

# Catholiques unis au Saint-Père / Catholics United to Peter

## Conseil de Moncton Chapter

www.catholicsunitedtopeter.com

(translation)

April 20, 2007

Msgr. André Richard  
Archbishop of Moncton  
452 Amirault St.  
Dieppe NB E1A 1G3

Your Grace,

As per canon 212 of the Code of Canon Law recognizing “the duty of the faithful to manifest to the sacred Pastors their opinion on matters which pertain to the good of the Church”, please find attached a document prepared by our group which highlights the establishment of a “new” Church in the Moncton diocese.

This “new” Church model, is proposed to the students of the Lay Ministry Program , as part of the course titled *Lay ministries* given by Fr. Yvon LeBlanc. This model is radically opposed to the teachings of *Lumen Gentium*, adopted by Vatican II.

Our document also exposes the open dissent by members of the diocesan committee *Femmes en Église* (Women in the Church) against Church magisterium, particularly with respect to the access of women to the priesthood. The Holy Father made a definitive decision on this matter in 1994 (**Ordinatio Sacerdotalis**), followed in 1998 by **Ad tuendam fidem** affirming that « each and everything set forth definitively by the magisterium of the Church regarding teaching on faith and morals must be firmly accepted and held; namely, those things required for the holy keeping and faithful exposition of the deposit of faith; therefore, anyone who rejects propositions which are to be held definitively sets himself against the teaching of the Catholic Church. ».

Moreover, our document highlights the links that exist between the dissident elements in the diocese with other organizations opposed to Church magisterium, notably Réseau culture et foi, the Canadian wing of the *International Movement We are Church (IMWAC)*.

Our document also deals with the distribution by the diocesan bookstore of publications by known dissident authors, as well as their use in adult catechesis courses (Immaculate Heart of Mary, Fall 2006). We also raise serious reservations regarding the creation of small faith communities based on the model proposed by Fr. Pierre Goudreault, because they do not come under the purview of Church authorities. In fact, they form an important link of this new dissident Church.

Because of your responsibility of defending “the integrity and unity of the faith », we ask that you take all necessary measures to put an end to the establishment of this dissident Church in the Moncton diocese and that you publically re-affirm the full communion of our diocese with the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

We recommend that the diocesan committee *Femmes en Église* be abolished and that you call upon its members to dissolve the group, as they have “set themselves against the teachings of the Catholic Church“. We also ask that should they decide to maintain their association, they be prevented from using Church properties for their activities.

We find it necessary for the purpose of maintaining the integrity and unity of the faith that the faithful be informed of the definitive nature of the decision made by Pope John Paul II concerning the access of women to the priesthood and that they be asked to “firmly embrace and retain“ this doctrine (Canons 386, 750, § 2).

We recommend also that the coordinator of both the Lay Ministry Program and the Diocesan Office for Adult Catechesis be replaced by a person known for his/her adherence to the full teachings of the Church. We recommend that professors of the Lay Ministry Program also adhere to Church magisterium. We recommend moreover that all texts used in adult catechesis, whether the LMP or at the parish level, be reviewed to ensure that they are free from doctrinal errors (Canons 760, 773, 776). We recommend, on the other hand, that the Vatican II documents, *Lumen Gentium* (Church constitution) and *Dominus Christus* (pastoral responsibilities of bishops) be included in the LM Program, as well as the doctrine of the Catholic Church, contained in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (Canons 779, 780).

We recommend that all action to establish small faith communities and small groups of exchange on the Gospel be suspended in the diocese until the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has an opportunity to examine the theology underlining this “**new way of being Church**”.

Considering that certain priests have openly voiced dissent against Church teaching, we recommend that priests having pastoral responsibilities in the diocese be asked to renew their promise of obedience to the Supreme Pontiff (Can. 273) and to show reverence towards him (Canons 279, 760, 768, 1371).

We finally recommend that all books sold by the diocesan bookstore be reviewed and those found to contain teachings contrary to the magisterium be expurgated (Canons 823, 827).

The organized and open disobedience towards Church magisterium in our diocese causes considerable damage to the Church. It weakens her and keeps her from accomplishing her mission of evangelization. It is also a cause of great suffering for many of the faithful. For these reasons, we ask that you act promptly to re-establish “the common discipline of the whole Church” (Canon 392).

We are willing to meet with you on these issues, should you deem it necessary or advisable . A reply would be appreciated.

Your Grace and all of your brothers of the episcopate and members of the religious are always in our prayers.

Yours in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Ouellet', with a long, sweeping tail extending to the right.

James Ouellet  
Chapter Chair  
54, Martin Rd., Grande-Digue NB, E4R 4V5

c.c. Msgr. Luigi Ventura, Apostolic Nuncio

P.S. The attached document will be made available to the public