

Pope Leo XIV appoints
Reverend Roch Martin
as the new Bishop of Timmins

*Bishop-Elect Martin, a priest of the
Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie,
will become the 8th Bishop of the
Diocese of Timmins
succeeding Bishop Serge Poitras*



Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie



Diocèse de Sault Ste-Marie

MEDIA RELEASE

May 1, 2026

Communications Contact: Fr. Daniele Muscolino
d.muscolino@ssmd.ca | 705-495-1501

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POPE LEO XIV APPOINTS NEW BISHOP OF TIMMINS

Bishop-Elect Roch Martin becomes the 8th Bishop of the Diocese of Timmins

SUDBURY, ON – His Holiness, Pope Leo XIV, announced today the appointment of Reverend Roch Martin, a priest of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie, as the next Bishop of Timmins. He succeeds Bishop Serge Poitras, who has led the diocese since 2012. Bishop-elect Roch Martin will become the 8th bishop of the Diocese of Timmins, which serves a vast territory in northeastern Ontario.

Bishop-elect Martin was born on September 26, 1964, in Sturgeon Falls, Ontario. After completing his secondary education at Franco-Cité High School in Sturgeon Falls (1978-1983), he pursued university studies at Laurentian University in Sudbury (1983-1986), followed by seminary formation at Saint Paul University in Ottawa (1986-1988). Before completing his seminary formation, he was a teacher in southwestern Ontario (1989-1993).

He was ordained to the diaconate on August 6, 1995, at St. Joseph Parish in Chelmsford by Bishop Jean-Louis Plouffe. His priestly ordination took place on November 10, 1995, at Sacré-Cœur Parish in Sturgeon Falls, again by Bishop Plouffe.

He served as Pastor in many parishes in the Greater Sudbury area (1995-2021). He was appointed Vicar General of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie on August 1, 2021.

The date of his episcopal ordination has not yet been set. It will be announced once arrangements are finalized.

Bishop Poitras will remain in office until the new bishop takes canonical possession of the diocese.

The faithful are asked to keep Bishop-elect Roch Martin in their prayers as he prepares to assume his new responsibilities.

The Diocese of Timmins has 28 parishes and missions, with a Catholic population of 48,900.

- 30 -

Additional Information for Media:

About Bishop-Elect Roch Martin:

A priest of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie, Bishop-elect Martin was born on September 26, 1964, in Sturgeon Falls, Ontario. He was ordained a deacon on August 6, 1995, at St. Joseph Parish in Chelmsford by Bishop Jean-Louis Plouffe; and ordained a priest on November 10, 1995, at Sacré-Cœur Parish in Sturgeon Falls, again by Bishop Plouffe. He served as Pastor in many parishes in the Greater Sudbury area (1995-2021). He was appointed Vicar General of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie on August 1, 2021. The date of his ordination as a Bishop will be announced at a later date.

About the Diocese of Timmins:

The Diocese of Timmins was originally established on December 31, 1915 as the Diocese of Haileybury. After losing several parts of its territory to the Prefecture Apostolic of Northern Ontario, the Dioceses of Amos and the Vicariate Apostolic of James Bay, on December 10, 1938, the name was changed to the Diocese of Timmins. The Diocese comprises the south eastern part of the District of Cochrane, and the entire District of Timiskaming.

About Bishop Serge Poitras:

Bishop Serge Poitras was born on May 27, 1949, in Jonquière, Quebec. After studies in Chicoutimi and Quebec City, he was ordained to the priesthood on May 27, 1973, for the Diocese of Chicoutimi. He holds a Master's degree in theology from Laval University, Quebec City, and a doctorate in theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome. He was appointed Bishop of Timmins on November 10, 2012 by Pope Benedict XVI. Bishop Poitras offered his resignation upon his 75th birthday in accordance with the requirements of canon law. Bishop Poitras will remain in office until Bishop-Elect Martin takes canonical possession of the diocese.

Contacts: **Fr. Daniele Muscolino**
Communications Contact
d.muscolino@ssmd.ca
705-495-1501

Online: www.dioceseofsaultstemarie.org

Photo Caption: Pope Leo XVI appoints Reverend Roch Martin (pictured) as the new Bishop of Timmins.

