
THE DIOCESE OF EDMUNDSTON ON THE INTERNET



« Welcome to our Internet site! I hope that the time spent with us will help you learn about our young Church and appreciate the spirit and vitality of its members. May you also get to learn about those areas where our members are committed to Gospel service. It would be such a joy to be able to proclaim day after day that God's love is from age to age and that it is still with us today. » These are the words of welcome I give to each of our visitors.

OPENING NEW PATHS TO JESUS

At the onset of his papal ministry, Pope John Paul II urged us to open the doors to the Lord Jesus. « *Open the doors to Jesus,* » he said. « *Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors to Jesus, the vast areas of culture, development, politics, and the borders of countries. Do not be afraid! Open!* » And this message, the Pope has not tired of repeating it, these last 19 years. During Advent, it is an echo of John the Baptist's message, «... *the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'* » « *Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all the people shall see it together...* » [John 1:23; Isaiah 40: 3-5] We are witnesses to the many efforts expended to do and redo the Trans Canada Highway into four lanes, along the Saint John River. Much effort and money are needed, to construct such a road! It isn't as easy as all that, to open new roads, new highways.

[HTTP://WWW.FRANCOPHONE.NET/DIOCESE](http://www.francophone.net/diocese)

The Diocese of Edmundston has been on the electronic highway for a few days, now, and anyone throughout the world can get messages from our Church, our diocesan services, and our many parish organisations. You can read [the *Bishop's Journal*, which] I write each week, but you can now get it right off the Internet. But what a vast undertaking it was, to get onto the information highway. And it will also demand a major effort, to ensure that this path remain open to present the message of Jesus to our brothers and sisters throughout the world. We must neglect nothing, on the road to evangelisation. In a very special way, in the name of the Diocese of Edmundston and in my own name I want to thank the initiator of this project, Mrs. Georgette Thibodeau, and all those who collaborated with her in this outstanding accomplishment, Mr. Michel Martin, Fr. Leo Grégoire, I.V.D., and our web master, Mr. Richard Tardif of the International Centre for the Development of the French Information Highway, [CIDIF: Centre international pour le développement de l'Inforoute en français] who has constantly supported us and has literally set us on the information highway. The CIDIF serves 49 francophone states, and its centre is at the Saint-Louis-Maillet University Campus, in Edmundston. We are deeply grateful to this group.

AT INTERNAUT CROSSROADS

You are aware of the frequent use by our youth of computers and informatics, and of the many hours spent, in school and at home, surfing the Internet. I invite all of you and especially our youth, to join us on the Internet. Our address is easy to remember; it is all in lower-case letters: <http://www.francophone.net/diocese>

AN INNOVATIVE WAY OF CELEBRATING

It seems to me that the Diocese of Edmundston, in these days of its fifty-third anniversary, December 16, takes a new step in its history, thanks to modern techniques and to the missionary concern of its members. In the wake of John the Baptist we too are opening a new highway to make Jesus and his message of hope for our future better known. Jesus himself the way, he is the one who leads to the Father. He is the one who converts, who sets us in communion with our brothers and sisters here and elsewhere. It is Jesus himself who develops in us those feelings of solidarity which we have for our brothers and sisters in need. He is the one who opens the way to contemplation and prayer.

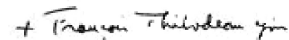
A LAVISH MENU

If one were to make a print-out of our web site, it would form a book of over 500 pages. True, the 200 *Journal* articles I have penned these four years takes up quite a few of these pages, but have no fear, you will find properly one-tenth of them, there, those that have appeared since the beginning of our new pastoral year. The biography of the bishops of Edmundston, with text and photos, our parishes, organisations, associations, religious communities, and diocesan services all form part of the menu. There are other ingredients, too, especially regarding the youth. There is even talk of having a daily reflection on life as experienced today.

A NEW AREOPAGUS

We would like our web site to become a new "areopagus" where the baptised and confirmed of our Church and elsewhere are able to meet and share together. By using our e-mail address, diocese@nbnet.nb.ca we shall be able to deepen our relationship together. We shall also give you links to other religious sites, dioceses, communities or religious families, along with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Vatican web site. The multiple contacts we will have with one another will create a most helpful and stimulating network. Happy surfing!

Have a good week!



+ François Thibodeau
Bishop of Edmundston

« From A Bishop's Journal » (204) (17 December 1997)