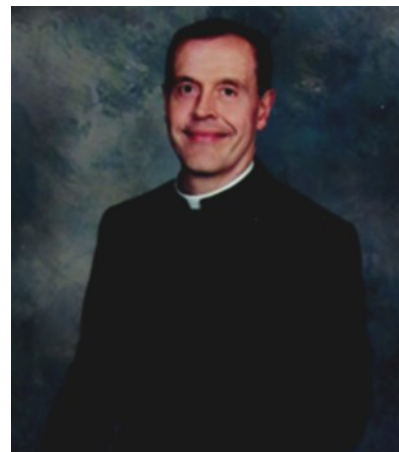


We are pleased to welcome you to St. Paul the Apostle Canadian-Maltese church. It is my sincerest hope that you felt at home in this house of prayer. This is the place where we come together to celebrate our Catholic faith and share it with the wider community. Fr. Roy Farrell has taken on the role of administrator of the parish since February 1st, 2023. I am going to introduce myself in the following paragraphs and share a bit about my background.



I was born in Marystown, a small industrial town located three and a half hours southwest of St. John's, Newfoundland. The first local priest dedicated the town to Mary, the Mother of God. Marking the momentous occasion grandly, there is an impressive statue that overlooks the town.

William, my father, has a wealth of experience spanning fifty years across different industries. The people of his community knew him for his hard work as a fisher, his bravery as a sea captain, and his dedication as a rigger at the local shipyard. Prior to getting married, Melinda, my mother, taught at a one-room school that was used as a chapel for daily Masses. Following her marriage, she stayed at home and took care of her family, which included six children, five of whom were boys, and one was a girl.

I cherished my formative years, filled with precious memories I would always hold dear. The vibrant Catholic environment in my family provided a much-needed respite from life's challenges. My first inkling of a calling to the priesthood happened when I was a mere ten-year-old, serving daily Masses as an altar boy. Etched in my memory is the sound of my siblings' voices as we practiced "Mass" in our home. I felt a powerful pull towards God and the spiritual realm. I responded with enthusiasm to the prospect of a new adventure, despite not knowing what it would entail.

Following my high school graduation at sixteen, I made my way to St. John's, the oldest city in North America, to attend Memorial University. At the university, I completed two undergraduate degrees in art and education, and earned a teaching certificate. The late 1980s in Newfoundland were a time when full-time teaching jobs were few.

Ontario was a logical choice for me to move to since there were more teaching opportunities available. I juggled my theological studies at St. Michael's College with substitute teaching.

In 1992, I answered the calling and joined the Basilian Fathers. My first assignment as a Basilian associate was to teach high school in Gary, Indiana, a city known for its steel mills and industrial landscape. In Missouri City, Texas, I worked mostly with the Hispanic community at Holy Family Church.

In September 1994, I opted for diocesan priesthood over my previous religious congregation. Cardinal Ambrozic ordained me for the priesthood on May 8, 1999, at St. Michael's Cathedral. My first pastoral placement was at The Epiphany of Our Lord in Scarborough, and subsequently I served at St. Isaac Jogues in Pickering. In June 2004, Cardinal Collins appointed me as a parish priest at St. Elizabeth Seton in Newmarket. From July 2011 to June 2022, Cardinal Collins appointed me as the pastor of St. Lawrence Martyr Church in Scarborough. September 2022 marked the beginning of my participation in a four-month sabbatical program at St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana. January 6th, 2023 marked the day I moved to St. Paul the Apostle Canadian-Maltese Parish and on February 1st, Cardinal Collins appointed me as administrator.

Our sincerest hope is that you will find a sense of belonging and a place to call home here at St. Paul the Apostle church. We look forward to meeting you at the intersection of faith and culture!