

Quebec Diocesan Gazette

VOL 110 Number 7 Reporting on our diocese since 1894 MARCH 2004

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A Diocesan Celebration



Joanne Brousseau. The Bishop, Ven. Heather Thomson and the Very Rev. Walter Raymond

"It is a family celebration!" That is how the Rt. Rev. Douglas Theurmer described the service of collation of the Archdeacon of St. Francis, the installation of a new Canon of the Cathedral and the commissioning of the Chaplain of Lay Readers in his sermon. He went on to say how pleased he was to be invited to the event and he praised, challenged and thanked Archdeacon Thomson, Canon Milot and Archdeacon Drainville for accepting these important leadership roles in the life of the church in this diocese.

On Saturday January 31, 2004, many people gathered in the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity for this joyful event. As two of those taking on new ministries in the diocese were from the Deanery of St. Francis there was a bus full of East-

ern Townships Anglicans in attendance. The bus left Lennoxville at 8 am so they also managed to take in some of the opening events on the famous Quebec Winter Carnival.

The Venerable Heather Thomson was collated as the Archdeacon of St. Francis. As part of the collation the Bishop escorted his new Archdeacon to her chair in the Cathedral. Thomson, who was made a deacon in 1977 and a priest in 1979, grew up in the Townships and her ministry has always been in the deanery so she knows the St. Francis Deanery very well. As the Bishop's representative in the deanery she is responsible for the pastoral care of the clergy, assists congregations and makes the Bishop aware of state of the church in the deanery. With three vacan-

cies in the deanery, her first major task is to assist the 12 congregations of those parishes to find new clergy. In the meantime she must make sure that the regular services are held and pastoral needs of the parishioners are met. She praises the many people who are helping her cope with this "I really don't feel I'm doing this alone at all. I have a great team of clergy and lay readers and I look forward to working with them"

Thomson strongly feels that this is an exciting time in the deanery as it puts into practice the suggestions coming out the Potentials Report and the ongoing work of the St. Francis Renewing Ministry team and she sees the possibility of many good things resulting from this work.

The Bishop then proceeded with the installation of the Reverend Canon Milot as a Canon of the Cathedral. As part of this the Bishop instructed the Dean to show Canon Milot to his stall or chair in the cathedral. Milot who has been the Incumbent in Waterville, North Hatley and Eustis, stepped down from that position at the end of February for health reasons. Though forced to give up active fulltime ministry, he has moved to Lennoxville and will continue to be a member of the Deanery Council and help in the deanery and diocese whenever possible.

At this same service the Archdeacon of the Gaspé, the Venerable Dennis Drainville was commissioned as the Chaplain of Lay Readers. Graham Jackson the diocesan Warden of Lay Readers, is very pleased with this appointment as it reinforces the importance that the lay readers, currently numbering 70, have in the life of our diocese.

Bishop Theurmer was not the only participant from our companion diocese of New Hampshire. On three occasions during the service, Debbie Harris provided liturgical dance and the whole congregation participated in liturgical dance during the Lord's Prayer. The Bishop of New Hampshire retires this month, he remained in Quebec to preach again the following day and that was his last official visit to our diocese.

Before, during and after the service a number of people asked why "collation". In the interest of fulfilling an education role the **Quebec Diocesan Gazette** provides the following information. According to the **Oxford English Dictionary** collation has a number of different meanings. It is a bringing together or collating, as in bookbinding. It also means conferring together or consultation; Saint Benedict instituted in his monasteries the reading of the *Collationes* or Lives of the Fathers before compline. This was often followed by a light repast taken after the reading and has resulted in the more common current usage of the word to describe a light snack. The third meaning is the con-



Canon Milot being installed in his stall by the Dean

ferring of preferment to office and that is what happen on January 31. The Lord Bishop has the right to appoint archdeacons and in the collation he was making an appointment of a member of his clergy to a position in the diocese that is the solely the Bishop's to give. A canon is "installed" for as part of the service the Bishop to instructed the Dean to place or show the Canon to a "stall" (or seat) in the cathedral.

There was a time of fellowship with a collation, following the service in Carter Hall.



Archdeacon Drainville receiving his commission. Photo G. Jackson

§ \$6,000 be allocated to pay interest due on Stipend loans

§ \$1249.32 be allocated to the Church of St. Andrew & St. George, Baie-Comeau.

