

**Archbishop Martin Currie**

**Archbishop of St. John's and Bishop of Grand Falls**

**Date: March 14, 2009**

On behalf of the Roman Catholic community of Newfoundland and Labrador I would like to express my sincere sympathy and condolences to the families and friends of those who died in the tragic helicopter crash on Thursday.

I also extend my condolences to the colleagues of these men and women at Cougar and Husky and extend our appreciation to these companies and the men and women of Search and Rescue who lead the recovery effort.

I would like to assure you that all our parishes will offer prayers for those that have died and consolation to the families.

A number of the deceased are of the Roman Catholic faith and the priests in these particular parishes are now supporting these families.

We have assured Cougar officials that both our personnel and facilities are available to them.

In the Roman Catholic tradition the feast day of St. Patrick, that will be celebrated on Tuesday, March 17 has always been recognized as an important day. In keeping with the tradition of the day the Basilica Cathedral will be available to those seeking a place of reflection and solace in their time of need until 8:00 p.m. in the evening.

In all masses throughout the week priests will be offering prayers of intercession for those that have died and their families.

We also pray for the speedy recovery of Robert Decker the sole survivor of this tragic accident.