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## UNFORGETTABLE EVENTS

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The month of October is full of notable events: the annual meeting of the New Brunswick Catholic Health Association [October 19-20]; and the Second Charismatic Congress, October 21-22, being held within the framework of our diocese's anniversary festivities: come numerous to share in this prayerful time. As for me, October 20, 1993 was a memorable date: two years ago Pope John Paul II appointed me bishop of Edmundston... and exactly twenty-five years ago on October 20, Bishop Fernand Lacroix was consecrated third bishop of Edmundston. On Friday, October 20, at the Diocesan Centre, the Madawaska Historical Society will launch a biographical album on Bishop Lacroix. You are cordially invited to attend. In this jubilee year, this publication is a mark of deep gratitude to Bishop Lacroix.

### GRATITUDE

The end or beginning of a new pastoral year offers a special opportunity to thank those who for one reason or another are leaving us for new commitments, and to welcome new persons and groups that are joining us. It was because of this that at the Diocesan Centre we expressed our deep gratitude to Sister Berthe Lavoie, R.E.J., who was our chancellor for six years; to Mr. Gilles Morin, diocesan catechetical coordinator, secondary level, and Social Communications director, and to Father Armand Chouinard [C.J.M.], who was most helpful in organising and launching the Fiftieth Anniversary festivities. Our gratitude could extend to others, also: the parishes and deaneries expressed their grateful thanks to those who gave of themselves for the cause of the Church and of the Gospel. Thank You to all those who have taken part in the building of our jubilarian Church.

### FRATERNAL WELCOME

I want to warmly welcome those who have taken on new commitments in the midst of their Christian communities, whether as members of the parish pastoral council, the liturgy religious education, or Christian initiation committee, or as a member of the parish committee for economic affairs. The 1995-1996 Church Directory, to be published shortly, will list quite a number of volunteers with the diocesan councils, commissions, and services. I want to mention in a special way the team that is responsible for *La vie au Quotidien* radio programme, whose coordinator is Mrs. Louise Morin, and the *Au rythme de l'Église* radio programme to be hosted by Mrs. Manon Ruest-Bourgoin. And allow me to introduce to you two new groups that have settled in the diocese: the Marist fathers, and the Marie-Jeunesse group. I consider their coming here a special kindness of the Virgin Mary, and a response to the many prayers of our people.

### THE MARIST FATHERS

For the first time in their history, the Marist Fathers have established a community in Atlantic Canada: it bears repeating that Edmundston is one of the gateways to the Atlantic! The Marist Fathers were not unknown in our region, though. We very well remember the preaching of Fr. Jean-Eudes Gaudreau, this Marist priest with a heart aflame! The Marist Fathers were founded in Neylière in the diocese of Lyon in France. Their founder was Father Jean-Claude Collin (1790-1875). From meditating on the silence of the Virgin Mary at Nazareth or in the Upper

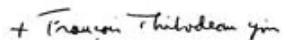
Chamber with the apostles, he discovered a powerful tool for the apostolate, a way of life, a way of being, like Mary's, which seemed to him to be indispensable for apostles of his day. In 1822, he goes to Rome: he wants the Society of Mary to include numerous branches of religious: priests, brothers, and sisters, as well as lay persons. Through the years, we shall see Father Marcellin Champagnat continue to direct the brothers, Sister Jeanne-Marie Chavoin will look after the sisters, and Pierre-Julien Eymard will set up the lay sector, the Third Order of Mary. The Marist Fathers came to Canada in 1929 to take the direction of the Sillery [Québec City] Seminary, whence the Marist will spread to Ste-Croix, Magdalene Islands, Chicoutimi, Roberval, Dolbeau, and Hull, [Québec,] and Ottawa. The South Pacific Islands beckoned the missionaries, and it was there that one of their priests, Saint Peter Chanel, S.M., was martyred.

I am grateful to Father Jean-Claude Trottier, the provincial superior, for having made such a generous donation. Fraternal welcome to Fr. Romain Trépanier, superior of the community and pastor of St-Basile; to Fr. Paul-Henri Demers who has accepted to take on - besides occasional parish ministry - the chaplaincy of the St-Hilaire Correctional Centre, and to Brother Mario Garon who has already started working in the [St-Basile] parish, especially with the senior citizens. Welcome to Father Michel Bouffard, the superior of our diocesan seminary and pastor of Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Coeur Parish. I hope that you will find much happiness in your new ministries and, if such is God's will, that you will be able to recruit new disciples who would want to live the Gospel after the manner of Mary.

## **MARIE-JEUNESSE**

he Association Marie-Jeunesse began around 1980 in Sillery [Québec City], in St-Michel parish pastored by the Marist Fathers. Along with their founder Réal Lavoie, young people decide in 1986 to live together in fellowship, prayer, and in giving a special attention and welcome to youth. They dedicate more than three hours a day to prayer and contemplation. A house was opened in Québec City, in 1990 a second one was opened in Sherbrooke, and a third was opened in Chicoutimi in 1992. Edmundston is therefore the fourth diocese to welcome Marie-Jeunesse. Their residence at 103 Rice St. in Edmundston (735-3555) at the moment houses six young people; the person in charge is Sonia Guillemette. The diocesan respondent who serves as the go-between is Sister Constance Gervais. May this house be a harbour of peace for all who shall reside there; may Marie-Jeunesse serve as a continuous invitation to prayer, evangelisation, and welcome.

Have a good week!



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

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