



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

THE APPOINTMENT OF THE 10th BISHOP OF HAMILTON

It is a joy for me to communicate to the Diocese of Hamilton, that at noon (Rome time) November 1, 2025, it was announced that Pope Leo XIV appointed ***Bishop Joseph Dabrowski, C.S.M.A., currently Bishop of Charlottetown, as the 10th Bishop of Hamilton!*** With his acceptance of the appointment, he is now our Bishop! Henceforth, when we pray for the Bishop in the Eucharistic Prayers of Holy Mass, we pray for him by name, Joseph.

Until Bishop Dabrowski ***"takes possession of the See"***, the Holy See has asked me to manage the ongoing governance of the Diocese by appointing me Apostolic Administrator in the intervening months. I am happy to serve!

The transfer of duties of governance will be effective on February 2, 2026, *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord*. It is one of the most important events in the liturgical and administrative life of the Diocese.

For now, it is incumbent on us to rejoice that the Lord has provided another Bishop for our Diocese; one who already knows the blessings we celebrate in Hamilton: a large, well educated and culturally diverse Presbyterate; a growing Permanent Diaconate; active Finance, Stewardship, and Pastoral Offices, the Bishop Farrell Library and Archives; the Catholic Cemeteries; Mount Mary Immaculate Retreat Centre; and a busy Marriage Tribunal; a strong Catholic Education system in the seven Catholic District School Boards; the largest Catholic Health Care System in Canada in the St. Joseph's Health Care System; a vibrant Pastoral and Administrative Staff serving in the Diocesan Chancery. Bishop Dabrowski will also know of the fine formation and education offered to our 20 Seminarians at St. Peter's Seminary, London, St. Alban's Seminary in Valladolid, Spain, St. Augustine's Seminary, Toronto, and Sacred Heart Seminary in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

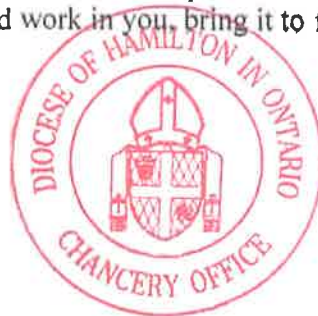
We will gather joyfully as a strong community of vibrant faith to celebrate his "taking possession of the See of Hamilton"!

Until then, we pray in thanksgiving for Bishop Dabrowski. Thank you, dear Bishop, for saying "Yes" to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and the call of the Holy Father, Leo XIV, to lead the Diocese into the future with faith and HOPE. Your appointment is the apex of our Jubilee Year of HOPE celebrations. "May God, who has begun this good work in you, bring it to fulfillment!"

In Christ and Mary Immaculate,

+ *Douglas Crosby*

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI
Apostolic Administrator, Diocese of Hamilton.
November 3, 2025



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DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTETOWN

P.O. BOX 907, CHARLOTTETOWN, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, C1A 7L9

November 1, 2025 – Solemnity of All Saints

To the Faithful, Clergy, and Consecrated Men and Women of the Diocese of Hamilton

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With deep gratitude and humility, I greet you on this joyful Solemnity of All Saints — a day that reminds us of that cloud of witnesses, those countless men and women who, by God's grace, lived lives of holiness, sacrifice, courage, and love. The joyful witness of the Saints fills us with hope and strengthens our resolution to follow Christ with joyful hearts. It is on this feast that the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, has appointed me as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Hamilton. I accepted this call with trust in God's providence. I am profoundly grateful to the Holy Father for his confidence and to the Lord who continues to surprise us with His plans for us.

Being appointed in this Jubilee Year fills this new beginning with even deeper meaning. As the Church invites us to be Pilgrims of Hope, I too set out on this journey with you — walking together in faith and trust, confident that “the God of hope will fill us with all joy and peace in believing” (Romans 15:13). It is with a heart full of faith that I prepare to begin this ministry among you.

I am a priest of the Congregation of Saint Michael the Archangel. They call us “Michaelites!” For many years, I have had the privilege of living, leading and ministering with my brother Michaelites in the North American Vice-Province, and especially in your neighbouring Diocese of London. As a religious priest and now a bishop, I have learned that the Church is truly one family that transcends boundaries. Moving from country to country, from diocese to diocese, I have always been blessed to find communities that welcomed me with warmth and generosity. That spirit of welcome is, for me, the hallmark of Christian life. One of the central charisms of my religious community is our commitment to minister to young people — helping them to discover God's love and their mission in life. I look forward to continuing that vibrant ministry among the youth of this diocese, who are the hope and promise of the Church. I come among you in Hamilton — ready to listen, to learn, and to serve.

