

Transitional Diaconate Ordination Mass – June 9



(St. John's – June 4, 2010) Archbishop Martin Currie of St. John's will ordain Mr. Cecil Critch to the transitional diaconate for the Archdiocese of St. John's at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 9, 2010.

Mr. Critch, 56, the son of the late Cecil Critch and Mary (Power) Critch is from Gaskiers, St. Mary's Bay. He is the oldest of nine children. His younger brother Gerard is a priest in the Diocese of Venice, Florida and another younger brother Frank is studying to be a priest with the Franciscan Friars in Maryland, USA.

Mr. Critch holds a Bachelor of Arts, and Bachelor of Education, Memorial University and a Masters in Educational Administration, University of Toronto. He completed his first year of seminary training at Holy Apostles College and Seminary, Connecticut, USA. This College and Seminary has programs directed mainly towards men who have "later vocations" to the priesthood.

Mr. Critch is well known in the Catholic community in Newfoundland, he was named principal of St. Bonaventure's College, the only Catholic school in St. John's in 1998, a position he held until last year. Previous to this appointment he was a member of the Congregation of Christian Brothers (1971-1998) holding teaching and administration positions in St. Francis High School, Harbour Grace, Laval High School, Placentia; St. Pius X, St. John's; St. Ann's Academy, Kamloops, British Columbia; Roncalli High School, Avondale; St. Patrick's Hall School, St. John's and Brother Rice High School in St. John's.

Transitional deacons are seminarians (students) in their last year of preparation for ordination to the priesthood. The Transitional Diaconate is an important step on the way to the Priesthood. It is normally held the year immediately preceding ordination to the Priesthood.

Through their ordination, Deacons can baptize, assist the priest at Mass, proclaim the Gospel and give homilies, witness at marriages, preside at funeral vigils and graveside committal services, and give blessings. They cannot celebrate Mass, hear confessions or anoint the sick.

Those being ordained are identified as "Rev. Mr.," the title they will have as transitional deacons after ordination.