

Report from the Diocese of Quebec
to
Provincial Council – September 2005

Synod Office

Following recommendations by a number of diocesan bodies a number of challenges have been addressed concerning the Synod Office. This resulted in the Church Society agreeing to cover 4/5 of the Treasurer's stipend and benefits while Synod decreased its contribution to the Treasurer's stipend and benefit package from one half to one fifth. In addition, Synod continued to hire temporary receptionists / clerical staff, and allowed the Treasurer and / or Archbishop discretion in hiring office temps when needed. As of June 2005 Sherry Knox is in the office as Secretary on contract for two years. The Registrar's remuneration was increased from 24% to 65% effective in July of last year. The Registrar, Mr. James Sweeny, handles a number of files and all record management as well as being the Editor of the Quebec Diocesan Gazette.

Police Background Checks

The Diocesan Executive Council has approved the requiring of police background checks for all licensed clergy, any lay people holding the Archbishop's license and for members of diocesan committees. Such checks have been mandatory for some time for all employees and volunteers working at our two diocesan camps. The checks were to be completed by August 31st, 2005.

Vacation Bible School

The Summer Ministry of Vacation Bible Schools is overseen by the diocesan Programme Committee and accounts for a considerable part of its budget. For the last two years the expertise of the "Ask and Imagine" programme has been used for senior counsellor training. An instructor from that programme comes to our camp at Fort Haldimand for the training week in June. This year two senior counsellors and the camp manager went to Ontario for two weeks of in-depth training and then in turn did the training of the junior counsellors in the diocese. One week camp sessions have increased around the diocese from six camps in 2001 to twelve weeks this year. This summer ministry is in addition to the major camping programmes at Quebec Lodge in the Eastern Townships.

Bilingual and Francophone Ministry

Since the creation of a non geographical francophone deanery two years ago bilingual and French ministry in the diocese has increased considerably. In the last year one multi-point parish with six churches and another one point parish have decided to become part of the Doyenné du Saint-Laurent. There are two other parishes with fairly regular French and bilingual liturgy and the Paroisse de Tous les Saints at the Cathedral. There are now eight churches in the French deanery, three francophone clergy, and this

year the Archbishop licensed two lay readers, one francophone and one Anglophone for work in these parishes. The three francophone clergy in the diocese took part this summer in the meeting held in Montreal in July for the francophonie of the Anglican Communion. A parishioner of the Tous les Saints parish took part in the Afro-Anglicanism conference in Toronto in July. Canon Pierre Voyer a former member of the Provincial Council is a member of the National Faith Worship and Ministry Committee and an Anglican partner on the R.C. – United Church dialogue. He is also in charge of the committee doing on-going liturgical translation work for General Synod.

Summer Theological Student Interns

For many years the Diocese of Quebec has been able to support seminarians and theological students in summer ministry. They are licensed as student interns and work in parishes which can no longer sustain full time ordained ministry and in some parishes which become very active in the summer. We usually have three students in a summer and plan to expand that in future summers to six or seven. The students are usually supervised by an Archdeacon or other clergy nearby. They have responsibility for Sunday worship and preaching, for pastoral visiting and for some involvement with youth in the area where appropriate. There are often licensed to take the sacrament to shut ins. There is a mutual benefit in providing ministry experience for students from various parts of the country and sometimes in providing future ordinands for the diocese from a pool of people who have had some experience of the diocese.

Personnel

At the beginning of September 2005 there are two parish vacancies – each being well into their search process with the hope of having appointments during the autumn. A third parish had a new appointment during the summer to take effect mid-September. As of a year ago the Archbishop has appointed seven new Incumbents, one new Archdeacon and a part time (1/6) Programme Officer for the diocese. There are two postulants for ordination beginning the “In Ministry” year at Montreal Diocesan Theological College this September.

Diocesan Synod 2005

Our forthcoming Synod in October will have two principal themes. First, we will have with us the Rev. Ben Helmer, Missioner for Congregational Development, Rural and Small Communities for the Episcopal Church. He will lead us in thinking about small Church ministry and will continue with us for the annual Clergy Conference which follows Synod.

The second theme will really be the launching of the first organized diocesan consultation on human sexuality we have had in the diocese. The consultation will take place over a year and a half and will likely happen regionally. There will be an expectation that it will conclude in time for there to be a diocesan event in 2007 prior to

The General Synod. At this year's Synod there will be presentations on the St. Michael Report and the Windsor Report.