

**DIOCESE OF SAULT STE. MARIE**



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**CONGRATULATIONS TO FATHER JEAN VÉZINA**

April 16, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am writing to you with an important announcement regarding Father Jean Vézina. He will be moving to Ottawa for a time in order to become the new Adjunct General Secretary for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Father Vézina has much experience assisting the bishops in their role, particularly here in Ontario. He has been an assistant to the General Secretary of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario. Previous to that, he was the director of OPÉCO, the provincial office for Catholic French-language faith education. Given this background, the CCCB decided to approach our diocese and asked that Fr. Jean be allowed to serve on a national level, for the good of the Church in Canada.

Father Vézina will take up his new responsibilities on August 1, 2021 (i.e. this year). In the meantime, we will be beginning the search for a new Chancellor to succeed Father Vézina in this role. A job description is being developed, which we will communicate to you so that we can together try and identify a suitable candidate. Without getting into the details yet, I can say that the future Chancellor will have more of a focus on handling our diocesan archives, and will not necessarily be a priest or even have a specialized canon law background.

I invite all of you to join me in congratulating Father Vézina in being tapped for this important role. It is tough to let him go, even if it is only for a time, but I am proud that our diocese is able to make this contribution to the Church in Canada.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Thomas Dowd