
APPOINTMENTS, 2001-2002



As I prepare to publish the appointments for the 2001-2001 pastoral year, appointments which take effect August 15, I am reminded of these words from the First Letter of Peter (5:2-4): *Give a shepherd's care to the flock of God that is entrusted to you: watch over it, not simply as a duty but gladly, as God wants; not for sordid money, but because you are eager to do it. Do not lord it over the group which is in your charge, but be an example for the flock. When the chief shepherd appears, you will be given the unfading crown of glory.*

FAITH AND AVAILABILITY

This is the eighth time I make appointments, and I am amazed at the faith and generosity I have come across, during the year, among the clergy, religious, and lay people. May the Lord bless all these positive responses, and may He assist in a very special way all who have accepted new appointments. Through the weeks of reflection and consultations, it was clear that the parish pastoral teams need further consolidating. Of the seventeen pastoral teams ministering to the thirty-two parishes, there will be two moderator changes.

GRATITUDE

On behalf of the diocesan Church and in my own name I thank all those who dedicated themselves to the cause of our Church during the 2000-2001 pastoral year to build up the Body of Christ in our midst: may the Lord give them a hundredfold more! I also acknowledge the religious congregations that collaborate with us so generously; I thank them most warmly. In this Year of Volunteers I want to express my gratitude to all those who, day in and day out, week after week, have freely given of themselves for the cause of the Gospel: without their volunteer work it would be next to impossible to maintain our pastoral services.

I wish to thank in a special way Father Leo Grégoire, I.V.D., who has given of himself unstintingly to our diocesan Church for thirty years; he will be going to Ottawa to pursue studies in Canon Law. My heartfelt thanks also to Mr. Robert Inman who for twenty-five years has served our Church as acolyte and pastoral agent in Southern Victoria Deanery. I thank Sister Geraldine Brotherton, F.M.A., for the eleven years she gave to the Diocese; she has now accepted a new appointment with her community, in Campbellton. Thanks also to Sister Ovéline Roy, F.M.A., who has ministered six years with us, especially in the parish of Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes: she will be leaving for the Bathurst Diocese to take up new responsibilities, there. A special Thank You to Mrs. Marie-Maie Cyr who for five years worked in the Social Communications and to Development and Peace Offices; she is taking a well-deserved sabbatical leave. I thank Father Normand Godbout for his five years as chairman of the Diocesan Commission for Liturgy and Culture. I thank Father Lucien Lévesque who for three years has been ministering in the parish of St-André. According to his capacity and who remains available for occasional ministry there. Thanks also to the five pastoral interns of the Marie Jeunesse Family: Patrick Laflamme, Dominic LeRouzès, Martin Proulx, and Patrick Rancourt, for their ministry among us; they are now returning to their theological studies. Thank You to Sister Jacqueline Poirier, F.M.A., who was coordinator of the Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs Parish pastoral team; she will be working at the Centre Sérénité and will continue coordinating activities for the École de la Foi. Thank You also to Father Yvon Samson, O.Ss.T. who was with us for five years as chaplain to the Charismatic Renewal and Cursillo Movements, and as retreat facilitator; he will now be working with the Evangélisation 2000 TV programme in Montreal.

Many thanks to those persons who served our parish communities on pastoral teams and who are now retiring from service: Mrs. Linda Beaulieu, Mrs. Anna Cyr, Mrs. Jacqueline Cyr, Mr. Raoul Cyr, Mr. Ronald Cyr, Mrs. Laurette Desjardins, Mrs. Jacinthe Doucette, Mrs. Rita Gagnon, Mr. André Landry, Mr. Léopold Lang, Mrs. Guilda Martin, Mrs. Paquerette Michaud, Mr. Jean-Charles Ouellette, Mrs. Marie Paulin, Mr. Martin Racine, Mr. Ernest Ratté, Mr. Ernest Sirois, Mr. Alyre Thériault, and Mrs. Mona Thibault.

