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## APPOINTMENTS FOR THE 1999-2000 PASTORAL YEAR

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The time has come to officially announce the pastoral appointments, a difficult and delicate task, but one which those directly involved have made easier for me because of their faith, their love of Jesus and his Church, and their availability. Three new elements come into play, this year: the gradual establishing of parish pastoral teams so that parish responsibility no longer rest on one person alone; the pastoral internship of five seminarian members of the Marie-Jeunesse group who want to become priests of our diocese and work among our people, especially the youth; and the coming among us of two Congolese priests, members of the Fidei Donum priestly association, whom the bishop of Boma in the Democratic Republic of Congo has made available to us for the coming year. Note that the present appointments become effective August 15, 1999, and that the mandate of parish pastoral teams is for a period of one year.

### APPRECIATION

In my name and that of our diocesan Church I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have been committed to our diocesan Church during the past year, whether in answer to their baptismal or confirmation call, their matrimony, or their ordination. Thanks to them, the 1998-1999 pastoral year will be remembered as a year of reflection on the pastoral restructuring of our parishes, the launching of home and parish religious education [in French regions of the diocese], a growing sense of fellowship, the celebration of the sacraments and the functioning of councils, committees, services and other organisations in our parishes. Heartfelt gratitude goes to those who devoted themselves for many years and are now retiring for reasons of health or to take on a new mission: Special thanks are given to Father Armand Plourde, Sister Rita Arsenault, F.M.A., and Sister Roseline Babin, F.M.A.

### A MAJOR REFERENCE POINT

In order to better understand this year's pastoral appointments I urge you to read and even re-read the pastoral letter I published May 23 called *Eyes Fixed on Jesus*, where I describe the challenges we must accept and the major directions we must take as Church. Allow me to explain two expressions used in the text: "parish pastoral team," and "moderator". The parish pastoral team is a group of three to five persons mandated by the bishop pursuant to recommendations of the local parish pastoral council. These people are jointly responsible for the pastoral charge of a specific Christian community; they work together at establishing or ensuring that the four-fold Church outreach programme is carried out: faith education, fellowship or fraternal communion, celebration, and commitment. The priest-member of this team is known as the "moderator" according to actual Church legislation (canon 517.2); his special areas of concern are the proclamation of the Gospel, celebration, and prayer.

### DIOCESAN CHARGES

I appoint for one year Father Gaëtan Bernier to the diocesan seminary formation team; he will join Fathers Roger Dionne and Pierre Thibodeau, Sister Lucie Gagnon, D.W., and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Laflamme in this task. I appoint Mrs. Marie-Mae Cyr to a one-year term as director of the Diocesan Office of Communications and coordinator of the "Au rythme de l'Église" radio programme. I appoint to a three-year term as director of the École

de la Foi Sister Jacqueline Poirier, F.M.A., and Sisters Irène Pelletier, F.M.A. and Constance Gervais, S.M. diocesan religious education coordinators. I appoint Father William Rice to a three-year term as diocesan treasurer, and Father Normand Godbout to a three-year term as chairman of the Diocesan Commission on Liturgy and Culture. Father Yvon Samson, O.Ss.T. is appointed to a three-year term as director of retreats at the Diocesan Centre.

#### **UPPER MADAWASKA**

With the assent of his provincial superior I appoint Father Claude Côté, C.J.M. to a three-year term as pastor of Saint-François-Xavier and Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire Parishes, while maintaining his charge as pastor of Saint-François-d'Assise Parish in Clair; he shall be moderator of the pastoral team comprising Sisters Denise Hébert, D.W. and Nicole Rousse, D.W., pastoral agents, with Mr. André Landry of Connors, Mr. Raoul Cyr and Mr. Ernest Sirois of Saint-François-Xavier, and Mrs. Fernande Lang and Mr. Maurice Pelletier of Clair. I appoint Father Jacques Thériault to a three-year term as pastor of Saint-Coeur-de-Marie Parish, Baker Brook, in addition to his pastorate at Saint-Hilaire; he becomes moderator of the pastoral team composed of Sister Elmona Thibodeau, R.H.S.J., pastoral agent, Mrs. Jacqueline Cyr and Mrs. Huguette Laplante of Saint-Hilaire, and Mrs. Louise Soucy and Mrs. Lucille Lagacé of Baker Brook.

