



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