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Thursday 22 December 2016

Dear friends,

It is my pleasure to announce the appointment of the Ven. Dr. Edward Simonton OGS as Vicar General of the diocese and Archdeacon of Quebec.

In these new roles Archdeacon Simonton will fulfil the canonical responsibilities of Executive Archdeacon. The office of Vicar General has a long history in the church, dating back to at least the thirteenth century. “Vicar” literally means “substitute,” and so the Vicar General serves as the Bishop’s principal deputy. The position of Archdeacon of Quebec is also an historic office, created in 1821 specifically to assist the Bishop of Quebec in his oversight of the whole diocese.

These responsibilities will be added to Archdeacon Simonton’s current work serving the Saint Francis Regional Ministry, and he will continue to live and work primarily in the Eastern Townships. This new role will see him travelling to other parts of our vast diocese from time to time, including to the see city each month.

This appointment continues our diocese’s efforts at finding new ways of working that reflect our current realities. In the place of four territorial archdeacons (Quebec, St. Francis, Gaspé, and North Shore), Archdeacon Simonton will serve the whole of the diocese. The Ven. Pierre Voyer will continue to serve as Archdeacon of Saint-Laurent, with special responsibility for French-language ministries throughout the diocese.

Archdeacon Simonton came to the Diocese of Quebec in 2012 after fruitful parish ministries in the dioceses of Cariboo and Montreal. Having served as Archdeacon of St. Andrews (2006-2012) and Archdeacon of St. Francis (2012-2016), he brings considerable gifts of administration, theological acumen, and pastoral experience to these new responsibilities.

This appointment takes effect on January 1, 2017. To complement the change in terminology, on that date Ms. Marie-Sol Gaudreau’s title will change from Executive Director to Director General, though her responsibilities for overseeing the finances and administration of the diocese will remain the same.

Please pray for Archdeacon Simonton as he takes on these new responsibilities in the life and work of our diocesan church. May you all be richly blessed as we prepare once again to celebrate the gift of the Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us.

The Rt. Rev. Bruce Myers OGS
Bishop Coadjutor and Commissary