

# THE ECCLESIASTICAL PROVINCE OF CANADA QUEBEC DIOCESAN REPORT

## Description of the Diocese

The Diocese of Quebec is the second oldest in the Canadian Church. It was founded by Letters Patent of King George III in 1793. It has a geographic area of approx. 720,000 square kilometers. The endowments and funds managed for the parishes and cemeteries and some properties are managed by the Church Society of the Diocese of Quebec, which was originally established as the mission society created to spread the Gospel in the Diocese. It was incorporated in 1844. To travel the length and breadth of the Diocese of Quebec can mean traveling by ATV, snowmobile, automobile, truck, single prop plane, Coastal Boat, Water taxi, Dash 8, and helicopter. Make a schedule but don't count on following it. There are usually delays due to weather conditions.

Number on Parish rolls	approx. 4,000
Congregations	82
Priests	19
Transitional Deacons	3
Vocational Deacons	5
Lay Incumbents	4
Retired Clergy	16
Clergy on LTD	1
Lay Readers	54

Although the Diocese of Quebec receives no grant from the Council of the North we rejoice in our continued membership and continue to work to foster closer ties in mission and shared community.

The Diocese is comprised of five Deaconries and Archdeaconries which are coterminous. One Deanery and Archdeaconry is non-territorial and was created to encompass the ongoing ministry of Francophone Anglicans in the Diocese of Quebec.

## Staff Team

Most of our staff are part-time; therefore instantaneous responses to inquiries are not usually possible.

Dennis Drainville	Bishop	<a href="mailto:bishop@quebec.anglican.ca">bishop@quebec.anglican.ca</a>
Garth Bulmer	Executive Archdeacon	<a href="mailto:executivearchdeacon@quebec.anglican.ca">executivearchdeacon@quebec.anglican.ca</a>
Guylaine Caron	Executive Director	<a href="mailto:executivedirector@quebec.anglican.ca">executivedirector@quebec.anglican.ca</a>
Mike Boden	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@quebec.anglican.ca">treasurer@quebec.anglican.ca</a>
James Sweeny	Registrar/Archivist	<a href="mailto:registrar@quebec.anglican.ca">registrar@quebec.anglican.ca</a>
Sherry Knox	Executive Assistant	<a href="mailto:synodoffice@quebec.anglican.ca">synodoffice@quebec.anglican.ca</a>
Marie-Sol Gaudreau	Senior Bookkeeper	<a href="mailto:bookkeeper@quebec.anglican.ca">bookkeeper@quebec.anglican.ca</a>

## “The status quo is not sustainable.” says Bishop

By Archdeacon Garth Bulmer

In late spring Bishop Drainville apprised the Diocesan Executive Council of his wish to bring the diocese together to consider new ways of being the Diocese of Quebec. At a special meeting of the Bishop's Council (archdeacons and selected others) the Bishop commented, “The status quo is not sustainable” And what is the status quo? To mention a few characteristics: successive years of huge diocesan deficits; decades of decline in church membership and attendance; churches unable to pay stipend, Fair Share, and upkeep commitments; congregations without regular services; buildings falling into serious disrepair; too many buildings with too few people to support them; decline in the number of stipendiary clergy; and the

inability of the diocese to support the General Synod Mission Apportionment. At the moment many of our congregations are not viable, financially or missionally, and neither is our diocesan structure.

“We are faced with a huge financial burden, a huge burden of buildings, and this burden is robbing us of Christ’s mission entrusted to us” added Bishop Drainville. The goal of this synod is to equip Anglicans to be faithful gospel people supported by viable and effective congregations and diocesan structures. It is expected that this meeting together will help us to take steps in this direction. Bishop Drainville pointed out that parishes and the diocese go hand in hand. It is inconceivable, from an Anglican perspective, to conceive of church outside the framework of the office of a bishop as Chief Pastor.

The diocese as the basic unit of the catholic church is a teaching passed down through the centuries. If the diocese collapses so does the parish. This understanding of the nature of the church is why this next synod, the official meeting place of diocesan leadership, is so important at this time.

By bringing the whole diocesan leadership together in synod we all get to see the whole picture throughout the diocese and make plans which will, in all probability, reshape this diocese. Synod sessions and workshops will focus on mission by looking closely at our buildings, finances, investments, and people from the perspective of the Five Marks of Mission of the Anglican Communion. We will be asking ourselves such questions as, “How do we measure up to these marks of mission?” “In our diocese what things help or hinder us as Christians?” “Should we be doing things differently?”, “What Good News can our communities hear from us?”