§ the actual cost of Synod Legal Defense & Synod Fair Share be granted to the congregations of St. Clement's East in 2004.

News from the congregations was then shared.

Quebec Deanery News

By Graham Jackson

On Saturday January 17, 2004 following an excellent pot-luck luncheon, a meeting was held of the Quebec Deanery Council. It took place in Carter Hall in the Cathedral close. The members of the Deanery Council, by acclamation, re-elected Joan Gibb as Rural Dean.

As many of the **Quebec Di-**

ocesan Gazette readers know, Joan has had a long and distinguished involvement with our diocese and indeed the national church. For over 30 years she was the receptionist and payroll clerk in the diocesan office. She is the past-president of the Diocesan ACW. She has been a member of General Synod on several occasions and served on its Finance Committee. She is currently a member of Provincial Synod and was elected to Provincial Council. She is the lay member of Diocesan Synod from Trinity Church, Ste. Foy.

In her role as Rural Dean, Joan chairs our Deanery meetings. She skillfully endeavours to keep us on track, which in itself, is no mean feat.

Several important issues were raised at the January meeting:

- A presentation on the work of the Primate's World Relief and

Continued on page 4

North Shore and Quebec Deanery Councils Meet

North Shore Deanery News

Submitted by S. Kohner

The North Shore Deanery met by teleconference on February 4, 2003, under the chairmanship of Stephen Kohner the Rural Dean.

Bishop Bruce informed them that the congregation of All Saints', Sept-Iles decided to refuse the loan that had been approved by the Anglican Foundation. They felt the project was moving along and they would rather not have the loan at this time.

Linda Stubbart as Programme Committee representative reported that a Layreader's Workshop is being planned in March by Walter Raymond and

Graham Jackson. The Synod dates, location and planning committee had been discussed. The Bishop and the D.E.C. may be announcing them following their spring meeting. The Bishops Conference dates are set for October 18, 19 & 20th in Quebec City. The guest speaker for the Bishop's Conference will be Dr. David Neendf.

Rather than declare that there was an opening on the D.E.C. created by the ordination of Rev. Gladys Morency it was decided to wait until the next meeting, pending the election to the D.E.C. by the Deanery of St. Francis. If a layperson is elected there then the balance of clergy and lay will remain the same and the Rev. Morency can continue to be one of the three North Shore members.

Stephen Kohner informed the council that he had positive feedback regarding the recent Synod except for the overloaded agenda. Sherry Painter noted that the walkways did not accommodate people walking with canes or baby strollers.

A number of decisions were taken regarding the Deanery Council's 2004 budget including:

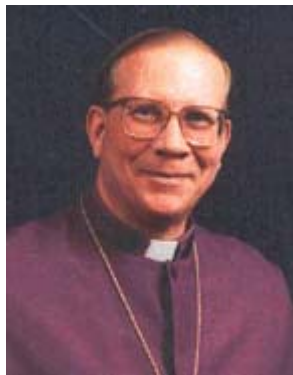
§ \$3,000 approved to set aside for Lay Reader training and resources.

§ \$3,000 approved to cover the cost of Deanery Meeting expenses including phone mailings and deanery visit.

§ \$3,000 allocated to Parsonage Grants.

§ \$1,000 be made available immediately for St. Clement's East Parsonage expenses.

From the Bishop's desk:



Dear Friends,

The lectionary we use these days - the 3 year cycle of readings from Scripture we use in church on Sundays - has us celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord either on the last Sunday of Epiphany or the Second Sunday of Lent.

I love the story of the Transfiguration when Jesus was seen on the mountain by Peter and James and John. Jesus' face seemed to change and his clothes became dazzling white and all of a sudden in the same shining glory there appeared Moses and Elijah talking with him.

We used to remember this Gospel event just on the sixth of August each year - normally on a weekday in mid-summer. It is good that it is celebrated now on a Sunday as well and that it is connected to Lent.

Maybe the most significant thing about this story is the way the disciples are given a brief glimpse of Jesus as if in all his post Easter resurrection glory just after he has told them about the terrible suffering and death he is about to undergo. He tells the disciples to expect similar sacrifice and rigour in their lives if they are really to be his followers.

For Peter this was such a marvellous spectacle that he wanted to capture this mountain top experience and build booths to keep Jesus and Moses and Elijah just as they were. Then there was a cloud, a voice from heaven and it was all over - Jesus was alone with them again.

