
APPOINTMENTS 2002



To some people, annual pastoral appointments are like cabinet shuffles; to others, they are the reclassification of already-diminished personnel; to still others, they mark a time for the welcome of new spiritual leaders. I personally believe that appointments are special events, a period for special graces, for truly discovering what the Spirit is saying to our Church today. Following all the time spent in prayer and consultation, I hope that each one with a mandate will hear the very words of Jesus: "It was not you who chose me, it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit, fruit that will last" (Jn. 15:16). The pastoral mandate is at the very heart of the divine call.

GRATITUDE

First and foremost, gratitude must be expressed to several people who, during the 2001-2002 pastoral year, have contributed to the vitality of our diocesan Church: priests, religious brothers and sisters, pastoral agents, members of different pastoral and finance committees, religious educators, choir members, etc. They have done a marvellous job and are deserving of our admiration and gratitude. A thank you to Father Eymard Duguay, C.J.M., who these last three years ministered in the Restigouche to the people of St-Jean-Baptiste and Kedgwick; he is taking a one-year sabbatical to be part of a preaching team at the international Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France. Thanks are also extended to Father Gaston Duchesne, S.M., for his six years as pastoral minister at the Foyer St-Joseph in St-Basile; he is leaving to take on new responsibilities within his congregation. On behalf of our diocesan Church I want to thank all those who have shared in our ministry and who for various reasons are no longer able to continue in pastoral work. These are Sister Claudette Ruest, S.M., diocesan pastoral ministry coordinator, Mrs. Alfréda Bérubé, Mrs. Louise-Anne Levesque, Mrs. Marina Levesque, Mrs. Helena McCarthy, Mrs. Janette Michaud, Mr. Conrad Morneault, Sister Thérèse Mulherin, R.H.S.J., Mrs. Josette Ross, Mrs. Diane Thériault, and Mrs. Irène Violette, all of them members of pastoral ministry teams; and Mr. Martin Laflamme and Mrs. Pauline Ouellette, in school ministry. May the Lord repay them a hundredfold for all they have done in his Name.

PASTORAL PERSONNEL

It is the duty of every baptised and confirmed person to carry on the mission of Jesus: to proclaim to our people God's love for them as made known in His Son Jesus, a love with which the Holy Spirit filled our hearts. Thousands of daily acts of witness, and of signs of love of neighbour are the first signs of a Church vibrantly alive. In order to proclaim everywhere the Good of Jesus and to pray the Father without cease, in order also to celebrate the sacraments of the New Covenant and to guarantee the unity of the People of God, the Lord has chosen ordained ministers to whose care the bishop confides a portion of the People of God. In accordance with Church legislation, the bishop gives them as associates valued and acknowledged aides as members of parish pastoral teams. In the diocese of Edmundston there are now 38 priests with an average of 64.8 years of age. Nineteen priests are involved in full-time parish ministry: two in Southern Victoria (3,450 Catholics), two in the Restigouche (6,331 Catholics), three in Upper Madawaska (5,341 Catholics), five in the Grand Falls Deanery (13,801 Catholics), and seven in the Edmundston Deanery (23,561 Catholics). Six priests are involved in hospital ministry, ministry to the shut-in and elderly, and to the Sisters, and eight are involved in occasional ministry. Five priests are in complete retirement. There are ten Sisters and one Brother in parish pastoral ministry, and six Sisters in diocesan pastoral ministry. There are sixty-one lay persons – fifty women and eleven men – in fifteen pastoral teams.

PARISH APPOINTMENTS

I am amazed at the faith and generosity of all those who have accepted or continue in a mandate: may the Holy Spirit continue to give them apostolic zeal! Several pastoral mandates do not end before 2003, and a few even extend further. Unless otherwise indicated, these mandates are maintained. New mandates are to take effect August 15, 2002. One of the objectives of the present appointments is the consolidation of diocesan and parish pastoral ministry, while keeping in mind the pastoral restructuring of the past few years. Since pastoral ministry is an ongoing reality, one must be attentive to needs as they arise, and to available resources.

Will continue in the mandate received in June, 2001 the pastoral teams ministering to the parishes of:

