
Appointments



Following Fr. Alfred Ouellet's one-year leave of absence, I have just appointed Mr. Rénaud E. Michaud administrator of St-François d'Assise Parish in Clair, to take effect August 15, for a period ending November 1, 1995. Archbishop Emeritus J.-Aurèle Plourde has generously accepted to celebrate daily Mass at the church until October 15, 1995. I have also renewed the pastoral mandate of Fr. Alfred Irving, I.V.D., as pastor of Plaster Rock, Blue Bell, and Anderson Road, for another six years.

THANKS

Allow me to mention once again the wonderful work accomplished by hundreds of volunteers for the marvellous success of our fiftieth anniversary's summer activities. Thank you to the people of the cathedral parish for their share in this: the organ concert, guided visits of the cathedral, eucharistic gathering of bishops, priests, and religious who were born or who worked in our region. It was an impressive gathering filled with gratitude and the joy of homecoming.

Thank you also to the people of Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Coeur Parish for all they did to make the opening and blessing of the diocesan seminary a reality: you have contributed in inaugurating a hope-filled era. Thank you to the people of Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs for welcoming our Golden Anniversary couples: your words and actions expressed your lasting gratitude. Thank you also to all those who prepared and carried through the celebration of the *Messe Brayonne* at the Parc de l'Hôtel-de-Ville [City Hall Park], those who had the charge of this major undertaking, and the choir members, all of whom worked week after week to prepare the Mass in its every detail: your singing was superb! Congratulations to Mrs. Viviane Bouffard, the choir director, and to Ms. Renée Ruest, the pianist. Thank you to those workers who prepared the Mass site. Thank you to all who were instrumental in making the Youth Rally a success: their devotedness is a quality sign for now and the future. Thank you to the civil authorities, to those in charge of the *Foire Brayonne*, to those in charge of parishes and of the Cité des Jeunes, as well as to the mass media for their invaluable contribution.

The Fiftieth Anniversary summer activities having ended, Fr. Armand Chouinard's mandate [to prepare these summer activities] has also come to an end. I thank him for all he accomplished while in our midst, whether it be the Fiftieth's music cassette, the Artists' Mass, the diocesan religious treasures exhibit, or the many liturgical celebrations. A thousand thanks! "You are ours, beloved Church:" look at all these volunteers, you can see that you are loved indeed!

A MESSAGE OF FRIENDSHIP

Bishop Jean-Guy Hamelin of Rouyn-Noranda, President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, sent a message of friendship to all in the Diocese of Edmundston, and I am pleased to pass it on to you in its entirety: You will know how to sort things out, in his references to the actual bishop of Edmundston!

"I bring you today the message of friendship and fellowship of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, and in doing so I am the spokesman of all our sister churches in Canada.

We know that the Church of Jesus is founded on the communion of all the Churches of the world under the principle of unity that is the Pope, the bishop of Rome. And no Church can grow without the others doing the same; no Church can suffer trials without the others suffering also; no Church can exult in joy and thanksgiving without the others sharing these sentiments.

Under the courageous leadership of our shepherds, successors of the Apostles, all those who received the Good News of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ have moulded the diocese through the years in the form of a life-giving family of which we take pride. This pride is shared by all the Canadian Churches. At international meetings, especially in Rome, when we mention the Canadian Church, connection is immediately made to these dynamic communities and to their openness and adaptation to the present day. And it is to each diocese, according to its resources and peculiarities, that we pay tribute. The Diocese of Edmundston has been offering its own particular contribution for fifty years, now.

Its bishops contributed greatly to the work of this Conference. I cannot refrain from mentioning the quality of the service rendered by Bishop Fernand Lacroix of regretted memory. I also want to point out the competent and precious experience of Bishop François Thibodeau which will be used in years to come. He being young, is just beginning, and he loses nothing by waiting. His former commitments, his openness and his will to serve are a pledge of what he shall accomplish in the midst of his brother bishops.

On behalf of my brother bishops, I therefore extend the congratulations and best wishes of the Churches of Canada to their sister Church of Edmundston.

"A rushing mighty wind filled the house of the Apostles" were the first words of Bishop Thibodeau's magisterial Pastoral Letter for Pentecost 1995. May this wind of the Spirit help the barque of the Church advance ever further on the great waters of the People of God in Edmundston."

GUESTS

Sixteen Bishops and two major superiors joined with many other priests, religious, and lay people, at the celebration of the *Messe Brayonne*, on August 6. They included Archbishop Emeritus Joseph-Aurèle Plourde and Bishop Emeritus Gerard Dionne, bishops from Madawaska County, Bishop Jean-Guy Hamelin, President of the CCCB, Archbishop Donat Chiasson of Moncton, Bishop André Richard of Bathurst, Bishop Edward Troy of Saint John, Archbishop Austin Burke of Halifax, Archbishop James MacDonald of St. Johns, Nfld., Bishop Faber MacDonald of Grand Falls, Nfld, Bishop Henri Goudreault of Labrador City-Schefferville, Bishop Pierre Morrissette of Baie-Comeau, Archbishop Bertrand Blanchette of Rimouski, Bishop Raymond Dumais of Gaspé, Auxiliary Bishop Clément Fecteau of Québec, and Bishop André Vallée of the Canadian Armed Forces. Fathers Jean-Claude Trottier, provincial superior of the Marist Fathers, and Bernard Cantin, provincial superior of the Eudist Fathers, were also present.

Have a good week!

+ François Thibodeau

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

« From A Bishop's Journal » (081) (16 August 1995)