

5. Whenever a charge or charges against any Priest or Deacon shall have been reduced to writing and delivered to the Bishop, it shall then be the duty of the Bishop to cause to be served personally on the accused a certified copy thereof, together with notices of the time and place of trial, both of which the Bishop shall prescribe or fix.

6. The charges and notice shall be so served at least thirty days before the time appointed for the trial. In case of the innocence or acquittal of the accused, every reasonable effort shall be made to clear the character aspersed, in public estimation, at the expense of the accusers.

7. In the event of a public rumour prevailing against a Clergyman as having committed any of the Ecclesiastical offences above enumerated, the Clergyman may, upon application in writing to the Bishop or his Commissary, complaining of such rumour, and asserting its falsity, obtain an inquiry by commission, as hereinbefore provided, into the particulars of such rumour, and an opportunity be afforded to such Clergyman of exculpating himself.

ARTICLE III.

1. There shall be a Court to be called "The Diocesan Court of Montreal," to try such charges as may be preferred against any Priest or Deacon of the said Diocese.

2. It shall be composed of fifteen Priests, who shall be annually elected by ballot, by a majority of the Diocesan Synod, at its annual meeting, and who shall continue in office until others shall have been chosen in their places.

3. The Bishop shall have power to fill all vacancies which may occur by removal from the Diocese, by death or by election to the episcopate, or in case any one of them be the party accused, until the next meeting of Synod.

4. The Court shall name from among their body a clerk whose duty it shall be to keep a record of all the proceedings had before the Court.

5. The Church Advocate (as hereinafter appointed) shall give notice in writing at least fifteen days before the day fixed for trial, to the party accused, to attend before the Clerical Secretary of the Synod, time and place being mentioned in the notice, when