



Infifax



Changes in staff and appointments of priests

In the difficult context of the COVID-19 pandemic, Diocesan life continues its journey. This year there will be several changes in the Pastoral staff.

At the end of June 2021, two of our Diocesan priests are retiring: Msgr. Patrick D. Lafleur C.S.S., Vicar General and Parish Priest of St. Anthony of Padua Cathedral Parish as well as Father Germain Turcotte, Parish Priest of St. Jean-Baptiste Parish in Earlton, Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours in Belle Vallée and Nativity of Our Lord in Elk Lake.

I thank them for the priestly ministry they have exercised in our Diocese for many years and I wish them a fruitful retirement. I know they will continue to be available to do ministry as needed. It would have been nice and appropriate to express our gratitude to them on the Solemnity of St. Anthony that was scheduled on June 13; but the current health restrictions require us to postpone this celebration until next year.

In this context, some priests will assume new responsibilities that will take effect on July 1st, 2021:

- 1- Father Ghislain Ndongji Tshiwisa O.F.M.: appointed **Vicar General and Pastoral Coordinator** of the Diocese, while remaining Parish Priest of St. Croix Parish in Haileybury.
- 2- Father John Lemire: appointed **Parish Priest of St. Anthony of Padua Cathedral Parish**, while remaining Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Parish in Timmins. An African priest is expected to arrive in July to assist him as vicar in these same two parishes.
- 3- Father Ghislain Muthu Miji O.F.M.: appointed **Parish Priest of Saint-Jean-Baptiste Parish in Earlton, Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours in Belle Vallée and Nativity of Our Lord in Elk Lake**, while remaining Parish Priest of the Sacre-Coeur Parish in New Liskeard.
- 4- Father Stéphane Kazadi Sanga O.F.M.: appointed **Coordinator of the Southern Pastoral Region**, while remaining Parish Priest of Assomption-de-la-Bienheureuse-Vierge-Marie Parish in Kirkland Lake, Notre-Dame-du-Lac Parish in Larder Lake, Saint-Pierre-Apotre Parish in Virginiatown and Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission in Matachewan.
- 5- Father Richard Ngoy: appointed **Coordinator of the Northern Pastoral Region**, while remaining Parish Priest of Notre-Dame-de-la-Paix in Timmins.

6- Father Germain Turcotte: Although retired, appointed a **collaborating priest for Sacramental Ministry** in the Parishes of Saint-Jean-Baptiste in Earlton and Nativity Parish of Our Lord in Elk Lake.

I thank these priests who have generously accepted these new responsibilities in the service of the Lord and his Church. I invite the faithful to support them with their prayers and to work with them for the good of our Parish Communities and the Diocese.

As can be noted, this July (2021), only three of our Diocesan priests will exercise a full-time ministry: Father John Lemire, Father Wayne Mills, and Father Simon Drapeau.

Fortunately, we benefit from the dedicated ministry of the African priests who have been with us for several years.

Let us pray that those whom the Lord calls to the priesthood will respond to their vocation!

May the Lord bless us in these times of changes, through the intercession of St. Anthony of Padua, our Patron Saint.



✠ Serge Poitras
Bishop of Timmins