#### **EDMUNDSTON**

I renew for three years the mandate of Father Gaëtan Bernier as assistant pastor at the cathedral parish of the Immaculate Conception. I appoint Father Roger Dionne moderator of the cathedral parish pastoral team composed of Father Gaëtan Bernier, assistant, Mr. Patrick Laflamme, intern, and Mr. Léopold Lang, Mrs. Pauline Ouellette, and Mrs. Mona Albert, team members. Father Ghislain Rémillard is appointed to a one-year term as curate at Notre-Dame-des-Douleurs Parish. Father Bertrand Ouellet is appointed moderator of the N-D-des-Douleurs pastoral team comprising Father Ghislain Rémillard, curate, Mr. Louis Riverin, intern, Mrs. Muriel Porter, Mrs. Liette Thibault, and Mrs. Charline Clavette. I appoint Father Rino Thériault moderator of the St-Jacques Parish pastoral team comprised of Mr. Jean-Louis Lang, Mrs. Laurette St-Onge, Mrs. Sophie Roy and Mr. Léopold Couturier. I appoint Father Claude Clavet moderator of the Saint-Joseph Parish pastoral team which includes Mrs. Brigitte Babineau and Mr. Donald Couturier. Father Gaëtan Côté is appointed moderator of the Ste-Anne-de-Madawaska and Sacré-Coeur (Green River) pastoral teams comprised of Mrs. Alfréda Bérubé, pastoral agent, Mr. Ronald Cyr, Mr. Martin Racine and Mrs. Anna Cyr. With the concurrence of his provincial superior I renew for three years the mandate of Father Gaston Duchesne, S.M., as chaplain of the Foyer St-Joseph (St-Basile) and the Edmundston Regional Hospital. I renew for one year the mandate of Mr. Martin Laflamme and Father Yvon Samson as chaplains at the Cité des Jeunes Regional High School, Edmundston.

#### **GRAND FALLS**

With the assent of his provincial superior I appoint for three years Father Ernest Dumaresq, C.J.M., pastor of Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes and St-Léonard-Parent Parishes while remaining pastor of Saint-Léonard Parish. I also appoint him moderator of the pastoral team that is to minister to these parishes; the team is comprised of Sister Ovéline Roy, F.M.A., Mrs. Laurette Desjardins, Sister Réjeanne Fortin, S.G.M. and Mrs. Émeline Thériault, pastoral agents. Father Armand Plourde is released from his ministerial duties at St-Léonard-Parent, due to ill health; he accepts to occasionally fill in as supply priest, according to his physical ability. With the concurrence of his district superior I appoint Father Leo Grégoire, I.V.D. to a three-year term as pastor of Assumption Parish, Grand Falls; he shall also be the moderator of the local pastoral team comprised of Mr. Bertin Gervais, pastoral agent, Mrs. Gisèle McCue, and Mrs. Joyce Shannon. I appoint Father Normand Godbout moderator of the Saint-Georges pastoral team comprised of a member of the Fidei Donum priestly association as assistant moderator, Mr. Roger Thériault, pastoral agent, and Mr. Dominic LeRouzès, intern. Father William Rice is appointed

moderator of the Saint-Michel (Drummond) pastoral team comprised of Mr. Alyre Thériault, pastoral agent and Mr. Martin Proulx, intern. With the agreement of her superior general, I appoint Sister Jeannine Cormier, N.D.S.C., pastoral agent, coordinator of the Saint-André pastoral team comprised of Father Lucien Lévesque, moderator, Sisters Annette Dionne, N.D.S.C., and Delma Bastarache, N.D.S.C., pastoral agents, and Mr. Patrick Rancourt, intern. I ask the moderators of the above-mentioned four parishes (Assumption, St-Georges, St-Michel, St-André) to look into developing a unified pastoral team approach which would minister to these parishes by the year 2000.

