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## THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ISN'T OVER YET!



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Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of September, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coordinating Committee met together to review the activities carried out and specify those that are yet to come. We are truly amazed with everything that was experienced at the parish, deanery, and diocesan levels. Hundreds and hundreds of people have worked together to celebrate this event which shows us more and more the beautiful gift made to us, the gift of living together as Church. And it is far from being over!

### A FULL MONTH OF OCTOBER

From October 1 to 8 - National Family Week - we can loudly proclaim all that our families have done to help build up our diocesan Church. "Let us recall the strengths at the core of our families: kindness, mutual help, tenacity, and faith. We are proud, and this is our daily fare." Our families have been, throughout, the ideal place for faith, love, and charity to grow. All through the week I shall pray in a special way for the 15,000 families of our diocese. On October 19 and 20, the New Brunswick Catholic Health Association will be holding its annual meeting in Edmundston, one of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities. I shall have the opportunity there to study with the group the unique mission of the sick in the upbuilding of the Church. On Friday, October 20, the Madawaska Historical Society will publish a souvenir album on the late Bishop Fernand Lacroix, to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his episcopal ordination. On October 21 and 22, the Charismatic Congress will take place at the Cité des Jeunes in Edmundston: a special time of gathering to thank the Holy Spirit for everything He is accomplishing in the Church: He continues to make us profit of the rushing wind of Pentecost.

### A MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE

On November 2, All Souls Day, parishes and communities are invited to remember those who have gone before us to meet the Lord: parents and friends, fellow parishioners, priests and bishops who have lived among us and have contributed in building our Church. *"Let's celebrate the story of our past/ The young and old who prayed our Church would last./ They worked for peace and hope and understanding, and worked through times that were quite demanding."* If time allows, a visit to the cemetery would be most appropriate. On Saturday, November 11, let us remember in a special way all who gave their lives to defend our country: here, too, 50 years have gone by since the end of the Second World War.

### A NOT-TO-BE-FORGOTTEN FINALE!

I invite each family, parish, and community to make of December 8, feast of the Immaculate Conception and patronal feast of our diocese, a day of prayer and thanksgiving, in your own way: holy hour, celebration, family evening, etc. It will be an opportunity to thank the Lord for this jubilee year we have experienced together. And what a year it has been!

On Sunday, December 10, from 3:00 to 9:00 P.M. there will take place at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral a vast gathering of everyone in the diocese. A solemn high Mass will be celebrated at 3:30; the choirs that sang on August 6 for our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass shall be there to join us in thanksgiving. I invite every PPC to delegate one

family to this celebration, as was done for the opening ceremonies, last December. These families and the delegates from religious communities will take part in the opening procession, with the priests and bishops. A community supper will be served around 5:00 P.M.: tickets to this event will soon be on sale, and there is room for some seven hundred, in the cathedral's St. Peter Hall. At 7:00 P.M. the "Baladins du Dimanche" choir will present an unforgettable Christmas concert, at the cathedral. Tickets will also be on sale shortly, for this festivity.

### **LET US RECALL THE JUBILEE ROAD!**

These then are a few of the activities still to unfold, but it is not the complete programme. I know that other activities are taking place here and there, and this is great. I am reminded, for example, of the projects being formed for the needy in our midst. Plans are already afoot to form a long Chain of Solidarity in the Edmundston city streets, on Friday, December 8. More about this later. Have a Happy 50<sup>th</sup>!

Have a good week.

*+ François Thibodeau ym*

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Bishop of Edmundston

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