
PARTICULAR RECOMMENDATIONS SESSION ON THE FUTURE OF OUR PARISHES

EDMUNDSTON, JANUARY 6 ET 7, 1999

Much Work Accomplished, Since February 1998

- Awareness of the situation; evolution; why have they been possible ?
- Realistic, because of the road travelled thus far
- Realistic, measured by common projects achieved: Eucharistic Congress
- Things start moving when we get to work!
- A defeatist mentality gets nothing done.
The others are not only the enemy: there are good people, too.
- Suggested adjustments: is such and such a suggestion timely ?
The year 2001... not sure.
- Generally speaking, the proposals are well received
because they stem from your recommendations.
- Correction, regarding the Edmundston Anglophones:
Yes to the Blessed Sacrament Sisters' chapel,
but perhaps with a retired priest
rather than with one [active] priest with three Anglophone communities.

Time of Reflection and Dialogue

Period of Decision Making

- Taking... into consideration, what is the best way to...?

You have promoted reflection and have shared information.

Your input is important.

After the decisions are made, there will be another meeting.
How will you take part ?
Are you going to sulk, or join in as an interested and interesting team member ?
Are you going to give up and resign,
or choose to become even more involved in the process ?

Second Step: What Is Your Attitude ?

Paul gives thanks...
« The one who has begun this work in you will carry it to completion. »
(My second wish)
- To be there after the proposals have been improved according to circumstances
- Reacting in a committed way, as Church
- If you haven't started yet, there is still time.
- If you have slowed down rather than going full steam ahead,
there is still time to pick up speed.
- The decisions will disturb and be bothersome,
but let's accept this for the present and future good of our Church.

Stages

- Period of reflection and discussion
- Time for decision-making,
otherwise much quality pastoral time will be lost

- Courageous and respectful decisions must be made,
to be lived in serenity and peace: feelings.

Conclusion by Our Bishop

At the end of the session **Bishop Thibodeau** expressed his deep gratitude to all who have made this get-together possible:
the participants, resource persons, facilitators, secretaries,
support staff, priests, and pastoral agents.

He is reminded of two references found in the Eudist spirituality:
a text from St. John Eudes which says,
« We have but one thing to fear, and that is to fear not having enough confidence. »
And from the Eudist Constitutions, where it is written:
« John Eudes, filled with the love of Jesus,
carried in his heart the distress and needs of his brothers and sisters.
He boldly opened new avenues for the growth of the Kingdom of Jesus. »

Let us confidently and with solidarity
give ourselves the means for working effectively
at the great and beautiful Mission to which we have been called:
this will be the best way for us to live the Jubilee of the Year 2000.