



COMMUNIQUE

MAY 11, 2006

CLERGY APPOINTMENTS IN THE DIOCESE OF EDMUNDSTON

Because of my visit to Rome between May 15 and June 2, I want to publish today the clergy appointments that are to take effect on August 15. The parish pastoral teams and other diocesan organisations will be appointed in the course of the summer.

Thanks and Regrets

I first want to express my profound gratitude to Father Roger Dionne for accepting a fifth three-year mandate as vicar general: his devotedness, discernment, and loyalty are very precious to me. I thank all the priests who have accepted a new pastoral mandate: you are not only collaborators, you are “friends” according to Jesus’ own words. I thank all the retired priests who spare no effort to ensure service to the diocesan Church, to the extent of their possibilities. A thousand thanks! I am happy to announce that Father Whalen Bossé, I.V.D., will be doing full-time parish ministry in the diocese.

It was with deep regret that I heard that Father Gaëtan Côté’s state of health has not improved. However, I hope that another year of rest will be of great benefit to him. I also regretfully learned from the Provincial of the Marist Fathers that Fathers Romain Trépanier and Gérald Montminy are being withdrawn from the diocese. I want to tell the Provincial that we were very lucky in benefiting from Father Romain’s wonderful participation for the last eleven years, and for Father Gerald’s ministry for the past six years. Dear Fathers, you shall always be welcome in our diocese! I am happy to know that Father Roch Létourneau, S.M., will continue with his ministry in the diocese. Father Jean-Marie Dumont, C.J.M., who resided at the Saint Leonard rectory, has left us to return to the Eudist provincial house in Charlesbourg, Québec: we have fond memories of him, of his sense of devotion, and of his piety.

As the number of supply priests has further diminished, we all understand that what must be ensured first and foremost is Sunday celebration in our churches, before responding to the wishes of certain people to have Sunday Mass in senior citizens’ homes, hospitals, and camp grounds. Besides, two recommendations of the Congress stipulate “*that pastoral care in senior citizens’ homes be under the responsibility of the parish in which they are located; and that Sunday Eucharist (Mass) be celebrated in the parish church, and Mass in senior citizens’ homes be held during the week.*” These recommendations are to take effect for the 2007-2008 pastoral year. I also ask the priests not to preside at more than three Sunday eucharistic celebrations, the same weekend.

Diocesan Level

I appoint Bishop Gérard Dionne to a three-year mandate as judicial vicar and judge at the Marriage Tribunal, Father Roger Dionne as vicar general of the diocese, Father Leo Grégoire, I.V.D., as vice chancellor and supply priest to anglophone parishes, Father Laurent Nadeau as chaplain at the Edmundston Regional Hospital, Father Jacques Thériault as coordinator of the diocesan seminary team, and Father Pierre Thibodeau as member of that team. I appoint Fathers Joseph Numbi Phaku Mavambu, F.D., and Whalen Bossé, I.V.D., to the Diocesan Commission on Liturgy and Culture, Father Ernest Dumaresq, C.J.M., diocesan chaplain of the Cursillo Movement, Father Bertrand Ouellet as supply priest to the francophone communities, especially for the Restigouche, and Father Ghislain Rémillard diocesan chaplain of the Knights of Columbus.

At the Parish Level

— Upper Madawaska Pastoral Zone —

I appoint Father Whalen Bossé, I.V.D., to a one-year term as moderator of the team for the pastoral unit formed by the parishes of Saint-Coeur-de-Marie, Baker Brook, and Saint-Hilaire, Father Claude Côté, C.J.M., moderator of the team for the pastoral unit formed by the parishes of Saint-François-d'Assise, Clair, Saint-François-Xavier, Saint-François, and Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire, Connors. Father Jean-Marie Martin I appoint moderator of the pastoral team of Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin, Lac-Baker. According to recommendations of last March's Pastoral Orientation Congress, the parish will be consulted in order to decide which pastoral unit the parish will join by the 2007-2008 pastoral year.

— Edmundston Pastoral Zone —

I appoint Father Roger Dionne to a one-year term as moderator of the Immaculate Conception [Cathedral] parish pastoral team, Father Normand Godbout moderator of the Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs pastoral team, Father Rino Thériault I appoint moderator of the Saint-Jacques parish pastoral team, Father Claude Clavet moderator of the Saint-Joseph parish pastoral team, Father Jacques Thériault moderator of the Saint-Basile parish pastoral team, Father Joseph Numbi Phaku Mavambu, F.D., moderator of the team for the pastoral unit formed by the parishes of Sacré-Coeur at Green River, and Sainte-Anne-de-Madawaska. Please note that according to the recommendations of the Pastoral Orientation Congress, the parishes of Immaculate Conception [Cathedral], Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs, Saint-Jacques, and Saint-Joseph will have to determine by the 2007-2008 pastoral year how they will form two pastoral units. Common pastoral activities and services could be held between these parishes as of now.

— Grand Falls Pastoral Zone —

I appoint Father Ernest Dumaresq, C.J.M., to a one-year term as moderator of the team for the pastoral unit formed by the parishes of Saint Leonard, Saint-Léonard-Parent, and Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, Father William Rice moderator of the team for the pastoral unit formed by Assumption, Saint-Georges, Saint-André and Saint-Michel-de-Drummond parishes, with Fathers Frédéric Poitras and Ghislain Rémillard as priest collaborators and members of the pastoral team. I ask the parish leaders to pursue the inter-parish collaboration already under way.

— *Restigouche Pastoral Zone* —

I appoint Father Roland Poitras, I.V.D. to a one-year term as moderator of the pastoral unit formed by the parishes of Très Saint-Sacrement of Saint-Quentin and Notre-Dame-de-la-Paix of Saint-Martin, and Father Ivan Thériault moderator of the pastoral unit formed by the parishes of Notre-Dame-des-Prodiges, Kedgwick and Saint-Jean-Baptiste. I ask those in charge of these parishes to continue their sharing in communion different pastoral activities and services, in response to the recommendations of the Pastoral Orientation Congress of March, 2006.

— *Southern Victoria Pastoral Zone* —

I appoint Father Curtis Sappier to a one-year term as moderator of the team for the pastoral unit comprised of the parishes of Saint Patrick (Limestone Siding), Saint Ann (Maliseet), Saint Mary of the Angels (Perth-Andover), and Our Lady of Mercy (Aroostook), and Father Pierre Thibodeau moderator of the team for the pastoral unit comprised of the parishes of Saint Theresa (Anderson Road), Assumption (Blue Bell), Saint Thomas Aquinas (Plaster Rock), and Saint Joseph (Tilley). In keeping with the recommendations of the Pastoral Orientation Congress, consultations will be held in the parishes of Aroostook and Tilley in the coming months, to determine their pastoral future.

I once again wholeheartedly thank all the priests who have accepted to continue serving our beloved Church. I ask the appointed moderators to immediately begin consultations with their pastoral council and other interested committees, for the forthcoming appointment of members of their pastoral teams; the names must be submitted to me before June 10, 2006. I also remind all the moderators of the importance of convening their pastoral teams at least monthly, of praying with them, and of implementing the recommendations adopted at our Pastoral Orientation Congress for a New Evangelisation, according to the schedule determined by the Diocesan Pastoral Council.

+ *François Thibodeau*

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