



THE VENERABLE DR EDWARD SIMONTON OGS  
M.A. (HONS), M.TH., FRAI, FRSAI, FSA SCOT, KLJ, KCHT, OCS, MMCM

VICAR GENERAL & ARCHDEACON OF QUEBEC

SECRETARY- GENERAL OF THE ORATORY OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD  
ANGLICAN-ORIENTAL ORTHODOX INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION

Archdeacon Simonton is from the Deep South of the United States. His mother's people are from Savannah, Georgia, while his father's, descended from Lowland Scots, are from Spalding County outside Atlanta. At a young age he left home to attend all-male Anglican boarding schools in New England before moving to Scotland in his late teens where he lived for a decade. For three years he worked with the Anglican order of Franciscans ministering to the homeless and the terminally ill. He spent ten years at university reading for degrees in Scotland at the University of Edinburgh and in England reading towards a Ph.D. at the University of Cambridge where he became a member of Peterhouse, the university's oldest college. He was elected a fellow of three academic societies, two founded to study history and one anthropology. He completed a doctoral dissertation on anthropology and liturgy in 2015. He continues to study at Bishop's University on a part time basis.

The Archdeacon is a professed brother of the Oratory of the Good Shepherd (OGS). The Oratory is one of the oldest Anglican male religious communities, being founded at University of Cambridge before the Great War. This large international community has brethren in Australia, Africa, Europe, and North America. Its main focus is on prayer, attentiveness, and the labour of the mind. It has counted some of the most distinguished Anglican theologians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century amongst its members. Professed brothers take traditional solemn promises of simplicity, celibacy, and obedience to the will of the brethren. The Archdeacon is currently serving his third three year term as the Secretary-General of the Oratory and as such, with the Father Superior, administers the worldwide community. Bishops and priests of the Oratory, in common with many religious communities, are styled 'Father'.

Father Edward was sponsored for ordained ministry by the last Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Williams of Oystermouth. Taking scriptural guidance from the verse "not my will, but thine, be done," he has never held a position that he was not sought out to fill. While working for another Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Carey of Clifton, at the Lambeth Conference of 1998, he met the Bishop of Cariboo who requested from The Bishop of Edinburgh, Richard Holloway, that he be released to come to Canada for temporary work in a remote mission parish in the Rocky Mountains. After three years, the Archbishop of Montreal asked him to take up ministry in Quebec, where he served as the Regional Dean of the Laurentians and the Archdeacon of St Andrews from 2006. After a decade the Bishop of Quebec requested he take up ministry in the Eastern Townships as the Archdeacon of St Francis. In 2017 Bishop Myers appointed him Vicar General of the diocese and Archdeacon of Quebec. Except for brief ministries in a parish in Edinburgh and Chaplaincy at the University of Edinburgh, Fr Edward has ministered in rural areas.

For most of his ministry Fr Edward has been engaged in formal Youth Ministry at the parish, diocesan, provincial and international levels. He served as Youth Chaplain for the Diocese of Cariboo, the Province of British Columbia and the Yukon, Youth Chaplain for the Diocese of Montreal, and was the Canadian Co-ordinator for Youth Leaders International. He was a Governor of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College for over a decade. He currently runs four youth groups in Lennoxville.

As Diocesan Liturgical Officer for Quebec and former Diocesan Liturgical Officer for Montreal, Fr Edward has been able to pursue liturgical work. He is currently one of the members of the Liturgy Working Group of the Anglican Church of Canada. He served the national church as a member of the Liturgy Task Force which held the mandate to review and revise the liturgy of the Canadian Church. He is the Convenor of the group revising the liturgical calendar. He has also been a member of the International Anglican Liturgical Consultation, the Anglican Communion's Liturgy Committee.

As Chair of one of three Standing Committees of the Diocese of Montreal he was heavily involved in the production of administrative tools for the Church such as Mutual Ministry Reviews, Episcopal Reviews, HR policies, and the production of the Diocesan Clergy Handbook and Warden's Handbook. He is also a facilitator of the 'Fresh Start' programme for leading clergy and congregations through periods of transition or conflict. As well as parish and diocesan administration, Fr Edward has overseen large restoration projects, parochial and deanery reorganisation, and financial management.

As well as serving in Diocesan (Diocesan Executive Council & Bishop's Council, Vice President of Church Society, and Chair of the Examining Chaplains), Provincial (Provincial Synod), and National (General Synod & Nominating Committee) positions, he also works for the international church. He was appointed by the current Archbishop of Canterbury as one of the seven emissaries to the Oriental Orthodox churches. Lambeth Palace and the Communion Office in London, gives responsibility for international theological and ecumenical dialogue to theologians representing the worldwide church. During a recent meeting in Egypt, the work of the last forty years found fruition in a common Christological Statement which healed the schism of Chalcedon (1600 years ago).

He reads and writes widely on theology, philosophy, liturgy, history, anthropology, art, poetry, literature, current affairs, science fiction, and popular culture. For eight years he wrote a monthly column for the *Montreal Anglican* for which he was awarded best columnist by the Anglican Editor's Association. Besides reading and writing his main interest is travelling. He has travelled extensively and spent his last sabbatical working with the ancient indigenous churches of the east in India. He attends several Agricultural Fairs each year in the Eastern Townships and New England.

He is the Registrar of the Memorial of Merit of King Charles the Martyr (MMCM), founded by Her Majesty's grandfather, one of its two officers. He has been recognised and decorated by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (KCHT), and the Order of St Lazarus (KLJ) for ecumenical work, and is a member of the Order of the Crown of Stuart (OCS). He has been a member of the Savile Club in Mayfair, London since 1996. He owns a cat – Doofus.

**LENT 2018**