
A GORGEOUS SUMMER SEASON!



I heartily wish all of you a gorgeous and, if possible, restful summer season. May these summer months stimulate in us a sense of the marvellous. There are so many reasons for us to marvel: our woods and rivers, our mountains and fields, our villages and towns are all exceptionally beautiful. And what are we to say of the people we meet and who come to visit? We are all reflections of God since we were all created in His image and likeness. This fact changes the way we look at our camping or beach neighbour, at our fellow travellers, at the young people we encounter on the street, and the mill worker. Just as the Lord did at the time of creation, may we realise that everything God has made is good, and very good at that!

APPRECIATION

There is no risk of repetition, in saying thank you. However short it may be, this phrase translates my gratitude for all that was accomplished in 1995-1996. And God who knows everything also knows about the efforts, help, gifts, and work that was accomplished during that period. On behalf of our diocesan Church I want to thank all those who contributed in building up an even more vibrant Church and a more lively Christian community. We can be justly proud and grateful for what we were able to accomplish together, in the strength of the Holy Spirit: parish pastoral councils, sacrament preparation committees, economic affairs committees, pastoral formation service, financial consolidation of the diocesan services, the École de la Foi, inauguration of the diocesan seminary, a first Diocesan Eucharistic Congress in preparation of the year 2000, etc. It is thanks to your generous and consistent collaboration that we were able to fulfil these projects... A heartfelt thank you!

PRIESTLY ORDINATION

On my behalf as well as in the name of the diocese of Edmundston I congratulate Father Jean Abud on his having been ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Maurice Couture of Québec, on June 16. Jean has been appointed assistant pastor of Notre-Dame-de-l'Annonciation parish at Ancienne Lorette. Ad multos annos! Happiness and peace in his ministry.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

On the occasion of Aboriginal Day (June 21), St-Jean-Baptiste Day (June 24), and Canada Day (July 1), I would like to offer the prayer the liturgy suggests for such events: « God our Father, you guide everything in wisdom and love. Accept the prayers we offer for our nation; by the wisdom of our leaders and integrity of our citizens, may harmony and justice be secured and may there be lasting prosperity and peace. » I hope that these days of celebration will have allowed us to experience solidarity and fellowship. Other days of celebration are still to come: the Feast of Good St. Anne on July 26 and New Brunswick Day on August 5: May these be intensive days of prayer and peace. Turned to the future, it behooves us to continue building a world of love.

1996 GRADUATES

It was with joy that I was able to take part in four eucharistic celebrations marking the graduation of many young people: at the Centre Universitaire St-Louis-Maillet, the Polyvalente Thomas-Albert, the Polyvalente Cité-des-Jeunes, and the [Edmundston] Community College. My fraternal congratulations to all the graduates in the diocese, whether they be in the Restigouche, in Madawaska or Victoria. I gladly repeat the slogan that the young people of the Restigouche came up with for the first Diocesan Eucharistic Congress: *Together towards the Year 2000!* This unity in brotherhood will more than ever be indispensable if we are to be able to meet the challenges of the next century. May you remember Jesus all through your life: he is truly the Way, the Truth, and the Life. And you, young people, you are being called to work at building a world of justice and peace. In following Jesus and letting yourselves be strengthened by the Holy Spirit, you will have the courage to carry out the projects of brotherhood about which you have dreamed. Christ never disappoints. He is always with you. He is the true friend of youth. Once again I give you my sincere regards and I assure you of my friendship and prayers. My best wishes also to your parents and friends.

HAPPY WEDDING!

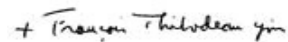
In the course of the summer several brothers and sisters will be united together before God and us in the sacrament of matrimony. To them too I offer my best wishes. « You are being given a most important mission in the midst of the world: love one another in such a way that we may discover even more profoundly the Love with which God loves us in His Son Jesus. May the Lord bless, protect and strengthen your love! May you discover day after day the joy that comes from the gift of self; may your love be life-giving. May your union be fruitful, and may you have the joy of seeing your children's children! Seek before all else the Kingdom God and His justice. Welcome those who suffer. And may you always be thankful for the great things the Lord accomplishes in you and by you. »

APPOINTMENTS

I have appointed Father Gaston Deschênes, S.M., chaplain of the Foyer St-Joseph Home for the Elderly (St. Basile); and as of August 15 he will also ensure the Sunday liturgical celebration at Green River until we have a resident for the parish.

Father Edgar Lavoie, C.J.M., who until recently had been looking after the St-Éloi Mission [St.-André], has been appointed superior of the Bathurst Eudist community. I thank him for all he has done in our midst.

Have a good week!



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

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