To enable this reflection synod will engage in a series of workshops: Mission Challenge: people and places, Mission Challenge: buildings and cemeteries Mission Challenge new communities, new structures Mission Challenge: money, deficits, investments Mission Challenge: where do we go from here? “We have got to pray and imagine ourselves into a new way of being the Diocese of Quebec, a way which enables us to put the time, energy, and money we now put into maintaining buildings into caring for people. I truly believe this is what God wants us to do”

## **Three New Deacons Ordained in Quebec**

By Archdeacon Bruce Myers

Three new deacons were consecrated for service in the church at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Quebec City on the afternoon of Sunday, May 16. Wanda Dillabough, Francie Keats, and Yves Samson were ordained as transitional deacons by Bishop Dennis Drainville. More than 250 people participated in the fully bilingual liturgy.

The Rev. Canon Fred Richardson, the incumbent of St. Luke, Magog, was formally installed in his canon’s stall in the cathedral during the same service. Deacon Richardson also preached the sermon, during which he reminded the ordinands of their ministry of servanthood, and their diaconal role as “bridges” between the church and the world.

Wanda Dillabough, who comes to Quebec from the Diocese of Ottawa, will begin serving the Deanery of St. Francis on a full-time basis in August. Francie Keats returns to her native Deanery of the Lower North Shore to serve the communities on the coast. Yves Samson will serve as a part-time assistant curate in the parish of St. James, Trois-Rivières. God willing, all three deacons will eventually be ordained to the priesthood.

## **Change is underway in the St. Francis Deanery, and ministry is developing in new and exciting ways**

By Ruth Sheeran

With an aging population and decreasing resources, change is inevitable if we are to continue as a viable church. After a number of deanery meetings where we discussed our situation, we were challenged by Bishop Dennis to find a new model for ministry since “the status quo is no longer acceptable.” The new model has been in place since January, and positive results are already evident. The essence of this ministry model is teamwork, and we are developing exciting ways of working together to share our talents and abilities. Teamwork at the deanery level allows us to continue to provide ministry to the local churches; sharing our resources allows us to maintain – and even increase – services to our many congregations.

But what does this mean in practical terms? At present in our Deanery, two parishes are without an incumbent; two more parishes will become vacant in July, and another parish has only recently appointed a new priest. But despite these challenges, regular Sunday services and pastoral care have continued, and will continue, in all of the local churches. Due to careful scheduling, and the willing participation of retired clergy, deacons and layreaders, the new model has been successfully working in two parishes for a number of months. In July, two more will join, and teamwork ministry will extend to more than half of the deanery. In other areas three of our deacons are working together to share their responsibilities. They are cooperating as a team to provide their regular Sunday services and make their pastoral visits. Their congregations are getting to know different clerics, and the hardworking deacons are supporting each other in their responsibilities.

Other initiatives are being developed at the deanery level. On-going education is essential to this process, and training sessions are being planned for all interested participants. Our first deanery service was held in January with Bishop Dennis celebrating communion. Over two hundred people were in attendance, and how magnificent to hear so many joyful voices raised in song and prayer. Regular deanery services – with a potluck lunch or supper, of course – are anticipated. Plans are underway to develop a choir which would lead us at deanery services and also travel to some of our little churches which are no longer able to have music. How wonderful to once again sing the well-known hymns. One of our goals is to fill the existing vacancies. The funding is complex, but more priests are essential to the success of our project. New priests will become part of the team and contribute at both the deanery and the local level. An exciting and interesting challenge!

So while it might appear that nothing new or unusual is happening in the St. Francis Deanery, we are quietly moving ahead and finding ways of cooperating. Change is underway in the Deanery of St. Francis. We are thankful for the challenge Bishop Dennis has given us, and we anticipate great things to come!

## **Successful pastoral care workshop first step in setting up visiting team in Quebec City area**

by Archdeacon Bruce Myers

An eager and enthusiastic group of about 30 people from across the diocese participated in a day-long workshop on providing pastoral care. Led by the Rev. Dr. Bryan Pearce, a parish priest and specialist in pastoral care from the Diocese of Montreal, the workshop took place in Quebec City on January 26 and was sponsored by the Deanery of Quebec.

