

CHARITABLE THOUGHTS

ON SEPT. 26, WHEN RAYMOND LAHEY ANNOUNCED, "AFTER MUCH THOUGHT AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, I DECIDED TO SUBMIT TO THE HOLY FATHER MY RESIGNATION AS BISHOP FOR PERSONAL REASONS," THE INITIAL REACTION FROM LOCAL LAITY IN THE KNOW WAS, "OH

GOD, THE CANCER'S RETURNED."

Some time prior to his appointment as Antigonish patriarch in 2003, I am told Lahey, 69, survived prostate cancer.

Of course, Ray lost a good deal of sympathy from the faithful once they learned the real reason behind his abrupt Antigonish kiss-off.

SEX DEGREES OF SEPARATION

OH BOY, LIKE THE FORMER BISHOP OF ANTIGONISH, RAYMOND J. LAHEY, I HAVE A LOT OF TIME ON MY HANDS THESE DAYS. HOWEVER, UNLIKE FORMER BISHOP LAHEY, I ENJOY FULL AND UNFETTERED INTERNET ACCESS.

So, last week surfing the net for info on St. Ninian's, the episcopal seat of the Diocese of Antigonish, I came across, through Google, a site called St. Ninian and our Cathedral.

The site gives you, among other things, the history of St. Ninian's Cathedral, as well as a biographical sketch of St. Ninian.

The Bishop's Message, has, of course, disappeared.

But if you click on Guest Book at the bottom of the page, you'll quickly be transported to something called *chatsubo.com*, whereupon another simple click of your mouse will bring up a splendid array of chat sites including:

- BeNaughty.com
- MeetNaughtyMilfs.com

- OnlineBootyCall.com
- MatureMomChat.com
- AdultWebcamChat.com
- DirtyChat.com
- SexyAdultChat.com

And, oh, yes, lest I forget, TheChristianChatNetwork.com.

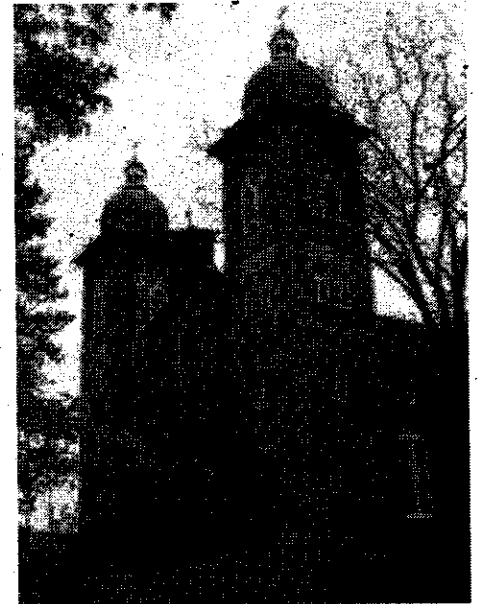
And one more thing, dare you lose your way, these sites are also available through the Official Webpage of the Diocese of Antigonish site, simply by clicking on History of the Diocese, and then clicking the aforementioned Guest Book.

Umm, probably not the best time in the history of the diocese to bring all this up.

Sorry.

The Diocese does point out, however, that it is "not responsible for content on external links, nor does it imply agreement or endorsement of the content."

That's reassuring.



St. Ninian's Cathedral

HOLY ROLLERS, HIGH ROLLERS

BY I. O. DANEEDE

OVER THREE YEARS AGO, THE SHEPHERD'S TRUST FUNDRAISER NETTED ABOUT \$511,000 FOR RETIRED ANTIGONISH CLERGY.

Now parishioners face the prospect of raising more than 25 times the amount, for its \$13 million abuse settlement. As a pre-scandal Bishop Lahey acknowledged to the Casket in August, "Obviously there are going to be very heavy financial burdens upon every parish."

Many of the nearly 130,000 Antigonish Catholics believe Rome should step up to the collection plate. In a related newsflash, someday hell may freeze over.

But no doubt more than one camel has squeezed through the eye of a needle, when Antigonish priests line up at the pearly gates.

Dating back to 2003, I see where the net worth of 15 probated estates of Antigonish curates combine for over \$4.6 million.

The largest belonged to Father Donald Belland, who was worth a heavenly \$1.2 million when he died at 78 on Feb. 3, 2007. While Don's brother Ray Belland was the chief beneficiary, the Diocese and St. FX made off with \$5,000 apiece.

North Sydney native Father Hector MacDonald, who at 79 died 10 days after Father Don, left the Antigonish Catholic Episcopal Corp. a more sizeable donation, bequeathing the Diocese over half his \$206,000 estate. (Father Hector also earmarked \$14,000 to various parishes and charities.)

Father Daniel Alphonsus Doyle, 89, gave former Bishop Lahey \$20,000 from his \$320,000 estate, and directed \$50,000 to the priests pension fund and \$1,000 to the Chancery office (Frank 462). Father Phorse, who died March 5, 2005, did not stipulate any gift to the Diocese per se.

Five additional Fathers amassed estates over \$250,000. Longtime St. FX education prof Murdock MacLean, 88, was worth \$564,135 at his Aug. 19, 2008 death; St. FX English faculty-member Vincent MacLellan, who died June 24, 2009, was worth \$429,932; former Bishop William Power, 88, boasted a \$418,333 estate after his November 2003 death; West Louisbourg priest and St. FX prof Gerald Power, 82, who died Jan. 27, 2008, was worth \$278,505; and Second World War veteran William DeCourcy, 82,

SISTER CAN YOU SPARE A DIME?

BY KATH LICK

DIOCESANE SPOKESPERSON FATHER PAUL ABBASS WAS UNAVAILABLE AT PRESSTIME TO DISCUSS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A \$1-MILLION LOAN THE ANTIGONISH CATHOLIC EPISCOPAL CORP. RECEIVED FROM THE SISTERS OF SAINT MARTHA IN EARLY SEPTEMBER.

On Sept. 2, a month after announcing its \$13 million abuse settlement, Antigonish vice-general Father Sandy MacNeil signed off on a promissory note to repay the good sisters \$1 million by Sept. 2, 2012.

Of course, the nuns are not charging interest.

As security for the million-dollar loan, the Diocese has put up the bishop's house on 23 Silverwood Dr., the 168 Hawthorne St. Chancery Office and a Margaree Street property as collateral.

had accumulated \$256,747 at his Nov. 25, 2006 death.

At presstime, I had not seen the contents of their wills.