

Paul-André Durocher Archbishop of Gatineau

His Grace the Most Reverend Paul-André Durocher was born in Windsor, Ontario on May 28, 1954, the eldest of seven children of Maurice Durocher and Lucille Duplantie.

His family moved to Timmins where he completed his primary and secondary studies in French. He graduated in 1972.

He then attended the University of Western Ontario where he studied music, majoring in vocal performance. He graduated with a Bachelor of Musical Arts 1977, making the dean's honour roll and being awarded the Alfred Rosé Memorial Scholarship for vocal performance. He subsequently performed in opera and oratorio productions across the province of Ontario.

In 1977, he enrolled in theological studies at Saint Paul University in Ottawa, earning his Bachelor's degree in Theology in 1981. He simultaneously completed the requirements for the Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Ottawa in 1980. Throughout these years, he prepared for his ordination to the priesthood which was celebrated on July 2, 1982 in Timmins, in which diocese he was incardinated.

He taught at *École secondaire Thériault* in Timmins, a French-language public high school, developing programs in values education and music, as well as assisting with pastoral ministry in the school. Simultaneously, he was associate priest at Saint Anthony's Cathedral Parish and coordinated youth ministry and liturgical formation for the diocese of Timmins.

He was awarded a scholarship by the Canadian Council for Research in the Arts and Humanities to write a master's thesis entitled "*Signe et symbole: l'efficacité sacramentelle dans le champ de la symbolique,*" a work that sought to compare various theological efforts to reconcile traditional understanding of the functioning of the sacraments with recent advances in philosophies of language. He completed his Master of Arts (Theology) in 1985.

That year, he was named parish priest of Holy Cross Parish, a bilingual parish in Haileybury, Ontario, where he ministered until 1990. He continued to hold diocesan responsibilities, coordinating various projects in faith education, liturgical formation and youth ministry. He worked actively for the Ontario Bishops' office of French-language faith education, helping develop programs for religious education in grades 7 and 8. He crossed the province leading professional development days for teachers in the Catholic school system, both French and English.

In 1990, he was assigned to the coordinating staff of the Diocese of Timmins and eventually named Episcopal vicar for pastoral activities, all the while administering

various parishes in the Timmins area. He undertook a correspondence program in Canon Law with the University of Strasbourg, France, and completed the civil Licenciante in Canon Law in 1992.

In 1995-1996, he attended the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome where he completed the Licenciante in Theology (Dogmatics), *summa cum laude*. He has taught a number of courses in religious studies and theology for St. Paul University of Ottawa and Laurentian University of Sudbury.

In January 1997, he was named Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Sault-Ste-Marie where he coordinated pastoral ministry in the French-language and Ojibway parishes of that diocese. He was ordained a Bishop on March 14, 1997.

On April 27, 2002, he was named Bishop of the Diocese Alexandria-Cornwall where he inaugurated his pastoral ministry on June 17, 2002.

During his years in Ontario, he was an active member of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, particularly as liaison Bishop for its French-language catechetical office, *L'office provincial de l'éducation catholique de l'Ontario* (OPECO), and as chair of the Education Commission.

On October 12, 2011, Bishop Durocher was named Archbishop of Gatineau and installed in that capacity on November 30 of that year.

Archbishop Durocher was president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, from 2013 to 2015. He had previously been a member of the Executive Committee of the CCCB for six years. He had also served on the Doctrinal Commission and the Commission for Liturgy and Sacraments (French sector). Archbishop Durocher was a delegate of the Canadian Bishops to the Bishops' Synod on the Eucharist which was held in Rome in October 2005. As president of the conference, he attended the extraordinary Synod on the family in 2013. He was subsequently elected as a national delegate to the ordinary Synod of the family in 2014. Archbishop Durocher presently serves at the national level as respondent bishop for the *Société catholique de la Bible* (SOCABI), as delegate to the Jewish-Catholic dialogue and as chair of the *Conseil national de musique liturgique*.

As member of the Assemblée des Évêques catholiques du Québec, he sits on the executive and is a member of the assembly's council for communities and ministries. He is the respondent bishop for the province's *Comité aviseur pour la vie et le ministère des prêtres*, as well as for the *Comité pour les milieux sécuritaires*.

In 2014, Pope Francis named him to the Pontifical Council for Culture. In this capacity, he participates in the assembly of the *plenaria* in Rome every second year.

Archbishop Durocher is often invited to preach retreats and direct workshops in various areas of pastoral ministry. He also continues to be involved in music. He was a member

of the committee which produced the Canadian edition of a French-language hymnal for the CCCB, *D'une même voix*. His "*Missa Lumen Christi*" was chosen as the setting for the closing Mass with Pope John Paul II at World Youth Day in Toronto in 2002. He has recently composed a setting of the Mass inspired by folk traditions of his archdiocese, *La messe gatinoise*.

The Most Reverend Paul-André Durocher is Archbishop of Gatineau, Québec, and president of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Born in Windsor, Ontario, Archbishop Durocher grew up in northern Ontario and attended the University of Western Ontario, where he studied music, majoring in vocal performance. He subsequently performed in opera and oratorio productions across the province of Ontario.

In 1977, he enrolled in theological studies at Saint Paul University in Ottawa, earning his Bachelor's degree in Theology in 1981 and the Bachelor of Education degree at the University of Ottawa in 1980. Throughout these years, he prepared for his ordination to the priesthood which was celebrated in 1982 in Timmins, Ontario.

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In 1997, he was named Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Sault-Ste-Marie where he coordinated pastoral ministry in the French-language and Ojibway parishes of that diocese. Five years later, he was named Bishop of the Diocese Alexandria-Cornwall and in 2011 he was named Archbishop of Gatineau.

Archbishop Durocher is often invited to preach retreats and direct workshops in various areas of pastoral ministry. He also continues to be involved in music and his "Missa Lumen Christi" was chosen as the setting for the closing Mass with Pope John Paul II at World Youth Day in Toronto in 2002. He has recently composed a hymn to mark the fiftieth anniversary jubilee of the Archdiocese of Gatineau: "Dieu de l'Alliance - God of the Covenant."