

## **“Most Rev. Claude Hamelin named Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Saint-Jean-Longueuil”**



On Tuesday, November 5, 2019, the Holy Father appointed **His Excellency Most Rev. Claude Hamelin** as the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Saint-Jean-Longueuil. The canonical possession of Episcopal See will take place on Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at the Cathedral of Saint-Jean-l'Évangéliste. Until then, and at the request of the Holy Father, H.E. Bishop Lionel Gendron, P.S.S. will assume the function of apostolic Administrator.

We congratulate our new bishop and invite all the diocesan faithful to keep the bishop-elect in their prayers.

### **Clarification of the Chancery concerning the transition period until Bishop Claude Hamelin takes canonical possession of the Episcopal See.**

In announcing the appointment of our new bishop, Most Rev. Claude Hamelin, Pope Francis also accepted, in accordance with the Code of Canon Law, the resignation of Bishop Lionel Gendron, P.S.S., who has reached the age of 75. Until Bishop Hamelin takes possession of the Episcopal See, the diocese is in a situation of “sede vacante”, that is, “the seat is vacant” and its administration is entrusted to another person. The Directory for the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops (Apostolorum Successores), states that: “... the Holy See can provide for the governance of a diocese by appointing an apostolic Administrator. Even if he is granted all the faculties of a diocesan Bishop, the diocese is still vacant .” (no. 244).

The Holy Father therefore appointed Bishop Gendron as apostolic Administrator for this period, and not Diocesan Administrator as mentioned in the communique of 5 November 2019. The powers of the apostolic Administrator are well defined by the Code. Thus, even if he is called upon to govern and administer our diocese, he cannot, however, close parishes or churches, promulgate decrees or change the content of current decrees, etc. He will serve in his role on an interim basis, in conjunction, if necessary, with the College of Consultors until the new Bishop takes office.

During the vacancy of the See, the apostolic Administrator invites the parish and religious communities to pray fervently for the Ministry of the bishop-elect. In this regard, it is suggested to name the bishop-elect in the Eucharistic Prayer.

*Jean-Pierre Camerlain, e.v., Chancellor*