- Our Lady of Mercy, Aroostook; St. Patrick, Limestone Siding; St. Ann, Maliseet; and St. Mary of the Angels, Perth-Andover; with Father Curtis as moderator and parish coordinator, and Brother Germain Cantin, F.M.S., pastoral agent, and with Mrs. Shirley Gamblin, Mrs. Elizabeth Hudson, Mr. John Lang, Mrs. Regina Looman, Mrs. Margaret McCarthy, Mr. Herman van Kessel and Mrs. Jacqueline van Kessel, pastoral team members.
- St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Plaster Rock; Assumption Parish, Blue Bell; St. Theresa, Anderson Road; and St. Joseph, Tilley: Fr. Pierre Thibodeau, moderator and coordinator. Mrs. Ann Campbell, Mrs. Georgine Rioux and Mr. Harold Short-Evans, pastoral agents, and Mrs. Rose Jeppesen, Mrs. Pat Rossignol, Mrs. Judy St. Peter and Mrs. Rose St. Peter, pastoral team members.
- St-François-d'Assise Parish, Clair; St-François-Xavier Parish, St-François; Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire Parish, Connors: Fr. Claude Côté, moderator and coordinator, Sisters Denise Hébert, D.W., and Nicole Rousse, D.W., pastoral agents, with Mrs. Pierrette Landry, Mr. Réналd F. Landry, Mrs. Fernande Lang and Mr. Maurice Pelletier, pastoral team members.
- Immaculate Conception (Cathedral) Parish, Edmundston: Fr. Roger Dionne, V.G., moderator and coordinator, and Fr. Gérald Montminy, S.M., assistant pastor; Sr. Constance Gervais, S.M., Mrs. Mona Albert and Mrs. Huguette Fournier, pastoral team members.
- Saint-Basile Parish: Fr. Romain Trépanier, S.M., moderator and coordinator; Sister Claudette Therrien, R.H.S.J., Mr. Gérald Levesque and Mrs. Rolande Martin, pastoral team members. For the present, ministry to the Foyer St-Joseph is looked after by the parish.

I renew for one year the mandates of the following parish pastoral teams:

- St-Cœur-de-Marie, Baker Brook, and St-Hilaire Parish: Fr. Jacques Thériault, moderator and coordinator; Sister Elmona Thibodeau, R.H.S.J., pastoral agent; Mrs. Rinette Côté, Mrs. Gilberte Daigle, Mrs. Lucille Lagacé and Mrs. Huguette Laplante, pastoral team members.
- Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes Parish, St-Léonard-Ville and St-Léonard-Parent Parishes: Fr. Ernest Dumaresq, C.J.M., moderator and coordinator, with Sister Réjeanne Fortin, S.G.M., and Mrs. Victoire Poitras-Daigle, pastoral agents.
- Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs Parish, Edmundston: Fr. Gaëtan Côté, moderator and coordinator; Sister Alberte Gallant, F.M.A., pastoral agent, and Mrs. Huguette Losier, Mr. Jean-François Pelletier, Mr. Donald Thériault, and Mrs. Liette Thibault, pastoral team members.
- Sacré-Cœur Parish, Green River and Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska Parish: Fr. Joseph Numbi Phaku Mavambu, F.D., moderator and coordinator, with Sister Florida Lavoie, S.M., Mr. Yvon Cyr, Mrs. Nicole Mazerolle and Mrs. Rollande Thibodeau, pastoral team members.
- St-Thomas-d'Aquin Parish, Baker Lake: Fr. Jean-Marie Martin, moderator and coordinator, with Mr. Robert Boutot and Mr. Robert Pelletier, pastoral team members.
- St-Joseph-de-Madawaska Parish: Fr. Claude Clavet, moderator and coordinator, with Mrs. Brigitte Bossé-Babineau, Mr. Donald Couturier, Mrs. Linda Deschênes and Mrs. Louise Ruest, pastoral team members.
- St-Jacques Parish: Fr. Rino Thériault, moderator and coordinator, with Mr. Jean-Louis Lang, Mrs. Ginette Bossé-Losier, Mr. Léonide Roussel and Mrs. Sophie Roy, pastoral team members.

Please note that in the Restigouche Deanery, there shall now be two pastoral teams ministering to the four parishes.

I appoint to a one-year term the following pastoral teams:

– For Très-Saint-Sacrement Parish, St. Quentin, and Notre-Dame-de-la-Paix Parish, St. Martin: Fr. Bertrand Ouellet, moderator and coordinator, with Sister Yvette Morneault, F.M.A. and Mrs. Lise Durette, pastoral agents, and Mrs. Pauline Aubut, Mrs. Aurélie Bernier, Mrs. Nathalie Cyr-Fortin and Mrs. Blanche Michaud-Leclerc, pastoral team members.

– For Notre-Dame-des-Prodiges Parish, Kedgwick, and St-Jean-Baptiste Parish: Fr. Ivan Thériault, moderator and coordinator, with Mrs. Claudette Babineau, pastoral agent, and Mrs. Nicole Babibeau, Mrs. Bernadette Beaulieu, Mrs. Pierrette Bossé, Mrs. Jeannette Bouchard, Mrs. Albertine Normand and Mrs. Solange Tremblay, pastoral team members.

