

For Immediate Release

September 21, 2023

The Southdown Institute Announces New President



Holland Landing, ON – The Board of Directors of The Southdown Institute (Southdown) is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Francois Diouf, OSB, Ph.D. as the new President and Chief Clinical Officer, effective February 1, 2024. “On behalf of the Board of Southdown, I am thrilled to have Fr. Diouf join Southdown as it continues to serve the Universal Church,” said Patrick Crowley, Chair of the Board.

This appointment follows an extensive selection process by the board with the assistance of an external executive search firm. Fr. Diouf will succeed Rev. Stephan Kappler, who completes his five-year tenure at Southdown on January 31, 2024.

Fr. Diouf is currently Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and a Professor of Psychology and Philosophy at Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, PA, while also serving in the role of Assistant of the Abbot President of the Solesmes Congregation, France. A former Associate Headmaster at the prestigious Saint Benedict’s Preparatory School, Newark, NJ, he also served as Chaplain at Saint Elizabeth University, Morristown, NJ, and Assistant Professor of Psychology.

A multilingual Benedictine monk and priest, Fr. Diouf is strongly influenced by monastic culture and the heritage of Solesmes, reflecting a unique fusion of academic, clinical, and psycho-spiritual pursuits.

Fr. Diouf holds two Ph.D. degrees—one in Philosophy and one in Psychology—and brings a wealth of academic and spiritual depth to his leadership. A graduate in International Relations from Saint-Cyr, France’s esteemed military academy for officers, Fr. Diouf has strong insight into leadership and strategic thinking. He completed his doctoral internship at Southdown, and since the conclusion of that internship, has served as a clinician liaised with Southdown’s programs, conducting psychological assessments, outpatient care, workshops, and religious community outreach.

Fr. Diouf brings deep commitment to the Mission of Southdown and to the achievement of our Vision for Healthy Individuals, Healthy Communities, Healthy Church. In his role as President and Chief Clinical Officer, Fr. Diouf will provide inspiring leadership, clinical reflective practice expertise, and commitment to collaborative professionalism in his work with the staff, stakeholders, and Board of Directors of Southdown.

Fr. Diouf expressed his deep commitment to Southdown’s dedicated service “in meeting the Church where it is today while working relentlessly to empower the best possible leaders of the Church of tomorrow.”

We welcome Fr. Diouf to his new role at Southdown and look forward to his leadership.

About The Southdown Institute:

Established in 1966, Southdown has earned a reputation as a recognized industry leader in the provision of preventative and restorative care, using the integration of psychological, physical and interpersonal practice with the wisdom of the Catholic spiritual tradition. Our programs and services are designed to meet a variety of needs for ordained clergy, vowed religious, lay ecclesial ministers, and lay individuals. Our highly experienced, multidisciplinary team is dedicated to helping our clients find healing and well-being.

Southdown’s programs include comprehensive clinical and candidate assessments, available in English, French and Spanish, a 14-week residential program with continuing care, renewal programs, outpatient wellness



services, consultation and education. Our online services include assessments, individual psychotherapy, individual spiritual direction, virtual walk-in clinic, consultation and education.

For media inquiries or more information, please contact:

Susan Davy, CSJ
Communication and Outreach Officer

sdavy@southdown.on.ca or by phone at 905-727-4214, ext. 104

18798 Old Yonge Street
Holland Landing, ON L9N 0L1 Canada
southdown.on.ca