



Vicar for Priestly Life, Father Gary Franken, begins new role Aug. 11

VANCOUVER, June 23, 2016 – Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, has appointed Father Gary Franken, currently Vicar for Priestly Life, as the new Vicar General for the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

He replaces Father Joseph Nguyen, who will become Bishop of the Diocese of Kamloops on August 25, 2016.

Father Franken was ordained to the priesthood in 1989 by Archbishop James Carney and is currently pastor of St. Anthony's Parish in West Vancouver. He was named dean of the North Shore Deanery in 2015.

Father Franken received his Master of Divinity from St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ont., and his Licentiate of Sacred Theology (STL) in Dogma and a diploma in Spirituality from the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas (the Angelicum) in Rome.

He has served as pastor at Immaculate Conception in Delta and St. Francis de Sales in Burnaby, as well as an assistant at Star of the Sea in Surrey and Holy Rosary Cathedral.

He was Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Vancouver from 1997 to 1999.

Named Vicar for Priestly Life in 2011, he is responsible for ongoing formation programs (retreats and study days) and is the Archbishop's liaison with retired priests.

He has served on a large number of boards and commissions including the Archdiocesan Stewardship Commission, the Stewardship Advisory Board, and the Communications Advisory Board. He is a member of the Archbishop's Council, the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, the College of Consultors and the Presbyteral Council.

He has also lectured on spirituality at St. Mark's College.

Archbishop Miller said, "I'm very much looking forward to working with Father Gary in such a critical role. As vicar for priestly life, his concern for the priests of the Archdiocese is always evident, and I know he'll bring that concern and compassion into this new role. His friendly and open nature makes him a wonderful fit for a position that comes with heavy demands."

Contacted today, Father Gary said he was feeling "a little overwhelmed but also honoured and looking forward to working more closely with the Archbishop."

The new appointment is effective Aug. 11, the Feast of St. Clare.

More information:

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