

**DIOCESE OF SAULT STE. MARIE**



**DIOCÈSE DE SAULT STE-MARIE**

**SINGULAR DECREE**

***COMMUNICATIO IN SACRIS*  
IN WAWA AND WHITE RIVER**

Whereas the Anglican communities in Wawa and White River do not have a resident priest, and therefore, given their relatively remote location (especially in a time of bad winter weather), are often not able to worship according to their own Eucharistic customs, and

Whereas if in the judgment of the diocesan bishop some grave necessity urges it, the Code of Canon Law permits Roman Catholic ministers to administer the sacraments of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, and Eucharist licitly to Christians not having full communion with the Catholic Church, who cannot approach a minister of their own community and who seek such on their own accord, provided that they manifest Catholic faith in respect to these sacraments and are properly disposed (cf. can. 844 §4), and

Having engaged in dialogue with the Anglican Archbishop of the Diocese of Algoma on the matter following a request by her, and considering the ecumenical relationship developed between the Anglican Communion and the Roman Catholic Church since the Second Vatican Council, including many Agreed Statements published between Roman Catholics and Anglicans since the first such statement on the Eucharist in 1971,

**I DECREE**

1. The distance of Wawa and White River from other Anglican communities, especially when coupled with the challenges of winter travel, creates conditions where the Anglican Christians of those communities can find themselves deprived of the opportunity to worship God in the liturgy for important periods of time such as Christmas, and possibly even habitually. In my judgment, the spiritual good of those fellow Christians, understood in this context, constitutes a grave cause as understood by canon 844.

2. Roman Catholic priests serving in the communities of Wawa and White River may therefore licitly administer the sacraments of Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick and Eucharist to Anglicans in those communities who ask for it during times when their own priests are not available.

3. This decree comes into force on December 23, 2021, and will remain in force until revised or until a resident Anglican priest is available for those communities.

Given at / donné à:

Location / lieu



Sudbury



Other / autre:

Date

December 18, 2021

Competent authority / autorité compétente:

Name / nom

+Thomas Dowd

Title / titre

Diocesan Bishop

Signature

*Thomas Dowd*

Countersignature / contresignature:

Name / nom

Laura Markiewicz

Title / titre

Acting Chancellor

Signature

*Laura Markiewicz*

Archives:

Prot. no. / N. prot.

380/2021

