
WHOEVER SOWS BROADLY HARVESTS ABUNDANTLY



I heartedly gave my support to the Solidarity Caravan that has been organised by the Association of New Brunswick Municipalities to come to the aid of the July's victims of the flooded-out regions of Québec's Saguenay, North Shore, and the Upper Mauricie. My Congratulations to the ANBM for this humanitarian initiative; my hope is that it be totally successful in gathering your donations, especially in household electrical appliances, bedding, and furniture. I was able to pay a short visit to Sacré-Coeur parish in Chicoutimi when I attended the funeral of my confrere Father Roland Tremblay who was pastor there and could not survive the stress caused by this catastrophe. The reality is far beyond every picture I have seen. In asking you to collaborate generously with the Caravan that will be departing from St. Joseph of Memramcook and travel through our parishes August 28 and 29, I recall the words of St. Paul: « Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. »

NEW 1996-1997 PASTORAL YEAR

The new pastoral year has just begun, and I entrust it to the Lord's care, asking the Holy Spirit to make it fertile and beneficial for the entire population. Challenges will not be lacking, but with the help of divine grace we shall be up to the task. On Thursday, August 22, the Bishop's Council, the diocesan [Centre] team, and the deanery presidents met together at Perth-Andover for a day of reflection and sharing. Each deanery president was asked to describe his deanery along with the pastoral and spiritual needs, and resources to be found within the deanery itself. The directors of the diocesan pastoral offices, whether in charge of catechetics, liturgy, missionary activity or youth ministry were asked to present the main pastoral projects on their new agenda. Special effort will be made to support each parish pastoral council; they are key elements in the life of the community, along with the director of pastoral ministry. PPCs are truly the eyes, ears, hands, and heart of Jesus the Good Shepherd. The PPC must coordinate parish activities as a whole as well as all parish committees. Further details will be given regarding the tasks of the various parish committees. Every parish liturgy committee will be asked to make an effort to ensure that every weekend eucharistic celebration be more meaningful. 1996-1997 will be a special year for the Southern Victoria Deanery; I plan to visit each parish in the deanery during the course of the year, to celebrate the Chrism Mass and preside the Second Eucharistic Congress preparatory to the year 2000 in Southern Victoria. In the next few days I shall be visiting each of the five deaneries.

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

My best wishes to all those attending school in our regions: May the year be a fruitful one in every aspect. May the young and not-so-young, teachers and students experience memorable times. May these periods of learning life skills be accompanied with happiness. Our society invests a lot in the field of education: May all these efforts bear good fruit!

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY MEETINGS

The different religious congregations regularly hold provincial or general meetings also called "chapters." The Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph held their general chapter and elected Sister Anne-Marie Savoie their new superior general. The Marist Sisters and the Notre-Dame-du-Sacré-Coeur Sisters also held similar meetings. These are extraordinarily grace-filled moments. The Eudist Fathers and Brothers held their Twentieth Provincial Meeting August 18 to 23. I was unable to attend the Eucharist in honour of St. John Eudes. My confreres gathered together to study the spirituality inherited from our founder and the twofold mission the Church has given us: evangelisation through preaching missions and the training of seminarians.

APPOINTMENT

I have just appointed Father Alfred Irving, I.V.D., pastor of Sacré-Coeur Church in Rivière-Verte. He replaces Father Arthur Rossignol and will take charge August 31. Studies are being made regarding pastoral ministers for the parishes of BlueBell, Plaster Rock, and Anderson Road. Father Frédéric Poitras will ensure the Sunday eucharists at Blue Bell and Anderson Road, and Fathers Leo Grégoire and Curtis Sappier will look after Plaster Rock.

Have a good week!

+ François Thibodeau

+ François Thibodeau, C.J.M.

Bishop of Edmundston

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