

Dear Parishioners,

Today Bishop Dowd made an announcement with respect to my retirement as well as naming the new Pastor.

The decision to retire is not one that was taken hurriedly or without prayer. For more than two years I have been discerning the Spirit's will for me. I remember talking to my sister when she was making the decision to retire from teaching – I asked her why she had made the decision to retire at this particular point in her life and her answer was “you just know it's time”. I have had many conversations with other people who have made the decision to retire and I have heard those words “it's time” echoed often. Although I believed them, I did not understand them until that same awareness happened in my life. For those of you who have already retired you probably understand “it's time”, for those of you who are not yet retired – many of you may come to understand “it's time”.

Retiring as a priest does not mean ceasing to minister. I am still a priest in good standing in the diocese and will continue to celebrate the sacraments and minister as a priest. I will be staying in North Bay - I love this community - so we will still be seeing each other.

I wish to thank Bishop Plouffe, Bishop Damphousse and Bishop Dowd for their support and encouragement.

It is important that I acknowledge the staff of the Pro-Cathedral and the Deacons and DOWs. If my time here was at all fruitful, it was because of their work and energy as co-workers in the mission to proclaim and live out the Kingdom of God.

I would like to thank the parishioners who have volunteered, prayed for, and supported our Cathedral over the years. You are the heart and soul of the community.

In the announcement it was stated that the priest who is replacing me is Fr. Larry Rymes. I was grateful to God that he accepted the Bishop's invitation to become your new Pastor and I know he will have your support as he will have mine.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Msgr Dave". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Rev. Msgr. Dave Tramontini
Rector, Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption**

19 May 2021