coordinator of our marriage tribunal and chancellor of our Diocese; she was also a member of the Episcopal Council. I thank her wholeheartedly and I wish her a beneficial sabbatical year. She will be replaced by Sister Ronilla Sirois of the Hotel Dieu Sisters. I thank Sr. Ronilla for accepting this position and I congratulate her for the studies in Canon Law which she just completed at St. Paul University in Ottawa. Mr. Gilles Morin who was in charge of the Office of Social Communications as well as Director of the Catechetical Office, High School level, is leaving us for the United States, after having devoted himself generously to his responsibilities. I also thank Sr. Geraldine Brotherton, F.M.A., for having accepted the post of director of the Pastoral Formation Service which, in collaboration with the St-Louis-Maillet University Centre, will certify our future pastoral agents.

NEW PARTNERS

It is with joy that I welcome the new priests who come to us as a gift of the Lord: Marist Fathers who are adding a new page to their history by establishing their first community in the Maritimes. I thank them for graciously accepting to work at the Seminary and in the St-Basile parish. I hope that the proximity of both

these places be conducive to their Marist community life. Welcome to Father Ernest Dumaresq, C.J.M., who joins the others in giving us a welcome hand. It is also good to note that the number of seminarians this year will be greater than anticipated: other young men from Edmundston and Québec Province are joining our actual seminarians Curtis Sappier and Gaëtan Bernier, in their plans to becoming priests for the Church of Edmundston.

THE DIOCESAN SEMINARY TEAM

It is agreeable to me to announce that beginning August 4 that the direction of our diocesan seminary for the next three years will be in the hands of people who are well disposed to welcome the seminarians and make of our seminary a place of life and prayer. I thank these founders of our Seminary who firmly believe in the necessity and vitality of our project. They are Fr. Michel Bouffard, a Marist, who has a wide experience in the spiritual formation of youth, and who will be superior of the seminary and pastor of the adjoining parish of Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Coeur. Are equally members of the formation team Fr. Jeff Doucette, diocesan director of vocations, and Sister Bertille Bealieu, R.H.S.J., who will especially oversee the academic training of our future priests. These three can count on their bishop's constant support as well as on several resource persons in our area.

IN THE PARISHES

In order to respond to the pastoral needs of the population and take up important challenges, I must make certain changes. Let each parish count itself more than lucky to have benefited from the devoted service of their priest for five, ten, fifteen or more years. I can understand the worries and the sadness caused by certain departures, but I ask you to consider the diocese's thirty-three parishes as a whole with their 60,000 people, in order to better understand the changes being made. There are now only seventeen diocesan priests available for full-time parish ministry. I praise the Lord for the spirit of faith and generosity that I have encountered in our priests, since my arrival in the Edmundston Diocese.

I therefore renew the term of Father Lucien Lévesque as pastor of Baker Lake for another six years. I appoint to six-year terms Fathers Pierre Thibodeau pastor of Kedgwick and celebrant at St-Jean-Baptiste, Almer Levasseur pastor of St.-Quentin and celebrant at St-Martin, Normand Godbout pastor of St-Georges, Grand Falls, Bertrand Ouellet pastor of Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs parish, Napoléon Michaud pastor of the Cathedral parish of the Immaculate Conception, and Jeff Doucette, curate at two days per week at the cathedral parish, with no prejudice to his other ministry as vocation director and school chaplain. Upon presentation of his Provincial Superior I appoint Fr. Ernest Dumaresq, C.J.M. to a three-year term as pastor of St. Leonard and Fr. Romain Trépanier, S.M., pastor of St-Basile. I appoint Fr. Leo Grégoire to a six-year term as pastor of Perth-Andover, Maliseet and Aroostook and as coordinator of pastoral activities for the parishes of St. Patrick and Tilley for the 1995-1996 pastoral year. All of these appointments come into effect August 15, 1995.

In the name of the Church of Edmundston I express my gratitude to all these Gospel workers.

All together, baptised, confirmed, and ordained, let us take up the challenges I have noted in my last Pastoral Letter: it is one big pastoral programme for our beloved Church.

+ François Thibodeau *in*

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

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