– For Assumption Parish, Grand Falls; St-Georges Parish, Saint-André Parish and St-Michel Parish, Drummond: Fr. William Rice, moderator and coordinator, with Fathers Normand Godbout, Frédéric Poitras and Ghislain Rémillard; and Sisters Jeannine Cormier, N.D.S.C., and Mavis McCluskey, N.D.S.C., and Mrs. Patricia Cyr, Mr. Bertin Gervais and Mrs. Gisèle McCue, pastoral agents, and Mr. Gildard Lavoie, member of the pastoral team.

DIOCESAN SERVICES APPOINTMENTS

I appoint Mrs. Ghislaine Clavette to a one-year term as diocesan coordinator of pastoral ministry. She is to preside meetings of the diocesan pastoral team, and is my representative at deanery meetings in the Upper Madawaska, Edmundston, and Grand Falls. She will represent these deaneries at the Bishop's Council. I renew for one year Sister Viola Côté's mandate as assistant coordinator for diocesan pastoral ministry. She represents me in the Restigouche and Southern Victoria deaneries and sit at the Bishop's Council as a representative of these deaneries. I appoint Fr. Leo Grégoire, I.V.D., to a three-year term as Defender of the Bond at the Marriage Tribunal. I renew for three years Fr. William Rice's mandate as diocesan procurator, the mandate of Sister Jacqueline Poirier, F.M.A., as director of the École de la Foi, and Mrs. Jeannelle Morin as diocesan financial secretary. Mrs. Morin will be seconded in her task by Sister Cécilia McGraw, R.H.S.J. I renew for three years the mandate of the diocesan Parish- and Home-Based Religious Education Office's staff: Sister Irène Pelletier, F.M.A., coordinator, Brother Germain Cantin, F.M.S. (Southern Victoria), Mr. Léopold Lang (Edmundston), Sister Viola Côté, F.M.A. (Restigouche), Sister Elmona Thibodeau, R.H.S.J. (Upper Madawaska), and Mr. Bertin Gervais (Grand Falls). I renew for one year the mandate of Father Gérald Montminy, S.M., as diocesan chaplain of the Cursillo Movement. I appoint Mrs. Jeannette Pelletier personnel director of the diocesan services. I appoint Father Gaëtan Bernier to a one-year term as chaplain of the Charismatic Renewal Movement.

“DUC IN ALTUM!” – “PUT OUT INTO DEEP WATER!”

As we near the 2002-2003 pastoral year, it is good to hear these words of Jesus, “Put out into deep water!” (Lk. 5:4) With zeal and courage we must together carry out the mission given us, by keeping focussed on priorities and concrete objectives, at the family- and parish based religious education level, as well as at the pastoral team, family ministry and youth ministry levels. We shall always have to keep alive our vocation ministry: let us pray the Lord to grant us the ministers we need, and let us not fear to challenge those we believe are called to proclaim the Gospel and to serve our brothers and sisters. In this manner, God's love will continue on “from age to age.”

SUMMARY

Since it belongs to the bishop to confer various ministries for the building up of the Body of Christ, for the ninth consecutive year Bishop François Thibodeau, C.J.M., Bishop of Edmundston, has made appointments for the new pastoral year which begins August 15. Over one hundred mandates were evaluated, confirmed, renewed, or modified.

Since the year 2000 pastoral teams have shared the responsibility of coordinating parish life in each of the 32 parishes. These teams comprise 92 people: 35 men and 57 women, as follows: 19 full-time priests, 11 religious brothers and sisters, and 61 lay persons. The Edmundston Diocese comprises 52,303 Catholics.

It is the first time that a lay person is appointed coordinator of diocesan pastoral ministry: Mrs. Ghislaine Clavet, a retired school teacher who was very involved in the realisation of the Edmundston Diocesan Synod.

Father Bertrand Ouellet, former pastor of Saint Georges and Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs Parishes, becomes moderator of the St-Quentin and St-Martin pastoral team.

Father Ivan Thériault, ordained in May, 2000, is appointed moderator of the Kedgwick-Saint-Jean-Baptiste pastoral team.

Father William Rice is confirmed in his position as diocesan procurator and pastoral moderator of Assumption Parish in Grand Falls, and the St-Georges, St-André and St-Michel-de-Drummond parishes.

The fifteen pastoral teams ministering to the 32 parishes of the diocese have the mission of ensuring education in the faith, liturgical celebrations, fellowship and Church renewal of their milieu according to the Gospel, with special concern for the poor. Throughout the 2001-2002 pastoral year, those in charge of pastoral ministry have made it their concern to implement home- and parish-based religious education, and to prepare for the World Youth Day. Religious education as well as family ministry and youth ministry continue to be pastoral priorities. Each Christian community will have to seriously consider the pressing need for vocations to ordained ministries. In the Edmundston Diocese there are 38 priests whose average age is 64.8 years old.

+ François Thibodeau

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Bishop of Edmundston

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