Jesus had gone up the mountain with the disciples to pray. All three Gospel writers Matthew, Mark and Luke record that as soon as they came down from the mountain they were faced with a father bringing his desperately sick epileptic son to Jesus for healing. Peter quickly learnt that mountain top experiences don't necessarily last but you can gain strength from them to go back into the day to day world where there is often pain, brokenness and the need for healing.

What has this story to do with Lent?

Lent is our opportunity to prepare to see the glory of the risen Lord at Easter but also to realize there is no way to be a disciple of Jesus without the Cross.

Whatever we take on - or give up - or both to observe Lent should have as its goal the discovery that renewing and deepening our relationship with God is all about being more responsive disciples. For the three disciples the experience on the mountain was like a little retreat or a mini season of Lent. They went to pray, they had a new experience of the Lord and that energized them for their discipleship that was to come.

Have a renewing Lent!

+Bruce

BISHOP'S CALENDAR FOR MARCH - APRIL

March 1-5	March Break	Vacation
March 9-18	Visitation -St. Clement's Parish	Lower North Shore
March 23	Quebec Deanery Council	Ste.Foy
March 25	Ordination - Nova Scotia Suffragan Bishop	Halifax
April 6	Matrimonial Commission	Quebec
April 15-20	National House of Bishops	Regina
April 23-24	Diocesan Executive Council	Quebec
April 24	Annual Meeting - Church Society	Quebec
April 25-27	Anglican - Roman Catholic Dialogue	Ancaster, On.

Deadline for April Gazette: March 1st 2004
Deadline for May Gazette: April 1st 2004
Advance warning: Due to this year's meeting of General Synod the June Gazette will only be published at the end of that month.
Deadline for the June Gazette is June 1st 2004
Send in your parish news and photos!

The Diocese of New Hampshire and the Changing Landscape

By Debbie Harris

On May 3, 2003, the Old Man of the Mountains, our states granite faced "trademark" fell to the ground. No one saw the massive rock structure tumble to the earth below, no one heard the "crash", no one really knows what time this occurred because no one was there to witness it. This was an amazing landslide, a historic monument fallen, it was not witnessed or filmed by any man.

The Old Man's rock slide was unexpected...the election of Gene for some was not expected. There were four qualified candidates on the ballot, any one of them could have been elected, but on that day, June 7, 2003 a gathering of three hundred cast their ballots and Gene was the clear "winner" on the second ballot, just missing a win on the first by a few votes. When Bishop Theuner announced Gene's election, a thunderous applause arose that lasted for what seemed to be an eternity. All around me, people had tears in their eyes, while Gene, three pews behind me, had tears in his eyes as well.

Why, you might ask, did this happen with such speed and swiftness? That is the question to answer...why Gene? Why a man who we knew so very well? Why not some man or woman who was new and different? Why place ourselves out there for everyone to ridicule and to say, "What do you think your doing, electing a gay man a Bishop? You have no right; he is a Bishop for all, not just for you folk in New Hampshire!"

Well folks, I know why. Gene's election came forth from a process that allowed every single person who had a vote to feel free to vote for the candidate that he or she wanted. Our process was a model of openness and transparency. Each individual was welcome to share the process. If you cared to know, and believe me, hundreds did, you could go to "meet and greets" throughout our diocese, you could check our web site and if you cared to, you could write or phone the candidates. It was a process that allowed all of us in the diocese to discern who should be our next Bishop.

So on that rainy day in June, the delegates decided that Gene had the enormous gift of the spirit, an intellect and wit beyond compare. Knowing him as well as they did, they knew the love he had for us and the challenges that he would present us. As a fellow delegate said to me just before the election, "Who is more in touch with Christ than Gene, a man who has suffered because of his lifestyle?"

It has been a long process, not without some ups and downs but, like the granite that is our geography, the Diocese of New Hampshire is strong in God, strong in faith and Gene speaks to us of our faith and of our God who welcomes in the weak, the marginal, the lonely and the oppressed.

I have been an active participant in all of this, shaping the process to some degree, enjoying most of it and praying more than I have in my life. Prayer is good, especially when you have no control over people and their emotions. Asked one day at the general convention, if I expected "furor, mass attention, excitement and the like" I responded in a semi-lie. No, not really I said. Heart of hearts as my friend Kimberly says when she has to be honest with herself; I knew that Gene's lifestyle would cause upset. I questioned myself, could the granite base we say is here or the living free or dying motto, save us from falling?

