

priest of the Order of Saint Sulpice, fell the honor of becoming the first Bishop of the new diocese of Montreal, to the great delight of the Catholic population. The newly-elect Bishop, having requested a secretary of Monseigneur Plessis, the latter designated a young ecclesiastic, professor at the Collège of Nicolet, adding to the strength of his choice the following words: « If such a man cannot fill the position, I, for my part, know of none more worthy.» The Abbé Ignace was the person in view.

Without either Cathedral or episcopal residence, Monseigneur Plessis was forced to seek shelter with the Hospital Nuns of the Hotel Dieu. And there in the month of May, 1821, the new secretary entered upon the duties of his office.

In the difficult task imposed upon him by his elevation to the episcopacy, Monseigneur Lartigue had need of a tireless and devoted auxiliary: a man of great tact and judgment, capable of handling the various intricate problems, and of giving them the most practical solutions. Fortunately, all these qualities, allied to eminent virtues, were happily united in the person proposed by Monseigneur Plessis.

The Bishop of Montreal quickly realized and appreciated his secretary's real worth. On