
1996 APPOINTMENTS



I am deeply moved by a feeling of gratitude as I publish today most of the appointments for 1996-1997. A prayer you know well springs from my heart: « We give you thanks because you have chosen us to work in your presence and serve you. » It is not we who choose: rather, it is He who chooses us. I want to thank all those who have accepted to pursue the mission they have received, all those who have accepted new responsibilities in the Edmundston diocesan Church, and all those who shouldered a good part of that mission but who can no longer carry it out.

HEARTFELT THANKS

Hence, on behalf of the Church I express my deep gratitude to Father Arthur Rossignol and Father Lucien Lévesque who are retiring for health reasons. Father Rossignol worked in parish ministry by serving as assistant pastor at Clair, Drummond, and Assumption Parish in Grand Falls, then as pastor of St-Jean-Baptiste, St.-Hilaire, St. Jacques, and Green River. He was also chaplain at the St-Quentin Hospital, chancellor, and vicar general of the diocese. Father Lévesque was in turn assistant pastor at Drummond, Clair, St. Leonard, and Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska, then pastor at Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, Green River, and Baker Lake. I thank these two priests for accepting to remain available for occasional ministry according to their possibilities. Thank you to Father Paul-Henri Demers, S.M., who has had to leave us because of health problems; he ministered at St. Basile, Clair, and the Madawaska Correctional Centre during the past year. Thank you to Sister Elmona Thibodeau, R.H.S.J. who was in charge of the parish of Clair for eight months and who is going on leave for a year of pastoral studies in Montreal. Thank you also to Sister Gemma Ouellet, f.m.a., for the years she has given as pastoral agent at Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs [Edmundston East] and who has just been appointed coordinator of activities marking the 75 years of her congregation.

SIGNS OF HOPE

Among the signs of hope for our Church, I want to mention three, for now. The presence in each of our 33 parishes of a parish pastoral council working in collaboration with the parish priest or person in charge of the parish to look after the community's pastoral and spiritual needs, is a promising sign of parish growth. During the course of the year it was a priority of mine to visit all the francophone parishes in order to introduce to them the members of their councils; I shall be doing the same next year in all the anglophone parishes. Our seminary, founded last August 4, will probably have eight or nine seminarians come September, among whom are six members of the Marie-Jeunesse group; if these persevere and eventually become priests, they will be at the service of our diocese for six years. There were many prayers offered, too, throughout the diocese. I have in mind especially the forty hours' devotions that were held at St-Quentin during the first Diocesan Eucharistic Congress. I am certain that the Lord will continue to send workers to his Church.

DIOCESAN RESPONSIBILITIES

Besides his ministry as pastor of Drummond, I appoint Father William Rice diocesan procurator for a three-year term. A special welcome to Sister Jacqueline Poirier, f.m.a., who is appointed to a three-year term as director of the École de la Foi. I thank Father Jean-Guy Lachance, C.J.M., co-founder with Bishop Gerard

Dionne and Father Robert Simard, C.J.M., of this school of religious studies, for having committed eleven years to this important cause. I appoint Father Normand Godbout president of the Diocesan Commission on Liturgy and Culture, while continuing on as pastor of St. George. I appoint Mrs. Manon Ruest-Bourgoin to a three-year term as director of the Office of Social Communications, in addition to her work in youth ministry. Father Michel Bouffard, S.M., is appointed to a three-year term chaplain to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, and Father Laurent Nadeau chaplain at the Madawaska Correctional Centre, in addition to their actual ministry. Sister Constance Gervais, S.M. is appointed respondent for the « *Brebis de Jésus* » movement, and Sister Rita Arsenault spiritual advisor to the *Femmes Chrétiennes* movement. In the following months we shall continue work regarding the formation of the following commissions: on Ecumenism, on Social Affairs, and on Family Services.

PARISH RESPONSIBILITIES

In the Edmundston Deanery I appoint Father Roger Dionne to a six-year term as pastor of the cathedral parish. I appoint Father Lewis Long to a one-year term as pastoral assistant at the Hôtel-Dieu of St-Basile. Mr. Gaëtan Bernier will pursue a pastoral internship at the Edmundston Seminary. Steps are already being taken to find a pastor for Green River and a chaplain for the Foyer St-Joseph [senior citizens' home] at St-Basile.

In the Southern Victoria Deanery I appoint Father Curtis Sappier to a one-year term as administrator of the parishes of St. Patrick at Limestone Siding and St. Joseph in Tilley; his residence will be at Assumption rectory in Grand Falls. He shall consecrate one day a week to preparing the Eucharistic Congress taking place at Maliseet in 1997.

In the Upper Madawaska Deanery I appoint Father Jean-Marie Martin to a six-year term as pastor of the Baker Lake parish. I appoint Father Claude Côté, C.J.M., to a one-year term as administrator of the parish of Clair. I thank Archbishop Joseph-Aurèle Plourde for taking on the Baker Lake ministry during the summer; this is greatly appreciated.

In the Grand Falls Deanery I appoint Father Jeff Doucette to a six-year term as pastor of Assumption Parish in Grand Falls. Mr. Ghislain Rémillard, seminarian, is to continue his internship in that parish and will also give one day a week to working at preparations for the 1997 Eucharistic Congress.

In the Restigouche Deanery, there are no changes.

All appointments are to take effect August 15, 1996. The renewal of mandate or appointment of pastoral agents will take place in the fall.

PRIESTS' SENATE

It is with pleasure that I announce the composition of our priests' senate: Fr. Roger Dionne, V.G., Msgr. Eymard Desjardins, P.H. Frs. Michel Bouffard, S.M., Gaëtan Côté, Bertrand Ouellet, William Rice, and Rino Thériault.

+ François Thibodeau

+ François Thibodeau, C.J.M.

Bishop of Edmundston

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