
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



On February 15, 1994, I had the honour of participating in the opening of the Third Session of the Fifty-Second Legislature in Fredericton. I attended that session as a mark of gratitude and solidarity towards the Lieutenant Governor and his wife, the Government of New Brunswick, the Premier and members of his cabinet, and the members of the Legislative Assembly, who showed me so much deference and tendered so many good wishes on the occasion of my appointment and episcopal ordination. I am in solidarity with these men and women who want to devote the best of themselves to the well-being of their fellow citizens. On January 9, in expressing to them my personal feelings, I reminded them that today through them, the Lord expresses his love for our people, especially those who suffer the most. The Judeo-Christian tradition invites us to see in our governments an image of God who respects the dignity of every human being. That same tradition considers political involvement a very special way of carrying out justice and charity. It is important to consider each member of the Assembly as a man or woman who carries the interests of the whole community, and who must be able to count on his fellow-citizens to further just and necessary causes.

I hope that all the members of the Legislative Assembly continue to be "the defenders of a new concept of humanity, a concept that looks at the problems of society in relation to economic, technical, or political equations, but in relation to living persons, of human beings created in the image and likeness of God" (John Paul II to the Canadian Government). Young and old, unemployed and impoverished, employers and employees expect this from our representatives.

AN UNFORGETTABLE DAY

On Friday, February 11 - the World Day of the Sick - I made a pilgrimage to my brothers and sisters who are suffering from illness; I made this pilgrimage so as to share outstanding moments of celebration at the St. Joseph Home in Saint-Basile. What a splendid celebration! 126 residents, accompanied by a devoted personnel and dedicated volunteers, persons who daily know how to accept their heavy cross and generously carry it; persons of faith and hope, persons who know how to pray and sing, persons who know how to appreciate the least gesture of kindness. It was a feast that extends to all the sick of our region and of the Church, as well as to all humankind.

On that same day in the church of St.-Jacques I had the joy of celebrating the magnificent Sacrament of Confirmation, of conferring on 67 young people the gift of the Holy Spirit. What a joy it was to see these youngsters come forth freely to receive the grace and to henceforth commit themselves as witnesses of the living God. Heartfelt thanks to their devoted pastor, to the parents, the teachers and catechists who accompanied these children in their Christian undertaking. In coming months I shall go to all the parishes and schools to visit with the young and celebrate with them.

B.P. WEEK

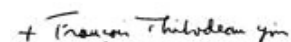
On the occasion of Scouting Week, I wish to acknowledge the founder of the Scout movement, Lord Robert Baden-Powell, who was born in London on February 22, 1857, and died January 8, 1941, in Kenya. I want to assure the hundreds of boy scouts and girl guides of this diocese and their leaders of my affection and

esteem. With you I say this scout prayer: "Lord Jesus, teach me to be generous, to serve you as you deserve, to give without counting the cost, to fight for the right, to work without seeking rest, to give of myself without hope of any reward save that of knowing that I am doing your will." And I recall a few of the great scout laws: "The scout puts his honour in deserving the trust of others. The scout is loyal to his country, to his parents, to his leaders, and to his sub-ordinates. The scout is born to serve. The scout is the friend of all. The scout sees in nature the work of God. The scout smiles and sings, in difficulties."

CONTACTS

It was a joy for me to celebrate at Notre-Dame-des-Sept-Douleurs where I am considered the shepherd of that Church but equally as one of the parishioners who will always be welcomed as a friend and father. What celebrations there were, on that St. Valentine weekend! And it was the same at Assumption Church [Grand Falls], in French and in English, where the choirs and the assembly compete to praise the Lord in the most dignified manner possible. I was able to celebrate Ash Wednesday at St-Louis-Maillet College as well as at the cathedral, and I shared supper with the people of Saint-Joseph parish, in the context of the Development and Peace Solidarity Campaign. On February 19 and 20 I had the joy of seeing once again the people of St.-Léonard-Parent and St.-Léonard, where I had gone in the fall of 1992 for the Grand Mission there.

Have a good week!



+ François Thibodeau, C.J.M.
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