VOCABULARY

Since 1984 new Church legislation has recognised that responsibility for a parish should no longer rest on one person alone but should be shared by a pastoral team, a group of people commissioned and mandated by the bishop to look after one or more Christian communities. In this way the team shares in the Church's pastoral charge. The priest member of the team is known as the "moderator", a title which could also be translated "facilitator" or "animator" or, better still, "pastor": because of his priestly ordination he presides the celebration of sacraments, proclaims the Word, calls to prayer, and sees to the unity of the people of God. The coordinator is a person mandated by the bishop to convene the pastoral team and coordinate activities on behalf of the bishop. The pastoral agent is a person who has had adequate training and is mandated by the bishop to collaborate in ministry with the pastoral team. A deanery (or pastoral zone) is a regional grouping of parishes. There are five deaneries in our diocese: Upper Madawaska, Edmundston, Grand Falls, Restigouche, and Southern Victoria. The zone is the foremost place for developing and adopting common pastoral initiatives.

UPPER MADAWASKA DEANERY

I appoint Father Jean-Marie Martin to a one-year term as moderator and coordinator of the St. Thomas Parish pastoral team, Baker Lake; the team is composed of Mr. Robert Boutot and Mr. Marcel Pelletier. I appoint Father Claude Côté to a two-year term as moderator and coordinator of the pastoral team ministering in the parishes of St-François d'Assise, Clair, St-François-Xavier (St-François), and Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire, Connors; members of the pastoral team are Sisters Denise Hébert, D.W. and Nicole Rousse, D.W., pastoral agents, and Mrs. Fernande Lang and Mr. Maurice Pelletier. Appointed to a one-year term to be part of this pastoral team are Mrs. Pierrette Landry and Mr. Régnald F. Landry. I appoint Father Jacques Thériault to a one-year term as moderator and coordinator of the pastoral team ministering in the parishes of Saint-Coeur-de-Marie, Baker Brook, and St-Hilaire. His parish pastoral team is composed of Sister Elmona Thibodeau, R.H.S.J., pastoral agent, and Mrs. Rinette Côté, Mrs. Gilberte Daigle, Mrs. Lucille Lagacé, and Mrs. Huguette Laplante.

EDMUNDSTON DEANERY

I appoint Father Roger Dionne to a two-year term as moderator and coordinator of the pastoral team ministering to the Immaculate Conception (Cathedral) Parish; his team comprises Father Gérald Montminy, S.M., assistant pastor, Sister Constance Gervais, S.M., Mrs. Mona Albert and Mrs. Huguette Fournier. I appoint Father Gaétan Côté to a one-year term as moderator and coordinator of the Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs Parish pastoral team. The team comprises Sister Alberte Gallant, F.M.A., Mr. Conrad Morneau, and Mrs. Liette Thibault. Father Gaétan Bernier will collaborate in the parish ministry at Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs Parish and at the Edmundston Regional Hospital. Father Romain Trépanier, S.M., is appointed to a three-year term as moderator and coordinator of the St-Basile Parish pastoral team which comprises Mrs. Béatrice Beaulieu, Mr. Gérald Lévesque, and Sister Claudette Therrien, R.H.S.J.. I appoint Sister Cécile Dufour, R.H.S.J. to a two-year term as pastoral ministry coordinator of the Hotel Dieu of St. Joseph, at St. Basile. I appoint Father Joseph Numbi Phaku Mavamba moderator and coordinator of the Sacré-Coeur (Green River) and Sainte-Anne-de-Madawaska pastoral team which includes Sister Florida Lavoie, S.M., Mrs. Alfreda Sirois-Bérubé, Mrs. Rollande Thibodeau, and Mrs. Nicole Mazerolle. I appoint Father Rino Thériault to a one-year term as moderator and coordinator of the St-Jacques Parish pastoral team comprised of

Mr. Jean-Louis Lang, Mrs. Ginette Bossé-Losier, and Mrs. Sophie Roy. I appoint Father Claude Clavet to a one-year term as moderator and coordinator of the St-Joseph Parish pastoral team which is composed of Mrs. Brigitte Babineau, Mr. Donald Couturier, and Mrs. Linda Deschênes. I appoint Mrs. Pauline Ouellette and Mr. Martin Laflamme to a one- year term to the Polyvalente A.M. Sormany/Cité des Jeunes pastoral ministry.