The only way is God's way, and our choice of Gene may make the view look different. The landscape has changed because of Gene. I am willing to tell the world that you are loved here, really loved, and Bishop Robinson will help us to reshape the rough and tough places because he is strong in God. "Heart of hearts", he has love, love so strong for his Lord that he cannot keep it inside of him. I know him, and there is a rock in him that will not fall to the ground...heavy as it may be sometimes. You have to know God; you have to see it in everyone, and you know living in New Hampshire, God does move mountains! Choosing to live is what Gene is all about, and I am happy to tell the world about what new things he is doing here in New Hampshire.

Editor's note: this article was as a result of an invitation to Debra to write about Bishop Gene's election and consecration from the point of view of an active member of that diocese. When she submitted the article her covering letter included the following "This is not an easy subject and very well may be the last prejudice to "go down", but it is not easy for many people as you know. In NH, we have had some leave, some upset and some who just don't care and want to move on. I am one of the move on types and wish that people would just let us go about our business. But that will take some time, God's time."

Debra Harris is the Senior Warden of her parish, All Saints', Littleton. She is the co-chair of the N.H. Companion Dioceses Committee, serves as the chair of the Liturgy, Music and Arts committee, was a member of the Search and Nomination Committee, Deputy to the General Convention and was the Bicentennial Chair for the Diocese. She owns and operates The Clam Shell Restaurant with her husband, Ed in Littleton, New Hampshire.

Quebec Diocesan Gazette

A Ministry of the Synod of the Diocese of Quebec

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According to the Diocesan Canons the mandate of the **Gazette** shall be to serve as a means of encouragement, communication and community building among the regions of the Diocese, with special emphasis on regional activities and matters of concern for both laity and clergy. It shall provide an opportunity for the Bishop to address the people of the Diocese directly and seek to cover items from outside the Diocese that bear on its corporate life.

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James Sweeny, interim Editor, phone and fax 819-837-2835 We welcome diocesan news, deadline the 1st of the month prior to publication. Please e-mail submissions to diocesangazette@quebec.anglican.ca

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Taizé warms heart and soul of Québec youth – not to mention the over 35s

By Mia Anderson, Photos by Jean Lortie, Animateur Diocèse de Québec

As a coda to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – meant, actually, to have been part of it – Brother Émile was invited to Québec city from the Taizé community in France, to lead young people in an intense weekend experience of prayer Taizé-style. Sitting en masse on the floor of the sanctuary, the lights dim, the flames of the Holy Spirit flaming (cleverly-deployed orange banners ‘flying’ upward and back-lit), icons gleaming, candles burning, tapers in each hand, the music going round and round and round, microphones allowing both Émile and the musical section-leads to talk and sing in a gentle voice, shared intimacy in direct proportion to interiority: that is the Taizé experience. Br Émile was on his way to Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto to animate the same kind of event. The Québec occasion was hosted by the Catholic diocese of Québec, but Taizé’s initiative is resolutely ecumenical, and usually includes a wide representation of different denominations. Br Émile is no exception to this witness in favour of ecumenism. What your Church background is – if any, or none – has absolutely no bearing on participation in Taizé.



Taizé is a village in France where a religious community was founded half a century ago by a Calvinist who wanted to live in an ecumenical community. That man, Brother Roger, discovered a charism for young people, who themselves have for the most part a resolute disregard for boundaries, the boundaries that divide denominations, countries, race, language. A style of music was developed to meet these needs – the needs of people crossing boundaries to find each other and worship and pray together, sitting on the ground all mixed up together in holy silence and song.

Br Émile was presented with a difficult task: how on earth to address such a disparate bunch of folk as this weekend presented him with, the priests, the religious, the professors, the students, the less than students, the converted, the unconverted, the unbelieving? How be personal with each one, albeit with that befriending microphone in hand, how connect with this thirsty crowd? He did it. Don’t ask me how. I listened with all my ears, and was enchanted by the delicate courtesy with which he delivered impeccable theology in a simple, casual manner, graceful, never condescending while speaking of basics, never alarming with the heights of insider jargon, just chatting intimately to the intimate voice inside each listener. Welcoming. All felt welcome to this world of shared prayer.



