
DAY OF PRAYER



As I declared on the day of my episcopal ordination, I request that on each first Thursday of the month even during vacation time - be set aside as a day of prayer so as to fulfil the obligation I have taken to pray without cease for the people of God and carry out in an appropriate way the bishop's priestly function. It is important that I "concentrate on prayer and the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4). I cordially invite all who wish and can do so to join in this period of prayer in their respective milieus, or by coming to the diocesan centre chapel for a few hours, on Thursday, February 3, 1994, from 8:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. The programme will be very unpretentious, and silence will be maintained.

8:30 A.M.: Celebration of the Eucharist

9:00 : Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

9:15 : Morning Prayer; Adoration

10:00 : Suggested Reading: first two chapters of *Lumen Gentium*,
on the mystery of the Church, and scripture reading

11:30 : Priests available for individual reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

12:00 : Soup or juice

1:00 P.M.: Celebration of the Word and Closing

Jesus revealed himself as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. During these hours of silence and adoration, of penitence and entreaty, of seeking God's will and of prayer, Jesus will guide us on our way as he did at Emmaus, and he will explain to us all that the scriptures referring to him.

COMMUNICATIONS DAY

Since a few years, the Social Communications Day is being celebrated in Canada on the fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time. On that day of reflection and prayer concerning the role and importance of the mass media in today's society, special attention is paid to those involved in the major fields of the communications media, especially those Christians who are professionals in this area. It will be my pleasure to welcome, on February 1, some 20 of these professionals of the written and spoken media, and to tell them again of my gratitude and that of the whole Church of Edmundston for the consistent and wonderful work.

THE ANGELUS AT CJEM

I wish to thank the management of radio station CJEM for their kind collaboration in accepting to broadcast the daily recitation of the Angelus. In the middle of the day, that short prayer reminds us of the great marvels which God continuously does for us. The Angelus surely forms one of the significant links among our people.

MINISTRY OF ACOLYTE

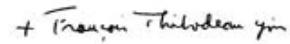
Gaëtan Bernier, son of Mr. & Mrs. Doris Bernier of St.-Jacques, was instituted an acolyte on January 19, at a ceremony held at the Grand Séminaire of Montreal presided by Bishop André Chimichella, Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal. Through this ministry, the new acolyte is called to lead the people of God in prayer. He has been given an important charge for the spiritual life of those entrusted to his care. The institution to this ministry marks a new step towards the priesthood, for Gaëtan.

DELIGHTFUL VISITS

I thank God for the stimulating visits I continue to have with all of you. After visiting the parishes of Grand Falls, Perth-Andover and the Maliseet people, January 29 and 30, I had the pleasure of returning to the English Sector of the diocese: on January 29 I met the parishioners of St. Patrick's (Limestone Siding), Tilley, and Aroostook, and on the 30th I visited those of Anderson Road, Blue Bell, and Plaster Rock. Everywhere there was a warm welcome. I am delighted to mention that the Edmundston Diocese has two seminarians from this beautiful region: the first, Jeff Doucette, is from Plaster Rock and is a deacon serving at the Assumption Parish in Grand Falls; and the other is Curtis Sappier of Maliseet who is undergoing pastoral training in Ontario. I also want to note that in 1995 the parish of St. Mary of the Angels will be celebrating its fiftieth anniversary.

What a joy to have met quite a few among you at the Hotel-Dieu Hospital in Perth-Andover, at Beth Shalom in Arthurette, at the Grand Falls Manor and the Grand Falls General Hospital. Each one of the persons there bear within themselves a great mystery of love and fascinating happiness.

Have a good week!



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

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