
HIS LOVE IS EVERLASTING!



As we celebrate the closing of our major financial campaign, we express our deep gratitude to the many volunteers and donors who have made the campaign possible. As a tribute to all those who spared no effort nor energy to ensure a future to our Diocesan Church's pastoral projects for the next ten years, I composed a song of thanksgiving, inspired by Psalm 136, which tells us of God's marvels among us.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good. He created us in his image and likeness. He made the heavens, the seas and rivers.
2. He made the fields, the mountains and forests. He gave the Tobique and Grand River to our brothers the Maliseets. The Gospel of the Lord was preached.
3. Our Acadian brothers and sisters came to the Madawaska (1785); Saint Basile, the mother-parish, was founded (1792). Saint François (1859), Saint Léonard Parent (1868), and Grand Falls (1868) were founded.
4. Saint Hilaire (1869), Maliseet (1870), and Sainte Anne (1872) were established. Edmundston (1880) and Clair (1889), Drummond (1890) and Saint Jacques (1892) were created. Saint André (1903), Tilley (1903), Baker Lake (1904), and Plaster Rock (1904) were established.
5. Kedgwick (1910), Saint Quentin (1910), and Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes (1914) were founded. Saint Joseph (1919), Green River (1923), and Saint Leonard (1924) were erected. Limestone Siding (1921), Blue Bell (1925) and Aroostook (1925) were founded.
6. Baker Brook (1925), Anderson Road (1932), and Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs (1938) were created. Perth-Andover (1946), Saint Martin (1948), and Saint Jean-Baptiste (1948) were established. Also, Connors (1950) and Saint Georges (1950) were erected.
7. Our parents were the privileged witnesses, and priests, religious, and lay people spread the Gospel, with schools, hospitals, and colleges established.
8. The Diocese of Edmundston was erected in 1944, marking a new period for our Church, with bishops sent to us to guide and to teach.
9. Children, youths and adults, men and women, bless the Lord! Families of yesteryear and today, bless the Lord! You baptised, confirmed, and ordained, bless the Lord!
10. Let us give thanks to the Lord for he is good. To all people he gives the bread from heaven. Give thanks to the God of heaven! *Amen.*

DAILY PRAYER

I pray every day for everyone in the diocese, and each week I offer Mass for all those whom the Lord has confided to my care. I pray in a very special way for the volunteers and donors who help our Church carry out its given mission. I ask the Lord to give them one hundredfold in return for their dedication to the Gospel and the Church. The funds raised are an expression of the donors' many sacrifices; in today's context, the amount

asked, even if it is over a five-year period, is quite a sum. Only the Lord, who knows the heart of his disciples, also knows what each gift cost the donor. In expressing a word of thanks to each donor, I pray the Lord to bless each one in a special way: the cross which is in front of my signature is a reminder of the blessing asked.

WISE MANAGEMENT

All gifts received shall be given to the groups designated by the donors, over a five-year span; a detailed financial report will be published shortly. The Diocesan Council for Economic Affairs is charged with administering the money received, and with publishing periodical financial statements. I want to point out that we shall respect every commitment made regarding the donations. I know that every donor will respect his or her five-year pledge, whatever changes may occur in our milieu.

MODESTY AND SIMPLICITY

In Saint Luke's Gospel, chapter 12, we find the parable of the rich farmer who did not know where to store his harvest: "You have blessings in reserve for years to come." However, the Lord invites his disciples to be rich in God. Our riches shall be our determination to proclaim to young and old the love of God for the world. Our riches shall be our determination to have the Holy Spirit accompany each of our families, that He protect them wherever they are. Our riches shall be our determination to have every child and youth of ours abundantly enjoy the peace of Jesus. Our riches shall be our determination to find the Gospel people our Church needs. Our riches shall be our determination that our churches stand in the midst of the people of God as signs of God's presence among us. Four million thank yous!

+ François Thibodeau

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

« From A Bishop's Journal » (541) (18 May 2004)