Did you know that Br Émile was born in Timmins? Well, you probably know that the Cardinal was born in Abitibi. He turned up, Saturday night, first during a question and answer period the kids were having with Br Émile, then nestling himself in amongst the same crowd of kids upstairs in the church of St-Thomas d’Aquin (very appropriate saint for this scholar-priest) and sang and sang with the rest of us. And did we sing! It’s a wonder I have any voice left after Friday night, fourteen hours Saturday, and then Sunday morning.



Sunday after the mass there was a question period with him, the Cardinal, and he delighted his young listeners with his replies. The happiest time in his life? He had two answers: an Easter retreat while still in formation as a priest, a kind of intense joy such as he’s never known again, but can remember and keep always with him in memory. And an intense moment of intellectual joy in discovery, studying St Thomas d’Aquin. He was asked about women priests in the Catholic Church. He knows this Anglican woman priest, knew she was there. Several faces turned towards me and twinkled, wondering how he’d get himself out of this one. His answer was elegant and articulate. Of course I disagree with it. He and I befriend each other none the less for the great divide, and laugh about it. Now isn’t that Anglican of us? (or what you and I hope the Anglican Church will continue to be, assembling in amity before God notwithstanding our disagreements.)

One young Inuit girl, raised Anglican, found me. I was the answer to a prayer. (Bet you didn’t know that.) She was so happy to know there was an Anglican church in Québec city. She and I will be looking at her ‘cheminement’ together. Others came looking for me, too, to know what was different between our Churches (not a lot) and to ask whether it was true (yes it was) that I could really preside at the eucharist, hear confession, anoint, wear a chasuble, and could we really marry, too, we Anglican priests (sure can; have done; only reason I’m here: my husband priest is taking my service).

There are three main prayer gatherings with Taizé songs in Québec city: at St-Dominique the 4th Friday of the month (19h30), at St Michael & St Matthew’s the 2nd Thursday of the month (19h), and at the chapel Marie-Guyart on Laval campus every 1st and 3rd Sunday evening (19h). At Montmartre they have included some Taizé in a 1st Friday of the month prayer evening. Lots to choose from. We members or leaders of those evenings were the sort-of choir of musicians guiding the singing at the weekend. Visitors from among Claude Lamarre’s Grand’ mère congregation came down, and will liaise with St Michael’s in the future; they are up and running in Shawinigan. And this month an Anglican from the townships comes to join us on the second Thursday with her guitar. I strongly suspect you will find a prayer group in the townships singing Taizé one of these not too distant days.

At the Cathedral

By R. Clive Meredith

Too many years ago, it was suggested that I write a monthly column for the Gazette, with news from the Mother Church of the Diocese. Thus was instituted “At the Cathedral.”, by-line R. Clive Meredith. Those were the days! Winnie Jellicoe was our charming editor with talent to burn, we had enthusiastic correspondents in various parishes, and the column went on for some years. But a number of factors intervened to make me drop it, albeit regretfully, and it stayed dropped until noon today, when Dean Wally suggested that I pick it up. I said yes.

As everyone should know by now, the Cathedral is in its Bicentennial year. It was consecrated on August 28, 1804, so we’re counting the months, and already bicentennial activities have begun or at least are being planned. The slogan “Community - FAITH - Witness, 1804-2004”, proposed by Joan Boeckner, is beginning to show up everywhere - even on Parish Council Minutes!

Homecoming weekend has been planned to run from August 27 to 29. This is when we expect hundreds (thousands?) of nostalgic ex-Cathedralites to come join the fun. Even now, down both sides of the front wall hang two very handsome banners designed by Cheryl Rimmer, that on the left reading “1804” and that on the right “2004”.

A bicentennial calendar has been put together by Joan and Keith Boeckner, with photos by the same Keith Boeckner, Clive Meredith, and Canada’s own Eugen Kedl. On May 9, Mothers’ Day, the Sunday School children will place a time capsule beneath one of the stones in the Narthex. In charge of putting this together are Clive Meredith, Sheryl Rimmer and Michael Hinton. A number of details remain to be determined, such as the form the capsule will take, how many years (centuries?) it will remain buried, and the nature of the wall plaque indicating where the capsule lies. Use possibly will be made of a global positioning system (GPS) to determine the latitude, longitude and elevation of the spot. These would be indicated on the plaque.