I know well that the Hamilton Diocese has grown to become the second largest English-speaking Roman Catholic Diocese in Canada, encompassing the Counties of Brant, Bruce, Grey, Halton, Waterloo, Wellington, and four Townships in the County of Dufferin. The Diocese of Hamilton has flourished through the leadership of its Bishops and the faith of its clergy, religious communities, pastoral and administrative Diocesan staff and dedicated parishioners. As I begin my ministry in Hamilton, I am deeply aware of the rich legacy of faith and service that has shaped this diocese. I thank God for Bishop Douglas Crosby, O.M.I., whose many years of devoted and generous service have been a blessing to this diocese and to the entire Church in Canada. Bishop

Crosby truly lived out his motto *Trahe Nos* – meaning “Draw Us” every day. His zeal for collaborative ministry has borne much fruit for Hamilton and for the Church in Canada. Knowing that he will remain in the Diocese of Hamilton, along with your emeriti Bishops Anthony Tonnos and Matthew Ustrzycki, is a source of fraternal consolation for me, personally. I look forward to working closely with Auxiliary Bishop Wayne Lobsinger, who serves with great generosity and conviction.

The Diocese of Hamilton has been exemplary through its excellent collaboration with Catholic Education at many levels, solid Catholic Health Care and Lay Ministry. In the diversity of your vocations and ministries — priests and deacons, seminarians and consecrated men and women, lay faithful, families, I see a living reflection of the Body of Christ. I will bring to my ministry of shepherding all that I am and all that I have — the spirituality and experiences that have shaped my vocation, the faith that has sustained me, and the love for the Church that gives meaning to my life. To those who are deeply involved in the life of the Church, I look forward to serving with you. To those who may feel distant or uncertain, please know that you have a place in the diocesan family. The Church is for everyone! Together, we will seek to be a Church that welcomes, that heals, that stands close to those in need, and that lives the Gospel with authenticity and joy.

During the recent celebrations for the Jubilee of Bishops in Rome, Pope Leo XIV reminded us that *“the Bishop is the visible principle of unity in the particular Church entrusted to him. It is his duty to build communion among its members and with the universal Church by fostering the variety of gifts and ministries given for its own growth and for the spread of the Gospel.”* I wish to be that kind of shepherd among you — one who builds unity, listens and joyfully works with you.

The saints we celebrate today remind us that holiness is not the privilege of a few but the vocation of all. They show us that when we allow God’s grace to work in us, our ordinary lives become extraordinary in love. May their example inspire us to walk forward with courage, hope, and trust in God’s mercy. Please pray for me as I begin this new mission among you — that I may be a faithful shepherd, a patient servant, and a joyful witness to Christ. Know that you are already in my heart and prayers. May the intercession of Mary, *“Mater Viventium”* and all the Saints strengthen us for the journey ahead, and may Christ, the Good Shepherd, guide us always in His love.

With gratitude in Christ,

+ Joseph Dabrowski, CSMA

Most Reverend Joseph Dabrowski, C.S.M.A.
Bishop-designate of Hamilton



Bishop Joseph Dabrowski, C.S.M.A.

The Most Reverend Joseph Dabrowski was born in 1964, the second of five children, and grew up in Wysoka Strzyżowska, a village in the south of Poland. After graduating from a high school run by the Congregation of St. Michael the Archangel, he chose to enter the Michaelite religious order. After completing one year of the Novitiate, he made his first profession in 1982 and graduated from the Pontifical Athenaeum of St. Anselmo in Rome, obtaining his Master of Divinity in 1991.

He was ordained to the priesthood on 4 May 1991 in Italy at the Pontifical Sanctuary of Santa Maria ad Rupes. He was assigned to join the Michaelite community in London, Ontario. In the Michaelite community, he served as Vice Superior, Advisor, Vice Provincial, and Superior of North American Vice Province. He also served as Associate Pastor at Our Lady of Czestochowa in London from 1992 to 1993; St. Michael in Leamington from 1993 to 1996; St. Pius X (now Holy Family) in London from 1996 to 1997; and St. Mary's Parish in London from 1997 to 1998.

In 1998 he was named Pastor of St. Mary's Parish in London, where he served until he was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of London. His episcopal ordination took place on the 14 April 2015 at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in London. As Auxiliary Bishop, he served in the Diocese of London from 2015 – 2023. During this time, he served as Vicar General, Vicar for Priests, Episcopal Liaison to St. Peter's Seminary, Member of the Board of Directors of St. Peter's Seminary, Episcopal Liaison with Religious Communities.

On the 2 April 2023 Bishop Dabrowski was appointed by Pope Francis and he was then installed on the 29 June 2023 as the 14th Bishop of Charlottetown.

As a member of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishop Dabrowski was appointed as Catholic Co-Chair to the Roman Catholic/Evangelical Church Dialogue (Episcopal Commission for Christian Unity), a member of the Episcopal Commission for Evangelization and Catechesis, and as a member of the Standing Committee for National Family and Life. From 2023 to 2025, he was a member of the Atlantic Episcopal Assembly.

Bishop Dabrowski enjoys serving and speaking with the faithful of many cultures and celebrating the Catholic faith in many languages. He speaks English, Polish, Italian, Spanish, and has previously studied French, Russian, and Latin.