

DIOCESE OF SAULT STE. MARIE



DIOCÈSE DE SAULT STE-MARIE

Prot. no. 902/2023

**ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING BISHOP DOWD'S APPOINTMENT  
AS CO-MODERATOR OF AN INTERNATIONAL ECUMENICAL DIALOGUE**

Dear friends in Christ,

About two weeks ago I was approached by an office in the Vatican to ask for my assistance with an ongoing project. The Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity was looking for a bishop to act as the Catholic Co-Moderator of the Joint Working Group with the World Council of Churches. After some reflection, I accepted to undertake this role, which will last until 2030.

The work to promote the full and visible unity of all Christians has been a passion of mine since I was young. Given that Jesus himself prayed to his Father "that all might be one", I truly believe this is prophetic work. I am honoured to have been asked to contribute in this way.

To be clear, I am not leaving the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie! This is only a part-time job that may take me out of our diocese for 1 or 2 weeks per year. I will carry the diocese with me in my heart, and I will count on your prayers for the success of this mission.

In order to make sure I will be able to maintain a proper balance in my commitments, I have decided to resign most of my other roles in the national and provincial groups of bishops. While I have loved being able to contribute in so many varied ways, I want to be able to give 100% to this new task and to our Diocese. As for what will remain, on the provincial level I will remain the Spiritual Advisor to the Catholic Women's League, and on the national level I will remain the Bishop-promoter for maritime ministry.

I give thanks to God, and to Cardinal Koch of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity, for this chance to be part of this prophetic mission of Christ. I count on your prayers as well!

Bishop Thomas Dowd

2023-10-25