



ARCHDIOCESE *of* KINGSTON

St. Maria Goretti
6 July 2020

My Dear Priests, Deacons, Religious and Faithful of the Archdiocese:

In late March 2019, shortly after my transfer to the Archdiocese of Kingston, I was appointed by the Holy Father as the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Pembroke until such time as a new bishop could be nominated. It was hoped that the new bishop of Pembroke would be nominated sometime during the Fall of 2019. Unfortunately, the nomination did not take place until 3 May 2020.

Last Friday morning, at the Cathedral of St. Columbkille in Pembroke, His Excellency Guy Desrochers was formally installed and began his pastoral ministry as the ninth Bishop of Pembroke. At that time, my responsibilities as Apostolic Administrator came to an end. Because of the required precautions for the coronavirus, the ceremony was limited to the several bishops, priests, and deacons of the diocese.

I ask that you say a prayer for the ministry of Bishop Desrochers as he takes on the joys and responsibilities of the chief shepherd of the Church of Pembroke. I have been acquainted with him for many years when he served at the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre and assisted our diocesan pilgrimages. He will bring many gifts to his ministry in Pembroke. The people and priests have been without a resident bishop for over a year, and this is an important time for the spiritual and temporal wellbeing of the diocese.

The installation of Bishop Desrochers is a significant relief for me. Over the past fourteen months, I have tried to spend one full day each week in Pembroke to attend to the basic needs of the diocese. This has limited my time and attention in the Archdiocese of Kingston, and I am thankful that each diocese will now receive “undivided” attention, which is the norm. With that said, I am conscious of the many emails, letters and telephone calls which have not been given proper attention, as well as the many institutions of the Archdiocese, which I have not had the opportunity to visit. For this, I offer my apologies. This is particularly true for the parishes of the Archdiocese that await with me the opportunity for a pastoral visit.

Overriding these developments, we have been seriously challenged by the coronavirus pandemic. We have made progress since early March, and the re-opening of our churches has been a significant step forward. However, as we are all aware, the coming months will continue to require patience and attentiveness to the safeguards in place.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for so many who have assisted with the steps already made. This includes the priests, deacons, parish staff, volunteers and those who have provided a foundation of grace through their daily prayers. Your patience, willingness to sacrifice, cooperation, and charity for the vulnerable have been edifying to me. It has been difficult to make continuous adjustments in applying the most reasonable course forward, and this effort takes a disproportionate amount of time and energy. I thank all of you for your positive reception of the temporary changes and adaptations, which have been developed,

so that we can open for Mass in a safe and reasonable manner. Also, I must express my gratitude for the continued generous financial support of the parishes, especially in this time of uncertainty.

It is my hope that, with each passing month, we may gradually resume the ordinary tasks of our diocesan life, which involves personal contact. These gatherings are essential for our growth in communion with the Lord and one another. And this will, I pray, add to our growing recovery and strength, as we experience the fruit of proper sacramental worship and praise of the Lord. Only this can give to us the fulfillment and peace which are central to our Catholic joy.

My dear people, know of my continued prayers.

+Michael Mulhall
Archbishop of Kingston