## **RESTIGOUCHE**

I appoint Mrs. Claudette Babineau, Mr. Ernest Ratté and Mrs. Solange Tremblay to the Saint-Jean-Baptiste pastoral team; Mrs. Claudette Babineau is appointed pastoral agent and parish liaison to the deanery. I appoint Mrs. Pauline Aubut, Mrs. Cécile Bellavance, Mrs. Diane Thériault, Mrs. Lise Durette members of the Saint-Martin pastoral team, with Mrs. Durette as parish liaison to the deanery. I appoint Mrs. Louisanne Levesque, Mrs. Rita Gagnon, Mrs. Alice Levesque, Mrs Rita Guimond and Mr. Benoît Castonguay members of the Saint-Sacrement Parish (St-Quentin) pastoral team; Mr. Castonguay I appoint liaison between the parish and the deanery. I appoint Mrs. Gisèle Boudreau, Mrs. Nicole Babineau, Mrs. Bernadette Beaulieu, and Mrs. Pierrette Bossé members of the Notre-Dame-des-Prodiges (Kedgwick) pastoral team, with Mrs. Gisèle Boudreau as liaison. I appoint Father Frédéric Poitras to a one-year term as moderator of these teams. With the assent of her superior general, I appoint Sister Albertine Cormier, F.M.A., coordinator of the Restigouche pastoral team comprising two priests, Fr. Frédéric Poitras and a priest of the Fidei Donum priestly association; four liaisons, and two sisters: Sisters Viola Côté, F.M.A., and Alberte Gallant, F.M.A., pastoral agents.

## **SOUTHERN VICTORIA**

I appoint Father Pierre Thibodeau to a three-year term as pastor of the following parishes: St. Thomas Aquinas, Plaster Rock; Assumption, Blue Bell, St. Theresa, Anderson Road, and St. Joseph, Tilley. He is also appointed moderator of the pastoral team comprising Mr. Harold Short-Evans, Mrs. Ann Campbell and Mrs. Georgine Rioux, pastoral agents; and Mrs. Judy St. Peter of Plaster Rock, and Mrs. Pat Rossignol of Anderson Road. I appoint Father Curtis Sappier to a three-year term as pastor of the following parishes: St. Ann, Maliseet; St. Patrick, Limestone Siding; St. Mary of the Angels, Perth-Andover; Our Lady of Mercy, Aroostook. He is appointed moderator of the pastoral team comprising of Sisters Évangéline Poirier, R.H.S.J., and Thérèse Mulherin, R.H.S.J., pastoral agents; the team's ministry is to extend to the four parishes mentioned.

## **OTHER SITUATIONS**

Following an agreement with Archbishop Ernest Léger of Moncton I extend until June 30, 2000 the ministry of Father Jeff Doucette in the archdiocese of Moncton, while remaining incardinated in the Edmundston diocese. Father Almer Levasseur continues on sabbatical leave. Due to a cerebro-vascular accident, Father Yvon Ouellet is on sick leave. Returning from sabbatical leave, Father Jacques Gauvreau is available as supply priest. Mr. Ivan Thériault, seminarian, takes up his master's degree studies in theology at St. Paul University, Ottawa.

## **MANAGEMENT**

In order to free our priests from administrative tasks, most parishes have entrusted the parish's material affairs (finances, buildings, grounds) to their parish economic affairs committee (PEAC). Most parishes have asked, also, that the PEAC chairperson officially oversee these affairs on behalf of the community. Other parishes have

advanced the name of one person in particular to be appointed parish manager. I therefore acknowledge the following as parish managers: Mr. Donald Rossignol (St. Theresa), Mr. Albert Beaulieu (St. Thomas Aquinas), Mr. Edgar Michaud (St-François-d'Assise), Mr. Gérald D. Landry (St-François-Xavier), Mrs. Fernande Ouellette (Notre-Dame-du-Rosaire), Mr. Claude Thériault (St-Martin), Mr. Roland Levesque (Immaculate Conception), Mrs. Barbara Beaulieu (Assumption, Grand Falls), et Mr. Gérald P. Lévesque (St-Joseph-de-Madawaska) to manage the parish material affairs in conjunction with the pastor and the PEAC.

#### TURNED TO THE FUTURE

We can confidently look forward to the 1999-2000 pastoral year. We trust in the abiding presence of the Risen One, and the Holy Spirit is given us to help us carry out the work we have so well begun. Despite daily demands on us, the mission we have been given is an exhilarating one: We have been set apart to collaborate in the building up of the Lord's Kingdom. May the Virgin Mary continue to watch over us.

*+ François Thibodeau*

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Bishop of Edmundston

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