GRAND FALLS DEANERY

I appoint Father Ernest Dumaresq, C.J.M., to a one-year term as moderator and coordinator of the Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, St-Léonard-Ville, and St-Léonard-Parent pastoral team which comprises Sister Réjeanne Fortin, S.G.M., Mrs. Éméline Thériault, and Mrs. Victoire Poitras-Daigle, pastoral agents, and Mrs. Irene Violette. I appoint Father William Rice to a one-year term as moderator and coordinator of the pastoral team ministering in the parishes of Assumption, St-Georges, St-Michel (Drummond) and St-André. The pastoral team is composed of Fathers Normand Godbout, Ghislain Rémillard, Ivan Thériault, Sister Jeannine Cormier, N.D.S.C., Mr. Bertin Gervais, Mrs. Gisèle McCue, and Mrs. Patricia Cyr, pastoral agents, and Mr. Guildor Lavoie and Mrs. Jeannette Michaud.

RESTIGOUCHE DEANERY

I appoint Father Eymard Duguay, C.J.M., to a one-year term as moderator and coordinator of the Notre-Dames-Prodiges (Kedgwick) pastoral team comprised of Mrs. Nicole Babineau, Mrs. Bernadette Beaulieu, Mrs. Pierrette Bossé, and Mrs. Albertine Normand. Father Duguay is also given a one-year mandate as coordinator and moderator of the St-Jean-Baptiste pastoral team composed of Mrs. Claudeette Babineau, pastoral agent, and Mrs. Jeannette Bouchard and Mrs. Solange Tremblay. I appoint Mrs. Lise Durette, pastoral agent to a one-year term as coordinator of the St-Martin pastoral team composed of Father Frédéric Poitras, moderator, Mrs. Pauline Aubut, Mrs. Aurélie Bernier, and Mrs. Diane Thériault. I appoint Mrs. Louise-Anne Levesque for one year as coordinator of the St-Sacrement Parish (St. Quentin) pastoral team which is also composed of Father Frédéric Poitras, moderator, and Sister Yvette Morneau, F.M.A., pastoral agent. Father Bertrand Ouellet will continue collaborating in this deanery's pastoral ministry and serve as chaplain to the Daughters of Isabella and the Faith and Light Movement.

SOUTHERN VICTORIA DEANERY

I appoint Father Curtis Sappier to a two-year term as moderator and coordinator of the pastoral team ministering to the parishes of Aroostook, Perth-Andover, St. Patrick (Limestone Siding) and St. Ann (Maliseet); his pastoral team comprises Brother Germain Cantin, F.M.S., and Sister Thérèse Mulherin, R.H.S.J., pastoral agents, and Mr. John Lang, Mrs. Shirley Gamblin, Mrs. Elizabeth Hudson, Mrs. Regina Looman, and Mrs. Helena McCarthy. I appoint Father Pierre Thibodeau to a two-year term as moderator and coordinator of the pastoral team ministering to the parishes of Anderson Road, Blue Bell, Plaster Rock, and Tilley. His pastoral team comprises Mr. Harold Short-Evans, Mrs. Ann Campbell, and Mrs. Georgine Rioux, pastoral agents, and Mrs. Rose Jeppesen, Mrs. Pat Rossignol, Mrs. Judy St. Peter, and Mrs. Rose St. Peter.

DIOCESAN SERVICES

I appoint Sister Ronilla Sirois, R.H.S.J., to a three-year term as chancellor of the Diocese of Edmundston and coordinator of the Regional Marriage Tribunal. I appoint Mrs. Jeannette Pelletier to a three-year term as director of the Diocesan Centre, and Sister Yvette Morneau, F.M.A., to a three-year term as chair of the Diocesan Commission on Liturgy and Culture. I appoint Father Gérald Montminy to a one-year term as chaplain of the Cursillo Movement; in this he will be seconded by Father Pierre Thibodeau and Sister Alberte Gallant, F.M.A. I appoint Father Ivan Thériault to a one-year term as chaplain of the Charismatic Renewal

Movement, and Mrs. Manon Bourgoïn-Ruest to a one-year term as chair of the 2002 World Youth Days Planning Committee. I appoint Mrs. Huguette Losier to a three-year term as the Diocesan Centre librarian, and Mrs. Jeannelle Morin to a one-year term as the diocesan financial secretary. I appoint Mrs. Georgette Thibodeau to a three-year term as web mistress of the diocesan internet site.

May the Lord bless this new 2001-2002 pastoral year, and may we experience it in company with the Hearts of Jesus and Mary!

+ François Thibodeau

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Bishop of Edmundston

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