

RELEASE

MR. ZIAD RAHAL

On 27 December 2020, Mr. Ziad RAHAL, former seminarian for the Eparchy of Saint-Maron of Montréal and then later on for the Diocese of Saint-Jean-Longueuil, was ordained a priest for the *Traditional Christian Catholic Church* ("Église chrétienne catholique traditionnelle", also known by the name *Old Catholic Church*).

It is important to recall that this church is not a part of the Roman Catholic Church and is not in full communion with Pope Francis, the Bishop of Rome, nor with the Bishop of the Eparchy of Saint-Maron of Montreal, Most Rev. Paul-Marwan Tabet, nor with Most Rev. Claude Hamelin, Bishop of Saint-Jean-Longueuil. **Thus, the presbyteral ordination of Mr. RAHAL is not recognized by our Church.**

Divergences between the separated communities and the Catholic Church involve at times questions of doctrine, discipline, and the Church's structure. These differences constitute obstacles, sometimes very serious ones, to full ecclesial communion (cf. *Unitatis redintegratio*, para. 3).

For these reasons, the Roman Catholic Church of Saint-Jean-Longueuil, in keeping with the canonical requirements of the Universal Church, does not authorize its faithful to seek the services of the celebration of the sacraments from Mr. RAHAL nor from the other ministers of the community called the *Traditional Christian Catholic Church*.

We call upon pastors and pastoral agents to exercise prudence and goodwill in all their relations with Christian communities of other confessions, and to consult the Chancery or the diocesan ecumenical office for any additional information.



Jean-Pierre Camerlain, Episcopal Vicar
Chancellor