

Provincial Council,  
September 2004

### Report from Diocese of Quebec

This report will consist primarily in updating the Provincial Council on a number of particular challenges, some of which were included in our report to last year's Provincial Synod in Quebec City.

### Cathedral Anniversary

Members of Council will remember that the closing service of Synod last year at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Quebec was the launching of a year long celebration of the Cathedral's 200th anniversary. The Cathedral has had quite a year of celebration with special guest preachers, concerts and the inauguration of a refurbished 18th century chamber organ given by an anonymous donor. The organ, built in London for a friend of Franz Josef Haydn and undoubtedly played by him, may now be the oldest church organ in Canada. The bicentennial celebrations at the Cathedral came to a climax on the last weekend of August with a "homecoming weekend" featuring the unveiling of new historic plaques in the Cathedral by the Lt. Gov. of the Province, a picnic in the Ursuline Convent park, a spectacular gala concert with an 80 voice choir and a special Sunday Eucharist with the Primate Archbishop Andrew Hutchison as preacher. This was the Primate's first parish anniversary event since taking office - no doubt the first of many.

### Renewing Ministry

We reported to Synod last year on the progress of a "renewing ministry" process which has been underway in the St. Francis Deanery in the Eastern Townships. The various task groups related to this project have completed a lot of work. Two tasks are now complete. One is a set of job descriptions for priests, vocational deacons and lay readers with particular reference to the needs for ministry in this particular deanery. The second task has been to establish for the first time in the Diocese of Quebec a process for Ministry and job evaluation for clergy and for lay readers. Beginning this autumn, there will begin an intentional emphasis on team ministry for the whole deanery. Coming at a convenient time when making some major changes in the deanery was the need for the appointment of three new Incumbents due to two retirements and one priest going on Long Term Disability. Three new Incumbents are in place as of September 1st. A second priest has now had to go on Long Term Disability and his multi-point parish will need major reorganization as it can no longer afford stipendiary ministry.

### Synod Office - Church House

Financial and other administration of an enormous diocese in terms of geography with an extremely small office staff continues to be a real challenge, and some changes are having to be made.

With the beginning of 2004, we lost our office secretary Lorraine Damecour after having been with us for five years. Lorraine was really over qualified for the job we had for her and she wished to return to university for graduate study in public administration. Since Lorraine's departure, we have

been well served by some young people who know our office from having worked with us as office temps during the summer. We will continue with that kind of secretarial and reception arrangement - while at the same time increasing the time of the Treasurer, Canon Rodney Clark and the Registrar, Mr. James Sweeny. In effect, as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, Canon Clark has become full time Treasurer and Jim Sweeny will increase his work as Registrar so that along with his position as Editor of the Diocesan Gazette and Webmaster, he will be employed full time.

#### Kawawachikamach

The largest single congregation in the Diocese of Quebec is St. John's Church, Kawawachikamach near Schefferville, the parish of the 750 strong Naskapi First Nation. We have been blessed over the years with faithful clergy who have served this very isolated community. The Bishop, for whom this was his first parish for five years in the 1960's, has long hoped to have a first nations priest serve this community. This became a reality in January 2004 when the Rev. Martha Spence from Spilt Lake, Manitoba, in the Diocese of Keewatin, moved to Kawa as Incumbent. She has been immensely well received and brings all kinds of wonderful gifts to ministry with the Naskapi - most importantly a deep faith and prayer life and wonderful motherly pastoral care.