

CENTRE D'ARCHIVES DE LA GRANDE ZONE ARGILEUSE  
Archival Description

**Title:** Fonds Jean-Roch Pelletier

**Dates:** 1946-2001, 2003, and 2008.

**Extent of descriptive unit:** 0.2 m of textual documents and other.

**Administrative history or biography:** Jean-Roch Pelletier was born on May 10, 1930 in St-Louis-du-Ha! Ha!, a small parish village in the Témiscouata regional county located in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region of Quebec. He is the son of Herménégilde Pelletier and Marie-Anne Ouellet. He is the third child of a family of seven; two of his siblings also had religious careers.

In 1946, Pelletier leaves his hometown to pursue his *cours classique* at the Collège de Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière. After receiving a Bachelor of Arts in 1954, Pelletier starts his biblical studies at the Grand Séminaire de Rimouski, a theological college. After completing his degree in 1958, he is ordained to the priesthood in his hometown. The then Bishop of Hearst, Mgr Louis Levesque, who was from the same region as Pelletier, immediately recruits him to come to work in the diocese. Pelletier will spend more than fifty years working as a priest in Northeastern Ontario.

From 1958 to 1973, he teaches mathematics, French and religion at the Collège de Hearst, now the Université de Hearst. Director of students and manager of the boarding school from 1963 to 1971, general administrator from 1971 to 1973, he also acts as the priest for local missions in Nassau Lake and in Calstock.

After he leaves the college in 1973, he is assigned to the Saint-Pie-X parish, also located in Hearst. In 1977, he is transferred to the Notre-Dame-de-l'Assomption parish, also known as the Hearst Cathedral. Starting in 1983, he is the priest for both the Sainte-Rita parish in Val Rita and the Saint-Stanislas parish in Harty. He also acts as a moderator for the Saint-Antoine-de-Padoue parish in Opatatika from 1987 to 1991. Pelletier then returns to Hearst to become an assistant priest at the Cathedral until 2001.

Father Pelletier also carried out different diocesan functions, including director of the Caisse de Compensation des Prêtres starting in 1969. From 1971 to 1977, he is the diocesan procurator, a role he resumes from 1991 to 1999. Pelletier becomes the general episcopal vicar in 1990, a position he occupies until 1995. He will also serve as the diocesan chaplain for the Knights of Columbus, for the Cursillo Movement and for Scouts Canada. He is also a member of various church groups including the Council of Economic Affairs, the Staff Committee and the Episcopal Council. He officially retires in August 2001, but remains active in the Church until his death on November 11, 2008 at the age of 78.

In the community, Pelletier is a member of the Board of directors of La Maison Arc-en-ciel in Opatatika as well as a member of the Club Soleil des Aînés. He is given an honorary doctorate degree from the Université de Hearst in 2003 to commemorate his contribution to the Collège de Hearst. The degree was awarded to him during the year of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the university.

**Scope and content:** The fonds contains textual, photographic and audio documents relating to Jean-Roch Pelletier's personal life and religious career starting with his collegial studies in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region. The fonds also retraces the fifty years he spent serving as a priest in Northern Ontario.

The fonds contains three series:

Vie personnelle;  
Vie religieuse;  
Vie communautaire.

**Sources of information:** Document entitled « Renseignements sur les prêtres du diocèse de Hearst » (JRP2-013-03); speech by Jean-Pierre Bergevin entitled « Hommage au Père Jean-Roch Pelletier » (JRP3-022-02); Diocese of Hearst website ([www.hearstdioocese.com](http://www.hearstdioocese.com)).

**Physical description:** The fonds consists of five boxes: one box of textual documents, one box of photographs, one small box of slides, one box of artifacts and one large box containing oversized documents.

**Physical condition:** A few textual and photographic documents are damaged.

**Conservation:** Some digital photos have been retouched.

**Immediate source of acquisition:** The Centre d'archives de la Grande Zone argileuse acquired the fonds from Father Rémi Lessard, executor of Jean-Roch Pelletier's will, in 2010.

**Arrangement:** The archivist organized the records once acquired. Some items found in the aggregation of documents were not kept in the fonds.

**Language:** The majority of the records are in French except a few letters written in Latin and in English.

**Originals and reproductions:** The oversized documents have been scanned.

**Availability of other formats:** Digital copies of the negatives, photographs and slides exist. Part of this digitized material can be viewed in a database. Some audio reels have also been transferred in digital format. The digitized material is not available online.

**Restrictions on access:** No restrictions imposed by the donor. Documents found in file JPR1-026 have not all been processed. Only a few of the audio reel recordings have been digitized and are available to researchers.

**Terms governing use and reproduction:** Copyright Act applies. Reproduction permitted depending on the condition of the documents.

**Finding aids:** A research tool, a detailed inventory of the textual and photographic documents and a database are available. A list of the non-retained items found in the aggregation of documents is also available.

**Accruals:** No further accruals expected.

**Descriptors:** Pelletier, Jean-Roch  
*see also*, Pelletier, J-R  
Religion – Ontario, Northeastern  
Hearst diocese  
Hearst (Ont.)  
Québec (Prov.) – Bas-Saint-Laurent

Last updated September 2012.