Finally, during the winter, parishioners donned their finest to be photographed for a photo-directory to be released in March. That’s the list so far, but be sure we’ll be describing each subsequent activity as it takes place or is planned.

To close on a sad note, members of the Diocese who know former Cathedral Treasurer and Warden Bill Ray will be saddened to learn of the sudden death of his daughter Elizabeth on Friday, the 23rd, in Hamilton. A memorial service was held in Haamilton on January 29, and another is planned for the spring at the Cathedral. May she rest in peace.



Editor

The Anglican Diocese of Québec seeks a part-time editor for the monthly **Quebec Diocesan Gazette**, effective July 1 2004.

The person selected will also manage the diocesan web site.

Applicants should submit a letter of application, CV and the names of three referees before March 31, 2004.

Applications or requests for an information kit should be addressed to:

The Editor Selection Committee,
Church House,
31 rue des Jardins, Québec,
QC G1R 4L6

Tel: 418 692 3858
Fax: 418 692 3876



Linda Stubbert, lay reader in Sept Iles, just celebrated at her first wedding. She is pictured here with the happy couple Karen Young and Frederick Bélanger. Photo supplied by Karen's family

A.C.W. Meditation for March 2004

By Cecily Hinton

Sirach 18:15-18

"My child, when you help someone, don't reprimand them at the same time.

When you make a gift, don't say anything that hurts. Your words count for more than what you give. Even dew gives some relief during a spell of hot weather. Yes, kind words are more effective than the best of gifts, and if you are really concerned, you will give both. It is stupid to be unkind and insulting. No one's eyes are going to sparkle at a gift that you resent giving." From the Good News Bible.

The book of Sirach, or Ecclesiasticus as it is sometimes known, is found in the Apocrypha, the collection of books found between the Old and New Testaments in some Bibles.

The writer of this book had a deep understanding of human nature and his words ring as true now as when they were written some 200 or so years before Jesus was born. He reminds us here to be kind to those we try to help with our gifts, and of the importance of our attitudes. Lent is a good time to examine our prejudices and our attitudes. Let the wisdom of this book speak to us in our day

Farewell to the Dickersons

By Mavis Bennett

On Friday evening, January 23, 2004 not only St. George's Anglican Church bid a fond farewell to Keith and Audrey Dickerson, but the whole Lennoxville Christian community came together. What a wonderful evening it was!

A hundred people came into the church to reflect, to share, to pray and to worship with our Choir and Worship Band. Some of Rev. Keith's and Audrey's friends spoke of past ministries and also of some humorous aspects of more recent times. The generosity of the Dickersons in sharing their lives with the congregation and

with the community as a whole was most evident.

Keith's interest in taking photos of events and individuals for record purposes prompted the idea of a digital camera as a gift. St. George's and St. Andrew's congregations along with members of the community contributed generously.

It was then suggested that a painting by a local artist would be an ideal gift for Audrey. After some thought we decided that a trip to a local gallery would be a wonderful place to start. Audrey will choose the style of painting she wants, and with Keith's photos (using his new digital camera) as

reference, we will commission the artist to paint the picture of her choice.

The surprise guests who were scheduled to participate did so and it was indeed a surprise to the honou



The family picture on the right includes Lisa, Mike, Audrey, Les, Keith, John, Marie, grandchildren Stephen and Amanda. Photos by Linda Hoy

From page 1 "Deanery"

Development Fund was given by Cecily Hinton

- Dr Meb Reisner the chair of the Diocesan Gazette Board gave a report on their behalf. She re-iterated that the aim of the paper is to draw parishes together and she made an impassioned plea for people to submit articles to the **Quebec Diocesan Gazette** having to do with parish activities, which include the great variety of issues discussed at Deanery meetings.

- The Deanery elected 5 members to serve on the council's sub-committee in order to ensure our funds are properly and wisely spent.

- Parish up-dates: This agenda item was probably of most interest to all concerned as the people at the table representing their various parishes gave detailed account of the many exciting and encouraging activities that were held since we last met.

- Bishop Bruce Stavert took the opportunity to address us on the planning taking place prior to General Synod and to give insights into the broader view of what is happening at the National Church level.

- Mention was made of the lay readers Conference taking place on Saturday March 27, 2004 at Bishop's University, beginning at 9:30 am at St Mark's Chapel. Archdeacon Dennis Drainville will be one of the guest speakers and everyone is cordially invited to attend this get together.