Dr. Pearce's open, practical, and down-to-earth approach to the ministry of pastoral care was appreciated by many of the participants. His discussions were punctuated by small-group exercises aimed at helping the participants better understand some of the issues that emerge around the providing of pastoral care.

One of the workshop's aims was to assist in the organization of a pastoral care team in the Quebec City region, to share with the clergy in this important ministry.

The dean, Christian Schreiner, and I are the only two stipendiary clerics in the entire Deanery of Quebec, and so the need to share the ministry of pastoral visiting with others—such as lay readers, volunteers, retired and non-stipendiary clergy—is as pressing as ever.

Those needing this ministry are those from the Quebec City area who find themselves in hospital, long-term care facilities, or homebound. But they also include the scores of people from other regions of the diocese who are sent to the capital for particular—often serious—medical procedures.

A number of faithful volunteers have done, and continue to do, this kind of visiting. My hope is that we can establish an expanded and more coordinated approach to pastoral visiting in the region, one supported by training like the kind offered at January's workshop. Though originally intended as a Quebec deanery event, the workshop also happily attracted participants from the deaneries of St. Francis, Gaspé, and the Lower North Shore. Ecumenical partners from the United and Presbyterian churches in Quebec City also took part.

## **Toward a fuller partnership as diocesan institutional churches**

*Here is a preliminary draft of a memo of understanding between the Diocese of Montreal and the Diocese of Quebec for developing a partnership, tabled at a meeting for the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Montreal May 25.*

*The document, dated December 17, was prepared by Ven Garth Bulmer, executive archdeacon of the Diocese of Quebec, and is based on a meeting held in Montreal on November 30, Bishop Barry Clark of Montreal, Bishop Dennis Drainville of Quebec, Ven. Janet Griffith Johnson, executive archdeacon of the Diocese of Montreal, and Archdeacon Bulmer.*

### **Preamble**

**Whereas** the Gospel of Jesus Christ is one of wholeness and harmony, we acknowledge our common mission and witness to be built upon this foundation,

**Whereas** mutual responsibility and interdependence is an operating value in the worldwide Anglican Communion, **Whereas** our dioceses share a common bond and membership in the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada and the civil Province of Québec,

**Whereas** we acknowledge the potential for a stronger and more faithful witness by intentional consultation and collaboration between our dioceses,

**Whereas** we recognize the similar impact of secularization and demographic change upon the physical and spiritual structure of two dioceses,

**Whereas** we acknowledge the challenge to us by the Holy Spirit to explore new ways of being a community of faith in this province; specifically we identify the need:

- to better communicate our tradition to the French-language majority in Québec
- to better attract the ever increasing number of immigrants to our churches
- to better advocate for the victims of injustice and marginalization
- to better address the needs of small and isolated Anglophone communities whose cultural and social infrastructure is increasingly threatened
- to better witness as stewards of creation
- to better steward our use of buildings and human resources
- to better define our role as preserver of a religious, cultural, and historical heritage:

### **Partnership discernment process**

**Therefore** we commit ourselves to a process of discernment toward a fuller partnership as diocesan institutional churches based upon:

- opened-ended and frank discussions amongst the Episcopal and administrative leadership of our dioceses, and within the appointed operating committee
- transparency about our work within our constituencies
- risk-taking and research in our consideration of new ways of being diocesan churches
- willingness to mandate a committee for an initial period of two years to direct this discussion.

### **Partnership committee**

#### **mandate**

Each diocese shall name, with the approval of the diocesan executive committee, an equal number of persons to a joint committee charged with directing this discernment process. This committee shall be known as the Quebec-Montreal Partnership Initiative (QMPI). The QMPI is mandated to explore a deeper partnership between our two dioceses by exploring the opportunities and obstacles to partnership in the following areas of mutual work and concern:

- mission priorities
- financial issues and structures
- canon and civil law
- church real estate
- heritage-building and cemetery issues
- episcopal oversight and clerical leadership.

**Operational issues**

The QMPI shall, as a first task, present to our Bishops and executive councils a twelve-month work plan. Each diocese shall dedicate a yearly operating budget of \$1,000 to enable at least three face-to-face meetings a year. Meetings should be held on a regular basis and mostly by using tele-conferencing and other electronic communications. The QMPC shall communicate at least twice each year to the diocesan executive committees.