



Archdiocese
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Pope Appoints Toronto Priest as Bishop of Whitehorse **Rev. Hector Vila, Seminary Rector, to lead faithful in Northern B.C., Yukon**

TORONTO (27 November 2015) – Pope Francis has appointed Father Hector Vila, currently Rector of Toronto’s Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary, as the new Bishop of Whitehorse. Bishop-designate Vila will become the sixth bishop of one of Canada’s largest geographical dioceses, succeeding Bishop Gary Gordon, who was appointed Bishop of Victoria, British Columbia, in 2014.

Bishop-designate Vila commented on his appointment: “I wish to express my gratitude to God and to His Holiness Pope Francis for the trust placed in me. Coming from the Diocesan Missionary Redemptoris Mater Seminary of Rome established by Saint John Paul II, I was humbled by this new call to serve God’s people in the Diocese of Whitehorse, in knowing that God has a plan and will guide me on his path. I look forward to this new mission and to meeting wonderful people, learning about their traditions, discovering the beauty of this region of our country and growing in faith together.”

Cardinal Thomas Collins responded to the appointment: “Bishop-designate Vila is a holy and faithful priest who will bring a love of his faith and the people he has served to the Diocese of Whitehorse. I invite all of the faithful, and especially the members of the Neocatechumenal Way, to join me in offering their prayers for Bishop-designate Vila. I am grateful for his leadership of the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary since 1998. The priests formed under his spiritual care faithfully serve the Archdiocese of Toronto.”

Hector Vila, was born on September 17, 1962, in Lima, Peru, coming to Canada with his father in 1979 to study and work in the field of mechanical engineering. In 1986, he felt the call of God to become a priest and in March 1987 he started the Neocatechumenal Way in the parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in Toronto. In October 1988, he entered the seminary and began studies in Toronto, later being sent to Rome in September 1989 to study at the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary. He earned a Masters in Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and was ordained a priest of Rome on May 14, 1995 by Saint John Paul II. He later completed his Licentiate in Patristics at the Pontifical Oriental Institute. Fr. Vila served in parish ministry at the churches of St. Irenaeus and St. Patrick in Rome. Since returning to Canada in October 1998, he has been the Rector of the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary of Toronto.

The Diocese of Whitehorse comprises the top northern quarter of British Columbia and the entire Yukon Territory, covering an area of 723,515 sq km with a total population of close to 40,000. The Catholic population of 7,500 is served by 23 parishes and missions.

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For a biography on [Bishop-designate Vila](#)
Learn more about [“Redemptoris Mater” seminaries](#)
Learn more about the [Neocatechumenal Way](#)