The meeting ended at 4 pm with the Rural Dean asking the Bishop to pronounce the blessing.



Keith and Audrey Dickerson cut the cake.

guests, as their three sons and families walked down the aisle to greet their parents - a touching moment to an already wonderful evening.

The event came to a close with refreshments in the main hall, provided by St. George's Parish Guild, St. George's Sunday Fellowship group, and others. It was a wonderful evening of 'farewell' and the start of a well deserved retirement.

Nuggets from the past

Compiled from past issues of the **Diocesan Gazette** by Dr. M.E. Reisner, *Diocesan Historian*

The March issue of the 1904 **Quebec Diocesan Gazette** carried a very full account of the "Annual Public Meeting of the Quebec Church Society." There were two guest speakers: the Bishop of Algoma - George Thorneloe - who had served in the Diocese of Quebec since his ordination to the diaconate in 1874 until his election to the episcopate in 1896 and the Rev. Dr Richmond Shreve, who, like Thorneloe before him, was serving as rector of St Peter's Sherbrooke.

Bishop Hunter Dunn presented Bishop Thorneloe, who had been elected to the See of Algoma during his episcopate, in the warmest terms, and a certain amount of reminiscing went on about the changes in the Diocese since Thorneloe's ordination.

Then, as the Gazette summarizes it, Thorneloe "proceeded to discuss the work of the Church Society and its aims, and asked, what does the Church Society stand for? He had observed on the title page of the Annual Report that it was there stated that its object was the maintenance and extension of the missions of the Church in the Diocese of Quebec."

Missionary outreach, Thorneloe maintained, was very much in the forefront of Church Society's responsibilities, both within and outside the boundaries of the Diocese. "For the sixty-two years of its existence," he pointed out, "the Church Society had been gathering funds and expending them upon the objects of the Church in the Diocese — the stipends of the Clergy, the building of Churches and parsonages, education, the diffusion of Church literature, etc. The Society was the Almoner of the Church, gathering assistance for the widows and orphans and the infirm Clergy. ... But the Society stood not only for the maintenance but also the extension of Missions.

The Society taught that it was not enough to do what came to hand, but that we must be aggressive. We must go out to every man, woman and child in the Diocese; for it was a duty to give while there is one soul to be won to Christ or one erring brother to be uplifted. The Church Society stands as a witness to that obligation to go and do what can be done to supply the necessities of those who are not blessed as we are. The Church Society also teaches that these obligations extend beyond the limits of our own Diocese."

The interdependence of the Canadian Church, he suggested, made the more fully established dioceses responsible for giving aid to areas more hard pressed and less well served. "It was always outside the Diocese," he continued, "that the great field of work lay." His Lordship next compared Quebec with other Dioceses, and spoke of the wonderful increase of population going on in the West Dioceses, and the problem of what to do to meet the inrush of new-comers. "He asked his hearers," the article continued, "to think what it meant to have 50,000 or 100,000 people brought into their midst within a season."

He spoke of the changes that had taken place in his own Diocese of Algoma, and the splendid progress that was being made and the hopeful feeling now prevailing regarding the future. "The Church Society taught us to beware of Diocesan selfishness," his Lordship warned, "a sin which he could say with truth the Diocese of Quebec had never been guilty of. It was because this Diocese had never allowed this sin to affect her that the Diocese had become the admiration and the pride of the whole Canadian Church. But this great progress being made in Western Dioceses was no reason for thinking that aid was not needed.

The need for assistance was urgent at this time in order to meet the needs of the people coming in. The Church Society stood also for a higher and holier ideal in this materialistic age. If there be one thing we need in this age," the Bishop concluded, "it is a glorious ideal which will lift us out of our selfish, luxury-loving state."

It is interesting to note that the threat of the encroaching materialism of society at large was as much a rallying cry one hundred years ago as it is in our own day.

"His Lordship, on concluding his address, resumed his seat midst loud applause."

Invitation to a help us celebrate

The Greater Parish of Coaticook extends an invitation to come and worship at Saint George's Church, Ayer's Cliff on Sunday March 21, at 10:30 am. This service will be a celebration of Mercia Church's ninetieth birthday and she will be conducting the music.

Those unable to attend but who wish to send best wishes may send them to Mercia Church c/o the Rev. Barbara Wintle 925 Main Street Ayer's Cliff, QC J0B 1C0