



## Press Release

### Support Website for Outreach Services

*For Immediate Release*

(St. John's, NL, February 11, 2011) The Archdiocese of St. John's is incorporating a new education support tool for outreach services in the delivery of pastoral work, with the creation of a new Archdiocesan website, [www.rcsj.org](http://www.rcsj.org)

As today, February 11, commemorates the **World Day of Prayer for the Sick** it is only fitting that Archbishop Martin W. Currie has chosen to extend the recognition of caregivers to the online Archdiocesan community. The new social support website will provide a means to minister in a digital age, and to better communicate with parishioners and staff.

Archbishop Currie says "The Archdiocese has come to recognize the importance of using the internet as a valuable resource to reach out to the sick, weak and vulnerable in delivery of counseling services through pastoral care. It is with welcome arms the Church is embracing the many advances in technology as a medium which will provide enhanced communications and support to those who avail of outreach services."

The formal inauguration of the Archdiocesan website, [www.rcsj.org](http://www.rcsj.org), is being held in conjunction with the World Day of Prayer for the Sick on February 11, 2011 at St. Teresa's Parish Church in St. John's. The Archdiocese of St. John's partnered with Pilot<sup>o</sup> Communications in the development and delivery of the Archdiocesan website as a state of the art outreach support and communications tool.

**About The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. John's** – The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of St. John's was incorporated on May 12, 1897. Archbishop Martin William Currie was installed as the twelfth Archbishop of St. John's on November 30, 2007. Previously he had served as the Bishop of the Diocese of Grand Falls since December 12, 2000. The Archdiocese of St. John's services 72 churches in 36 parishes from St. John's to Burin and Placentia. As of 2004, the Catholic population of the Archdiocese exists at 111,000 or 52.1% of the population of the geographic area. For more information go to: <http://www.rcsj.org>

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## Backgrounder

### Archbishop Martin W. Currie

Archbishop Martin William Currie was born in Sheet Harbour, Nova Scotia. He studied at St. Francis Xavier University, earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1964. That same year he entered the Seminary, Halifax, and was ordained to the priesthood in Sheet Harbour on May 12, 1968. From 1968-1974, Fr. Currie served as assistant in St. Patrick's Parish, Halifax and St. Charles Parish, Amherst. From 1975-1980 he served in the Archdiocesan mission parish of San Jose Obrero, Chiclayo, Peru. He served as Chaplain at the Halifax County Regional Rehabilitation Centre and was appointed Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Halifax in 1992.

Following a brief study period in Israel, Msgr. Currie was appointed Chancellor of the Archdiocese in 1994 working full time. Msgr. Currie has been Chaplain of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Archdiocesan Director of Propagation of the Faith. He has served on the boards of Nova Scotia Drug Dependency, St. Mary's University and St. Vincent's Guest House.

On December 12, 2000, Msgr. Currie was appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Grand Falls, NL. Upon his Episcopal Ordination on January 31, 2001 he became the 8th bishop of the Diocese. During 2006-2007, he was also named Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Saint John, NB. As a member of the CCCB he has served on the National Council of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace, founded by the Bishops of Canada 40 years ago. Pope Benedict XVI named Most Rev. Martin William Currie as Archbishop of St. John's, Newfoundland Labrador on October 17, 2007. He was installed as the Archbishop of St. John's on Friday, November 30, 2007 at the Basilica-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.

### Fr. Stephen Courtney

Father Steve Courtney was raised in Mount Pearl, Newfoundland along with one sister and two brothers. He graduated from O'Donel High School in 1995 and went on to complete a Bachelor of Arts Degree at Memorial University in 2000. That same year he entered the Seminary and was ordained to the priesthood on June 2, 2005. Fr. Courtney graduated from the University of Toronto - St. Augustine's Seminary in 2005 with a Masters of Divinity and Bachelor of Sacred Theology. He is currently the Pastor for Sacred Heart Parish and St. Patrick's Parish on the Burin Peninsula. Fr. Courtney is also the Vocation Director for the Archdiocese of St. John's and the Administrator for the website [www.rcsj.org](http://www.rcsj.org)