

Laurentian Regional Ministry settles in

Archdeacon Ralph Leavitt was formally installed as incumbent of the new Laurentian Regional Ministry and the Rev. Nick Pang as associate priest at a service in St. Simeon's Church, Lachute, on Sunday, August 2.

Preaching at the service in one of his last acts as bishop of Montreal, the Right Rev. Barry Clarke said that, like the Christians of the First Century, those of the 21st need to overcome rivalries and work together.

Archdeacon Leavitt, who was already territorial archdeacon of St. Andrew's, of which the new regional ministry is a part, continues to live in Ste. Agathe, part of the regional ministry. Nick Pang moved to the rectory in Lachute in July after serving as assistant and then priest-in-charge of St. George's Place du Canada in downtown Montreal. The Rev. Paul Tidman retired at the end of June after five years' service as priest of St. Simeon's.

Two of the accompanying photos by Tony Hadley of the St. George's congregation show Nick Pang preaching his last sermon there and Sylvia White of the St. George's Guild presenting him with a cope, a warm vestment often worn for outdoor liturgies in a chilly weather. Other photos, by Harvey Shepherd, are from the induction service, attended by a capacity congregation of about 150.

A spring-summer newsletter of Trinity Church in Morin Heights and St. Francis of the Birds in St. Saver provides some detail on the new Laurentian Regional Ministry, serving 10 churches in the Laurentians. They are the churches in Ste. Agathe, Arundel, Kilkenny, Morin Heights, St. Sauveur and Lachute and four churches of the "Lower Laurentians": in Louisa, Dunany, Lakefield and Mille Îles.

Archdeacon Leavitt and Nick Pang are joined on the regional ministry team by several retired clergy and lay readers.

"As no one church can afford full-time ministry on its own, the regional team will be able to provide for our needs, hopefully at a lower



cost," the newsletter says.

"We owe so much to the group of lay readers and priests who have given so generously of their time and energy to ensure that we continued to have weekly services during this period without regular ministry. We have truly, truly benefitted from the gifts they each brought us: different energies, different approaches to the weekly texts, insights, personal reflections, smiles, warmth, love they have shared.

The jointly owned rectory in Morin Heights that served then church there and the one in Ste Agathe has been sold.

"In some ways this is a sad step giving up part of our tradition and heritage..." the newsletter says. "But in today's reality very few parishes can manage the costs of full ministry and the associated costs such as a rectory. So in another way it is a release from the financial burden of upkeep which has been a reality for so long."

