

**REPORT OF THE  
EPISCOPAL COMMISSION FOR  
THE EVANGELIZATION OF PEOPLES  
2007-2008**

The Episcopal Commission for the Evangelization of Peoples carried out its activities for 2007-2008 within the context of two significant changes: the renewal of the indult and the eventual abolishment of the Commission. The Commission met twice since the 2007 Plenary Assembly, December 2007 and June 2008.

**Canadian Pastoral Fund**

The Canadian Pastoral Fund for the Evangelization of Peoples is the oldest CCCB capital fund, with its origins dating as far back as 1836. It was established to support the missionary work of the Bishops of Canada and is currently valued at over \$5 million. Its primary source of revenue is the 15% received from the national collection for Mission Sunday, made possible through an indult, while smaller amounts of revenue come from Peter's Pence and the interest from the Fund.

Since 2006, the Commission has been working on reforming the Canadian Pastoral Fund for two primary reasons. First, traditionally two-thirds of the projects subsidized by the Fund have been abroad, but navigating the laws related to funding international projects has become increasingly challenging. Secondly, the indult was renewed for the next seven years with the stipulation that the funds be used for missions within Canada, definitely including the six dioceses under the jurisdiction of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples.

As Catholic Missions in Canada and *Mission Chez Nous* also assist Canada's mission territories, the Commission felt that it was important to meet with the heads of the two organizations to discuss how to best coordinate the work being done and ensure the most effective use of the funds. Historically, the responsibility for ordinary subsidies was assumed by Catholic Missions in Canada and *Mission Chez Nous* at the request of the CCCB. This year, because of the recent developments with the Canadian Pastoral Fund and with the approval of the CCCB Executive Committee, the Fund was again given responsibility for the ordinary subsidies to the dioceses under the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. Catholic Missions in Canada and *Mission Chez Nous* will now direct their efforts towards special projects. Dioceses in need and which are not under the Congregation can now request extraordinary subsidies from Catholic Missions in Canada and *Missions Chez Nous*. Requests to both organizations for assistance are due annually by 1 July.

**Financial Subsidies**

Since the 2007 Plenary, the following assistance has been made by the Canadian Pastoral Fund:

### **Ordinary Subsidies**

Diocese of Churchill-Hudson Bay	\$55,000
Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan	\$55,000
Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas	\$55,000
Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith	\$55,000
Diocese of Moosonee	\$50,000
<u>Diocese of Whitehorse</u>	<u>\$55,000</u>
Total	\$325,000

### **Mission Formation Program**

Programme intercommunautaire de formation missionnaire (PIFM) – Montreal	\$4,000
Programme intercommunautaire de formation missionnaire (PIFM) – Quebec City	\$4,000
Formation au laïcat	\$5,000
Centre International de Formation Missionnaire (CIFM)	\$5,000
Agapê-Mission	\$3,000
<u>Scarboro Missions</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
Total	\$26,000

### **Recommendations**

As the Episcopal Commission for the Evangelization of Peoples is expected to be officially abolished during the 2008 Annual Plenary Assembly, its members have identified several subjects they believe to require future attention.

#### 1) Meeting with various Catholic organizations to discuss fundraising practices

The Commission has on numerous occasions discussed the growing challenges and creativity being used for fundraising in today's economy. Concerned that a kind of competition may be occurring among the various Catholic organizations, the Commission recommends a meeting be coordinated by the Conference, bringing together representatives from the various organizations, which would allow a sharing of experiences and provide an opportunity for the organizations to work out their differences.

#### 2) Bishops *ponentes* for the English and French Sectors of the Pontifical Mission Societies

The Commission wishes to draw attention to the lack of clear and defined roles for the Bishops *ponentes* of both the English and French Sectors of the Pontifical Mission Societies. Currently, no formal reporting process exists for these Bishops *ponentes*. Historically, it was the Commission that served as the link between the *ponentes* and the CCCB. Should the Commission be abolished, it recommends developing a system for better links and communication between the Conference and the *ponentes* for the Pontifical Mission Societies.

#### 3) Program for interculturalization of international clergy

The Commission on various occasions has discussed the lack of interculturalization programs in Canada for clergy from abroad who often do not have the necessary formation to be integrated

into Canadian and North American culture. Some of the key concerns include the lack of understanding with regards to such issues as the notion of a “corporation sole”, diocesan liability, authority, money, social status, attitude toward women, multiculturalism, and regional cultures. The Commission believe that a center designed to provide programs to address these and other issues would be immensely beneficial, and recommends further study on the creation of such a center as soon as possible.

## **COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Most Reverend:

Vincent Cadieux, O.M.I., Chairman  
Richard Grecco  
Sylvain Lavoie, O.M.I.  
Eugène Tremblay

### **Staff:**

Mr. Benoît Bariteau, Commission Secretary  
Mrs. Tracy Blain, Junior Advisor, Bureau for Justice, Peace and Missions

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