
**MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 12, 2018

**POPE FRANCIS APPOINTS AUXILIARY BISHOP
FOR ALEXANDRIA-CORNWALL**

In a statement made last April, Pope Francis announced that the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall and the Archdiocese of Ottawa were united 'in the person of the bishop' [*in persona episcopi*], Archbishop Prendergast in this case. At that time, he committed to appoint a second Auxiliary Bishop to assist Archbishop Prendergast mainly for the territory of Alexandria-Cornwall. This morning, it was announced at the Vatican that His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Fr. Guy Desrochers, C.Ss.R, to the position of Auxiliary Bishop of Alexandria-Cornwall.



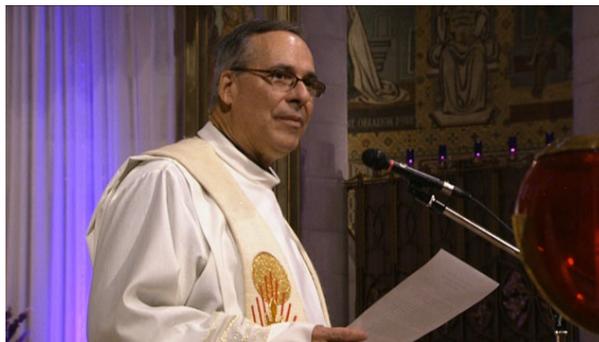
Born in 1956 in the Hull sector of Gatineau, Quebec, Father Guy Desrochers, the third child in a family of five, graduated from high school and studied Fine Arts and Commercial Art at Algonquin College in Ottawa. After graduation, he became a graphic designer for the newspaper *Le Droit* in Ottawa where he worked for seven years. During this period of work at the age of 24, while he was leading a rather disordered life without reference to God, the illness of his father led him to a conversion and to a complete change of life.

His spiritual journey then led him two years later to enter the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists) and to become a priest in 1989 at 32 years of age.

Passionate about proclaiming the Word of God, Father Desrochers has regularly devoted part of his time in ministry to preaching parish retreats all over North America.

After his ordination in 1989, he spent seven years in a special project of evangelization in the Gaspé region of Quebec; then became rector of the Aylmer-Gatineau monastery for several years, before being appointed to the Shrine of Saint Anne-de-Beaupré where he worked for seven years. After a brief period as superior of a retirement home for Redemptorists near Quebec, he returned to Saint Anne-de-Beaupré as director of the *Annals of Saint Anne* magazine for three years.

In July 2011, Father Desrochers became Rector of the Basilica Shrine of Saint Anne-de-Beaupré where he continued his mission of evangelization. In June 2015, he returned to his first love, that of preaching popular retreats full time along with serving as Director of Vocations for his religious community.



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