
50TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMER ACTIVITIES



Fewer than fifty days separate us from the summer activities highlighting the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of our diocese. These festivities will take place within the framework of the seventeenth *Foire Brayonne*. Today I want to recapitulate the roster of these activities, and I want to invite the population to this celebration and ask you to make them known to all the members of your family and of your neighbourhood.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

Today's activities will take place at the Cathedral Church of the Immaculate Conception. From 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon will be held the customary first Thursday of the month period of prayer: Mass at 8:00 A.M., followed by Morning Prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. From 12:00 noon to 1:00 P.M., there will be an organ recital. At 3:00 P.M. there will be a eucharistic gathering of bishops, clergy and religious who were born or who exercised their ministry in our Diocese. These people are asked to meet together by 2:45 P.M. in the cathedral basement.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

Today's activities are taking place at Notre-Dame-du Sacré-Coeur Church. The inauguration and blessing of our Diocesan Seminary will take place at 2:00 P.M. Song, prayer, and music will accompany this momentous event.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

Activities will be taking place at Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs Church. A eucharistic celebration with all couples married in 1944-1945 will be held at 2:30 P.M. Couples concerned are asked to gather in the church basement by 2:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

Activities today will take place in the open air. At 9:30 A.M., the Lord's Day celebration, televised by Radio-Canada, will be held at City Hall Park (Parc de l'Hôtel de Ville); some twenty bishops will take part in the celebration. All those who were baptised or confirmed during 1944-1945 are invited to join in the entrance procession that will leave the Marina at 9:00 A.M. In case of rain, the celebration will be held in Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Coeur Church.

THANKSGIVING AND PETITION

It is important that throughout these celebrations we give thanks to God for these fifty years of Church life, years filled with the Lord's many blessings. Through his Church, the Lord continually showers us with his choicest

blessings. We have but to remember all that the Church has given us: the precious inheritance of the divine Word which helps us enter into the mystery of God and which sheds the Light along our daily course. We have but to think of all these brothers and sisters we meet every day, remember the sacraments that are celebrated in the Church: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Matrimony, Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick... as many acts of thanksgiving to be rendered throughout the year, within our families, within our parishes, within our diocesan Church. "You are a gift, the Church we love so well: you speak to us of freedom, peace and joy. Deep in our hearts forever you will be a light of hope, a rendez-vous of love."

MEANINGFUL MEMORIES

In case you haven't already done so, I urge you to get the 50th Anniversary Album which gives us an overview of our diocesan history and that of our thirty-three parishes. The album is a precious keepsake; it would be great for each family to have a copy. There are also the souvenir lapel pins and T-shirts. Since a few weeks now our diocese has a beautiful flag, of which we can be justly proud. It is a hymn to the Blessed Trinity, to God the Father through His creation, to God the Son through the work of Redemption and evangelisation, and to God the Holy Spirit through the Church and its sacraments. May this flag always remind us of the love of God which extends from age to age. You can get the above items mentioned through your priest or by contacting the Diocesan Centre.

50 YEARS AGO: THE ARRIVAL OF OUR FIRST BISHOP

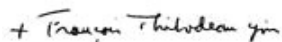
August 15, 1995 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the arrival of our first bishop, Bishop Marie-Antoine Roy, O.F.M. You can find a biography of our first bishop in the souvenir album, but I would like to share with you a few excerpts from his first sermon:

"I was sent to you, I was sent for you, I was charged to work with you.

"I was sent TO you: I have come in confidence. I could only sense with enthusiasm all the consolations you promise your bishop, and I already feel to need to repeat to you the words of St. Paul: 'You have welcomed me like an angel of God, like Christ Jesus.' This gem of a diocese - as it has been appropriately called - is one of those that have best kept their religious characteristics as well as all other advantages that are part and parcel of this.

"I was sent FOR you: I come in a spirit of devotedness. I am your bishop, and thus your servant: that is my task, it shall also be my happiness. Your filial affection and your pious docility will make my task less of a burden.

"I was sent to work WITH you, and I come with love! Our agenda - yours and mine - is summarised in these words of St. Paul which I choose as my motto: *To Spread the Riches of Christ*. The riches of light and love, of strength and consolation, of forgiveness and peace, of gentleness and joy. To spread the riches of Christ is to give Christ to others so that they may live of his life and beautify themselves with his beauty, while awaiting to be glorified by his glory."



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

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