

Roman Catholic Diocese
of Sault Ste. Marie



Diocèse catholique romain
de Sault Ste-Marie

May 5, 2021

Dear Brother Priests, Deacons and Parishioners:

It is with joy that I announce the appointment of the new Vicar General for the Diocese, Fr. Roch Martin. Fr. Martin is currently Pastor of St. Jean-de-Brébeuf Church in Sudbury. His new appointment will take effect August 1, 2021.

The position of Vicar General has been vacant since May 2020, when my predecessor, Bishop Marcel Dampousse was appointed Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall. A vicar general is a priest who assists the Bishop in the governance of a diocese, and has authority to act on behalf of the Bishop. On his appointment, the vicar general becomes the highest-ranking official of a diocese after the Bishop.

Rev. Father Roch Martin was born in Sturgeon Falls, Ontario, in 1964. He studied philosophy and theology at the University of Sudbury and St-Paul University, Ottawa. In 1989, he completed a Baccalaureate in Education at Laurentian University, Sudbury. After obtaining his Teacher's Certificate, he became a teacher in a Catholic school in southwestern Ontario. He then completed his studies in 1995 at St-Paul University Seminary in Ottawa with a Masters in Pastoral Sciences at St-Paul University, Ottawa. He was ordained to the priesthood on November 10, 1995. He has since served in many parishes in Greater Sudbury.

Fr. Martin is highly respected by both the clergy and parishioners of our Diocese, and will undoubtedly serve us well in this new position. I am very much looking forward to working together with him.

A new pastor for St. Jean-de-Brebeuf Church in Sudbury will be announced at a later date.

Be assured of my constant prayers and trust in the Lord.

Yours in Christ,

+ Thomas Dowd
Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie

