

Should the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall merge with the Archdiocese of Ottawa or remain a standalone diocese?

MEETING DATES

Monday, April 3rd at 7 pm - English
St. Francis de Sales Church
(434 Second Street West, Cornwall)

Mercredi, 5 avril à 19h - Français
Église Sacré-Coeur
(225 sud, rue Main, Alexandria)

Wednesday, April 12th at 7 pm - Bilingual / Mercredi 12 avril à 19h - Bilingue
Our Lady of the Rosay / Notre-Dame du Rosaire
(27, rue Queen Street, Crysler)

Monday, May 15th at 7 pm - English
St. Anthony's Church
(3737 Old Orchard Street, Apple Hill)

Mardi, 16 mai à 19h - Français
Église St-Félix-de-Valois
(620, boulevard Glengarry, Cornwall)

Other Ways To Let Your Voice Be Heard



Send a letter by traditional mail to:
Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall
220 Montreal Road
Cornwall, Ontario K6H 1B4
Attention: Archbishop



Complete the electronic form on the diocesan website at:
www.alexandria-cornwall.ca
Click on the [Future of the Diocese](#) link



DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA-CORNWALL

March 2017

To the Faithful of Alexandria-Cornwall:

Last year when the Holy See appointed me as the Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall, it was with the mandate of making a recommendation as to whether the Diocese should be merged with a neighbouring diocese, the most likely being the Archdiocese of Ottawa.

In order to report back to Rome, I first had to get to know the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall. To that end, I have tried over the last year to visit as many of the parishes as possible and to attend as many diocesan functions as possible. On these occasions, it has been my great pleasure to meet so many of you on an informal basis.

Along with the priests, I have decided that the time has now come for a more formal setting in which to hear what each of you think about the future of your Diocese. A series of five consultations, beginning on April 3rd, have been scheduled to take place throughout the Diocese. The format we will use is a "Town Hall" style meeting.

I hope to hear from as many of you as possible during that six week period. I would like to personally invite you to attend one of these meetings and to let me know what you are thinking. You may also provide your thoughts in writing by way of email or traditional mail. The balance of this newsletter provides you with information about the Diocese and about this formal consultation process.

Demographic changes, the decline in the numbers of clergy and in religious practice among us and the needs of a bilingual church— all these factors have led us to the point of examining our future now.

Despite what many may think or have heard, no decision has yet been made about the Diocese's future. There are many factors to be considered and weighed when making a decision that will be impactful on so many. One of those factors is certainly the voice of the faithful, without which a good decision cannot be made.

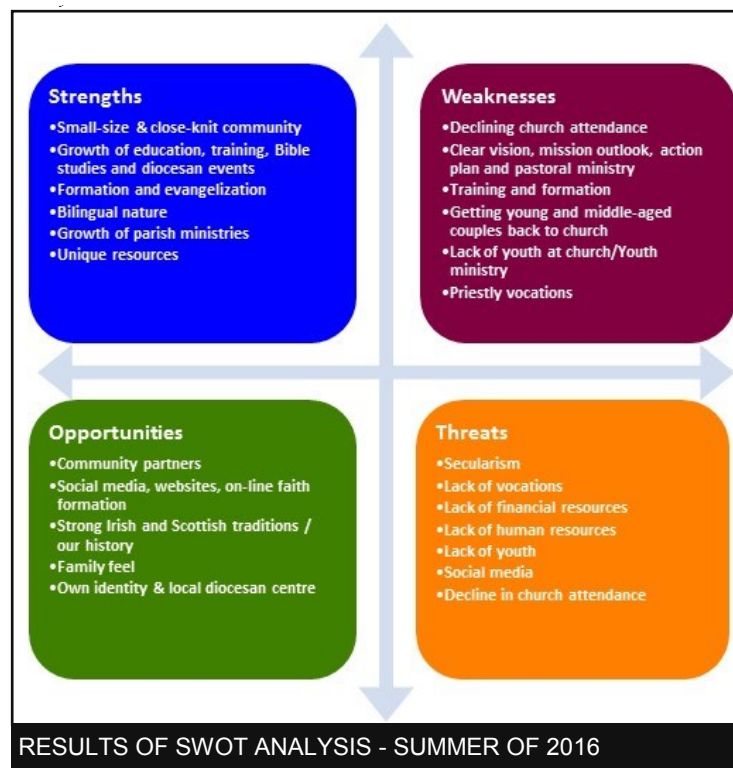
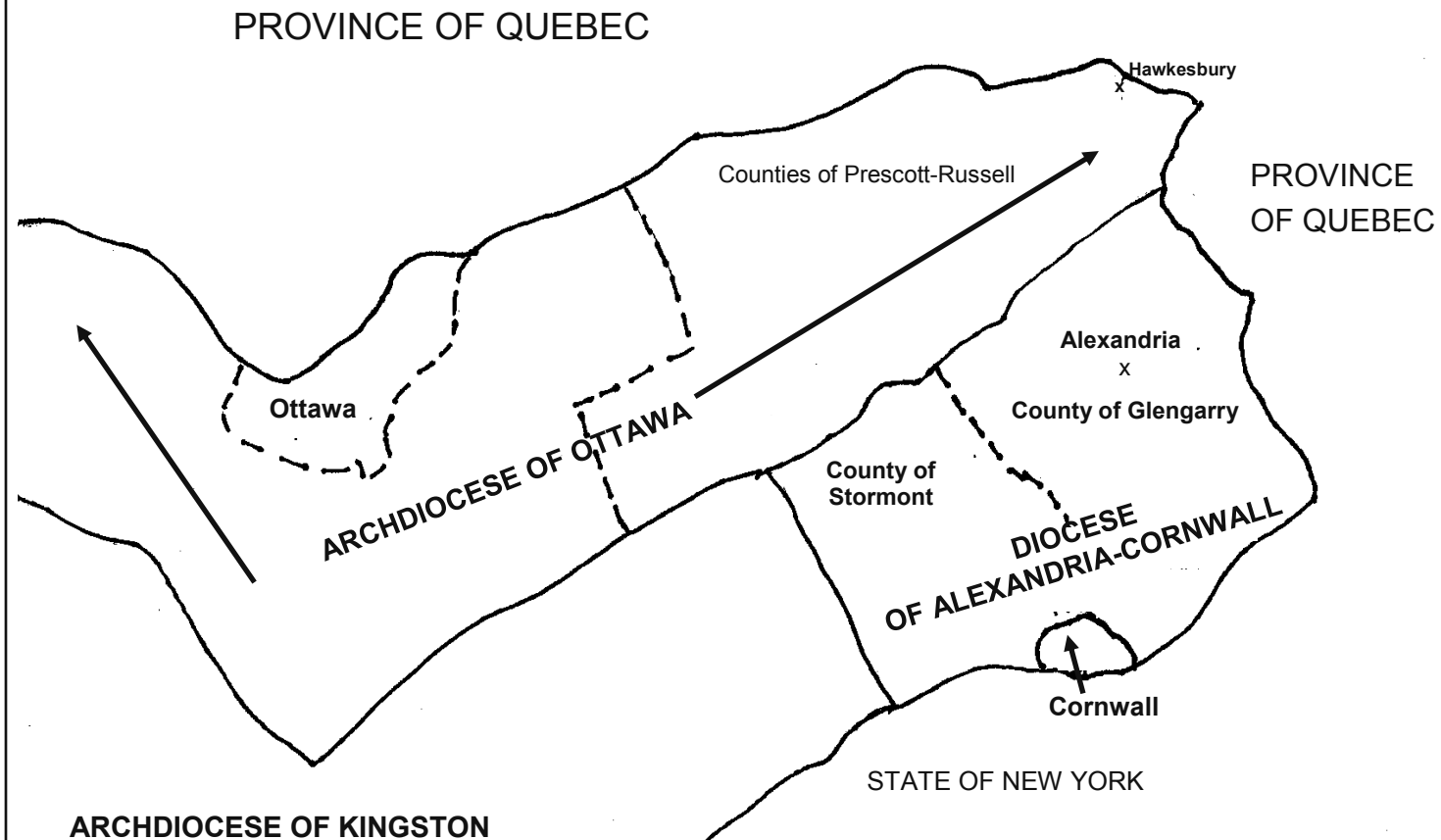
Finally, I invite you to continue to pray our Diocesan Prayer and to implore Our Lady's intercession as we journey forward.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✠ Terrence Prendergast, S.J.
Apostolic Administrator

O God, who guides your Church of Alexandria-Cornwall as it faces an uncertain future, we are conscious of your faithfulness, and so we turn to you..."

DIOCESSES OF EASTERN ONTARIO



PRAYER FOR THE DIOCESE OF ALEXANDRIA-CORNWALL

O God, who guides your Church of Alexandria-Cornwall as it faces an uncertain future, we are conscious of your faithfulness, and so we turn to You, asking that You send Your Holy Spirit to enlighten and help us to discern Your will for the future of our Diocese; help us to have an open mind and to be courageous as we go forward on this new path, aware that our Blessed Mother intercedes for us. We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Some Facts About the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall

History of the Diocese

The Catholic Church essentially spread into Ontario in the late 1700s via the County of Glengarry. The original diocese for Upper Canada was Kingston. In 1890, Rome made the decision to create a diocese in Eastern Ontario to be made up of the counties of Stormont and Glengarry and the town of Cornwall. The Diocese of Alexandria would be a suffragan* diocese of Kingston, a situation which continues to this day. The Diocese covers 839 square miles.

Population of Stormont and Glengarry

In 1890, the population of Stormont and Glengarry was 56,408 (6,805 of whom lived in Cornwall.) The total Catholic population was 23,043.

Based on the 2016 census, the population of Stormont and Glengarry today is 102,941 (59,699 of whom live in Cornwall.) The population over the last decade has grown marginally in Stormont and Cornwall, and has decreased marginally in Glengarry. Although the 2016 census numbers have not yet been released, there are approximately 64,000 Catholics in the diocese. The number of Catholics who attend church regularly is about 6,200.

Clergy and Churches

At the time of the creation of the Diocese, there were 10 priests serving 10 parishes and 5 missions.

Today the Diocese has 16 active priests (this number includes 5 priests who are not incardinated[^] in the Diocese and 1 priest who is a military chaplain.) In addition, we have a number of retired priests, 3 of whom help out when priests are on holidays.

The Diocese also has 15 deacons and 2 young men who are studying for the diaconate. There are currently 4 seminarians for the Diocese.

The Diocese has 25 parishes and 1 mission. 15 of the parishes (includes mission) are English, 5 are French and 6 are bilingual. 10 of the parishes plus the mission do not have a resident priest.

Bishops

Over the course of the Diocese's 126 year history, 8 bishops and 2 auxiliary bishops have led the Catholics of Stormont and Glengarry. Of the last 4 bishops, 3 {Proulx (7 years), Durocher (10), Damphousse (3)} were transferred to another diocese and 1 retired at the age of 75 (LaRocque).

*subordinate to a metropolitan see, i.e. archdiocese

[^]refers to the situation of a member of the clergy being placed under the jurisdiction of a particular bishop

Some Facts About the Archdiocese of Ottawa

Population: 851,000	Catholic Population: 394,515
Area: 2,246 square miles	Parishes: 107
Parishes with resident pastor: 81	Parishes without resident pastor: 23
Missions: 3	Seminarians: 3