
WITHOUT BORDERS!



In extending my best wishes for an unforgettable *1995 Foire Brayonne*, I am reminded of the words I wrote last year on the occasion of this major event in our region: "The entire city [takes] on a festive mood, and it is through festivities that a lot of things happen: meeting one another, talking to one another, sharing, reminiscing, socialising. The cooperation, mutual help, and volunteer work [are] wonderful: an army of volunteers [makes] this celebration possible, and I want to extend my most heartfelt congratulations and thanks to them." If Jesus were among us today, I dare say that he would join in the *Foire Brayonne* just as he joined in the festivities of his day: Jesus was no party spoiler, he isn't a cold shower on a parade. He brings to the heart of today's man and woman the true festive spirit. He came that we may have life, and life to the full. You have seen and will see dynamic artists of all stripes, at this *Foire*. I believe that this gives us a feeling as to the kind of life the Lord wants us to have in abundance. It is not surprising that he employed the image of festivities of his time, to make us understand the Father's designs for us. Besides, through us baptised Christians, it is Jesus himself who takes part in the *Foire Brayonne*, since we are his members, since we are his Body.

Vatican Council II calls on us to share the sentiments of the people in our milieu. On December 7, 1965, the bishops of the world wrote the following, to point out the narrow solidarity that exists between the Church and the human family: "The joy and hope, the grief and anguish of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted in any way, are the joy and hope, 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 composed of men, of men who, united in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, press onwards towards the kingdom of the Father and are bearers of a message of salvation intended for all men. That is why Christians cherish a feeling of deep solidarity with the human race and its history."¹

Jesus can answer our deepest, most authentic, and truest aspirations. He is the Good Shepherd who knows us, who leads us to the living waters and feeds us with the real Bread of life. The Old Testament manna was priceless to the people of God, but today it is something even more priceless that he wants to give us. He gives his very self to be the life of our lives, the heart of our hearts, the spirit of our spirits. He comes this very day to abide in us, with us and even through us in the very heart of the Madawaska region.

Under the theme "*Sans Frontières*" ["Without Borders"], the *Foire Brayonne* organisers invite us to welcome in our midst our brothers and sisters from all over, and to have a wonderful year, in toleration and goodness.

GRATITUDE

Year after year, the *Foire Brayonne* has been most successful, even in times marked by recession, and I rejoice in this [...] Our earthly festivities are a foretaste of those which God has in store for us: no eye has seen, no ear has heard such marvellous things. May these days of festivity and fellowship be an intimation of a wonderful future. May the *Foire Brayonne* activities express our thanksgiving and celebration. our Church is a youthful one, it is the Body of Christ, the temple of the Spirit, the sign of salvation for all our brothers and sisters. Let us rejoice, since the Lord through his beloved Church of the diocese of Edmundston has come to give us life to the full.

THROUGH MODEST AND POPULAR FESTIVITIES

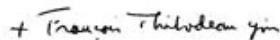
Come one, come all, join in the activities organised for you at the *Seventeenth Foire Brayonne*: a day of thanksgiving by the entire Edmundston Diocese Church on Thursday, August 3, at 3:00 P.M., at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, for the priests and religious who are from here or who have worked in our diocese; on Friday, August 4 at 2:00 P.M. at Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Coeur Church; on Saturday, August 5 at 2:30 P.M., a gathering at Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs Church for all couples married in 1944-1945; finally, Lord's Day celebration on Sunday, August 6, at City Hall Park [Parc de l'Hôtel de Ville] at 9:30 A.M., highlighting all those who were baptised or confirmed in 1944-1945. A full programme has been prepared for you on all these occasions, and all the events can help us discover the Church to a greater extent, in the course of the days and weeks to come.

A SUPER YOUTH RALLY

as surprising as it may seem, more than any other group the youth of the diocese were among the first to see the importance of celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of our diocese, and to do something about it. Since the summer of 1994, youth committees were organised in the five deaneries: these young people really wanted to learn about what makes up a diocesan Church: "What is a diocese?" "Who is the Church?" "What is the Edmundston Diocese Church?" "What is the link between the people of the Restigouche and those of Southern Victoria?" "Why is our diocese called the diocese of Edmundston?" "What connection is there between anglophones, francophones, and Maliseets?" "Can we move forward together, in our celebrations?" These were some of the questions raised by our youth, in undertaking their project.

The 1995 Youth Rally will take place in a few days; some 3,000 youth are expected to attend. From Saturday noon, August 12, to Sunday noon, August 13, at the Cité des Jeunes of the École Sormany in Edmundston: a major event marking the 50th anniversary celebrations, a twenty-four hour festival to join in fellowship and celebrate, to better get to know one another, brothers and sisters of the same Church.

Dear young people, I admire you, you are an important part of this Church of ours, and along with the entire diocesan Church I place my trust and love in you. Enriched with a lively 50-year past, this diocesan Church has your features and rejoices at what is beginning, it gives of itself without counting the cost, it renews itself and takes up new challenges. look on this beloved Church with love: "You will find in her the face of Christ the real hero, humble and wise, the prophet of truth and love, the companion and friend of the young."² And it is in the name of this same Jesus that I offer you my greetings and give thanks for this marvellous gift which is the Church.



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

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¹ *Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*, No. 1

² Vatican II: *Message to Youth*