
PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ottawa, December 4, 2020

Most Reverend Marcel Damphousse, Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall

Today, His Holiness Pope Francis accepted the resignation of the Most Reverend Terrence Prendergast, S.J., as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall. Yesterday evening, during a Mass celebrated at Notre-Dame cathedral, Archbishop Prendergast, now 76 years old, announced the conclusion of his 25-year episcopal ministry. He is succeeded by the Most Reverend Marcel Damphousse who was appointed as Coadjutor Archbishop on May 6, 2020 when Pope Francis established the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall.

Archbishop Damphousse, 57, had been Bishop of Sault-Sainte-Marie since 2015 and Bishop of Alexandria-Cornwall from 2012 to 2015. This makes his appointment to the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall something of a homecoming, being familiar with his flock in Alexandria-Cornwall from pre-amalgamation days and having studied in Ottawa.

Born in Saint Joseph, Manitoba, Archbishop Marcel Damphousse was ordained a priest on June 28, 1991, for the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface. He served in several French and English parishes. The Archbishop earned a Bachelor's degree in psychology in 1984 at the University College of Saint-Boniface, followed by a Bachelor's degree in theology in 1989 from Saint Paul University, Ottawa. He received his formation for the priesthood at Saint Paul's Seminary, Ottawa. In 2002, he earned a licentiate in spiritual theology from the Teresianum in Rome.

Archbishop Damphousse has a heart for evangelization. For several years, he taught at the Manitoba Catholic School of Evangelization and he served as the spiritual director of the TEC (To Encounter Christ) movement for eight years.

The new Archbishop's ministry will be inaugurated during a Mass at Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This feast day is of significance to both the former Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall, Archbishop Damphousse's first episcopal appointment, and to the former Archdiocese of Ottawa.

Archbishop Damphousse called it "a joy and a privilege to be called to serve as the second Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall."

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