



Infifax



Diocèse de Timmins /Diocese of Timmins

No 01 | ✕ R.M.

Dear Brother Priests, Deacons, and Faithful of the Diocese of Timmins,
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with deep gratitude and great humility that I come to you to begin the ministry that the Holy Father has entrusted to me in the Diocese of Timmins. Since the announcement of my appointment, I have been carrying each and everyone of you in my prayer, and I have prayed that the Lord may bless me with an available, attentive heart, filled with pastoral charity to walk with you.

I thank God for the story of faith that has shaped this local Church: for the bishops and pastors who have guided you, the communities who have borne witness to the Gospel, the families who have handed on the faith, and the many generous people who have offered their time and talents. I am deeply aware that I am entering a mission already rich with grace, carried by countless people, prayers, and acts of dedication.

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to Bishop Poitras, whose generous and faithful service has been a true blessing for our Church. We hold him in our prayers and in our friendship as he begins a peaceful and grace-filled retirement. May the Lord continue to surround him with His presence and His tender care.

As we continue our journey together as a diocesan family, I come among you not as someone who arrives with ready-made answers, but as a brother called to listen, to learn, to discern with you what the Holy Spirit is saying to our diocesan Church. Together, we will continue the mission received from Christ: to proclaim the Good News, to celebrate the sacraments with joy, to accompany people in their realities, and to serve the most vulnerable with compassion.

I thank you already for the kind welcome you have shown me, for your messages, your encouragement and above all for your prayers. They touch me deeply and sustain me. I entrust myself to your intercession so that I may be a pastor according to the heart of Christ.

Be assured that I carry you in my daily prayers. May the Lord grant that we may grow together in faith, hope and charity.

May the peace of Christ remain ever present in your hearts.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Roch Martin

✕ Roch Martin
Bishop of Timmins
August 26th, 2026