

## **New Bishop Installed for Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador**



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*(St. John's, NL, April 13, 2011)*

Archbishop Martin Currie, Metropolitan Archbishop for the ecclesiastical province of Newfoundland and Labrador, is pleased to announce that this evening, Wednesday, April 13, 2011, Bishop Peter Hundt will be installed as Bishop of the Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador.

Tonight's ceremony signifies a new beginning for the Diocese, and will include many traditions based on Scripture and rich in symbolism, some of them dating to the second and third centuries.

Bishop Hundt will arrive at the front door of the Cathedral of the Most Holy Redeemer and of the Immaculate Conception. He will knock three times on the door, a ritual based on Revelation 3:20, where Jesus says, "Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you, and eat with you, and you with me." The door will be opened by Msgr. Edwin Gale, the Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador. Most Reverend Martin W. Currie, the Metropolitan Archbishop of St. John's, will introduce Bishop Hundt saying, "I present to you the Most Reverend Peter Joseph Hundt, who has come here to be installed as Bishop of the Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador."

Once inside the church, Bishop Hundt will be given a container of holy water and a crucifix. He will kiss the crucifix, offering an ancient gesture showing reverence for Christ and Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Bishop Hundt will bless himself with the holy water as a reminder that he enters the Church through the waters of baptism. He will then sprinkle some of the holy water on the people in the Assembly as a sign that they are brothers and sisters in Christ through baptism.

In another ritual steeped in tradition, Archbishop Currie will lead Bishop Hundt to the Episcopal Chair, called the *cathedra*. It is from this word that our word *cathedral* takes its origin. It is a symbol of his authority and his role as teacher in the tradition of the apostles. Archbishop Currie will also place in Bishop Hundt's hands a crozier, or pastoral staff, a sign of his role as shepherd of the people of the Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador.

Representing Pope Benedict XVI at tonight's liturgy will be Archbishop Pedro Lopez Quintana, Papal Nuncio, or representative, to the nation and the Church of Canada. Archbishop Quintana will bring greetings from His Holiness.

*Backgrounder: Bishop Peter Joseph Hundt*

**Most Reverend Peter Joseph Hundt**, served as Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Toronto until March 1, 2011. Bishop Hundt was born on a dairy farm in Hanover, Ontario, on August 26, 1956. He attended St. Peter's Seminary in London and was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Hamilton on May 8, 1982. After serving as an associate pastor at St. Eugene Parish in Hamilton from 1982 to 1985, Bishop Hundt completed graduate studies at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome, and in 1987 was awarded a license in canon law. On returning to Canada, he served as Vice-Chancellor of the Hamilton Diocese from 1987 until 1990 and as Chancellor from 1990 to 1994. From 1994 - 2006, Bishop Hundt served as the pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Georgetown, Ont. He was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto by Pope Benedict XVI on February 11, 2006 and his Episcopal ordination was celebrated on April 25, 2006 at the Cathedral of Christ the King, Hamilton, Ontario.

**Background:** *The Roman Catholic Church in Newfoundland and Labrador* The Ecclesiastical Province of Newfoundland and Labrador is comprised of three dioceses: The Archdiocese of St. John's, the Diocese of Grand Falls and the Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador. St. John's is the *Metropolitan See*, and therefore its bishop holds the rank of Archbishop. The Archbishop of St. John's is Martin W. Currie. He became Archbishop in November, 2007, after serving as Bishop of Grand Falls since 2001. From November 28, 2007 to March 1, 2011, Archbishop Currie continued to serve as Bishop of Grand Falls. With the appointment of Bishop Anthony Daniels, Archbishop Currie ceases to serve as Bishop of Grand Falls.

**Background:** *Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador.* The Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador was formerly known as the Diocese of St. George's, and was canonically erected as a diocese in 1904. It was at this time that St. John's became an Archdiocese and the Metropolitan See for the new ecclesiastical province of Newfoundland and Labrador. As of September 9, 2007 the Labrador section of the province became part of the new Diocese of Corner Brook and

Labrador. The diocese comprises the western "slice" of the island of Newfoundland along the Gulf of St. Lawrence. To the east it borders the Diocese of Grand Falls. The 28 parishes in the Diocese are home to 35,140 Roman Catholics. The Diocese is served by 38 priests.