

## **Bishop Scott McCaig, CC**

Bishop Scott McCaig is well qualified to become the Roman Catholic Bishop of Canada's Military Diocese.

Bishop McCaig was ordained to the priesthood in 1995. He has served as an associate pastor, a hospital chaplain, a parish administrator, and director of formation for the Companions of the Cross. They are an association of priests begun in Ottawa in 1986. From 2006 until his appointment as a bishop this year, McCaig served as the General Superior of forty priests and twenty seminarians. Their vision is the "new evangelization." They serve in Detroit, Houston, Halifax, Ottawa, and Toronto.

His nomination as a bishop was a "poignant moment." He added, "I've poured my life into the development of the Companions of the Cross, my whole priesthood, and now the Lord is giving me a new challenge, knowing, however, I am always a Companion. It's still my spiritual family, but I have a new apostolate, a new mission given to me by the Lord through the Holy Father and I take it up with a lot of enthusiasm."

Bishop McCaig attended "Bishops' Boot Camp" in Rome last week along with 154 other bishops appointed in the last twelve months from around the world. This course for new bishops began in 2001. Its purpose is to help new bishops exercise their duties and provide them with a quality formation and practical guidance.

Each day began with an early morning Mass. It was presided by a prefect of one of the congregations that make up the Pope's Roman

Curia. The Curia is composed of the offices that help the Pope govern the universal Church.

The course consisted of weighty talks focusing on the diverse duties and issues facing bishops. Topics ranged widely. They included the protection of minors and vulnerable persons, finances, pastoral care of the family, the relationship between a bishop and his priests, interreligious dialogue, pastoral and canonical responsibilities, and evangelizing through digital media. Lively Q&A periods and small group discussions followed each talk.

Spending time with new bishops from around the world was a highlight. They came from regions as diverse as Iceland and Zambia, Oceania and Haiti, Ukraine and Brazil. Bishops from more than forty nations attended. One evening focussed on meeting new bishops from mission countries, participating in their own 'new bishops' course that addressed their unique challenges. Real friendships were forged. A common mission consumed the new apostles. All were deeply moved as brother bishops from Lebanon, Syria, and Iran described the incredible suffering and persecution of their people. Some tearfully pleaded for prayers.

The most memorable part of the week was the meeting with Pope Francis. His address was gripping and challenging. He encouraged them to "be bishops with a heart wounded by this [God's] mercy." He also compelled them to live their vocations as bishops with integrity: "The world is tired of lying spellbinders and, allow me to say, 'trendy' priests or bishops. The people sniff them out—they have God's sense of smell—and they walk away when they recognize narcissists, manipulators, defenders of their own causes, auctioneers of vain

crusades.” Instead, he asked them to love purely with the heart of God. Afterwards, he met and spoke with each bishop.

Bishop McCaig says of his experience, “We were confirmed in our faith, summoned to a deeper intimacy with the Lord, and challenged to be authentic successors to the Apostles.”

This coming week, the bishops of Canada meet at our annual plenary assembly in Cornwall. I look forward to welcoming to our common fellowship Bishop McCaig and the eight other new Canadian bishops appointed in the last year.