

COMMUNIQUÉ No. 43 – September 10, 2021
INFORMATION

To pastors, pastoral teams and religious communities

Brothers and sisters, good day!

September is here and, although the mission and the life of the Church never quite cease, many of our communities' activities are starting up again. The complicated process of coming out of the pandemic poses many questions, and the situation can be confusing what with so much information coming from so many sources. Following are some reminders and various other indications concerning the rules in effect. You will also find details about upcoming events and activities that will support us as we move forward "Together on a Mission."

1. An evening together on a mission. September 13 – It's a date!

God calls us to be a people on the move. As we enter into a new pastoral year, Archbishop Lépine invites us to take part in an evening dedicated to the re-launch of our diocesan missionary transformation project. This year, we enter the phase "serving better through discernment." We are all of us, pastoral team members, priests, deacons, lay pastoral agents, the faithful active in their communities and members of religious communities, invited to come together at the Cathedral or on Zoom on September 13, the eve of the Feast of the Glorious Cross, at 7:00 pm. To register, please click here:

<https://microsites.diocesemontreal.org/microsites/archeveche-montreal/fr/soiree-ensemble-en-mission-2021/>

2. Information and reminders about health guidelines in effect

a) Vaccination of church personnel (parishes, missions, etc.)

Vaccination is **not required** for all staff (employees and volunteers) working in a pastoral context, nor for those who participate in our activities. However, we do encourage all church workers to **receive the vaccine**, their health permitting, and to **educate themselves** concerning the available scientific information explaining the issue.

Vaccination is a private matter, and we are certainly not requiring those who work in the Church, whether as employees or volunteers, to inform us as to whether or not they have been vaccinated. In fact, we ask that you kindly refrain from doing so.

I would also like to remind everyone that even those who are fully vaccinated must respect the sanitary measures in effect, such as wearing masks and observing social distancing. These practices have been proven to prevent the spread of the virus.

b) Health guidelines for places of worship

The AQCBC has published a **checklist** providing up-to-date guidelines with respect to wearing masks, the maximum capacity of places of worship, choirs and singing in places of worship, weddings and funerals, concerts and tourist visits, catechetical activities and other pastoral gatherings, as well as the rental of church spaces. Kindly consult this **checklist** for answers to your questions.

c) Vaccination passport

The vaccination passport is **not required** for religious activities held in our places of worship, such as liturgies and prayer times, catechetical activities, pastoral meetings, providing services to persons in need (used clothing exchanges or meals on wheels).

The passport is **required**, however, for certain cultural or social activities, such as a concert performed inside the church or bingo held in the basement. If in doubt, please refer to: deconfinement@diocesemontreal.org

d) Easing of restrictions on the celebration of Mass

I would like to draw your attention to a document published July 12 by the Assembly of Quebec Catholic Bishops, providing suggestions on how to proceed with the easing of restrictions on our celebrations: https://diocesemontreal.org/sites/default/files/ressources/Personnel%20Pastoral/2021-07-12_RulesCatholic-EN.pdf.

For any other questions, please refer to: deconfinement@diocesemontreal.org

e) Diocesan “Deconfinement” Committee Meetings

Please note that meetings of the Diocesan “Deconfinement” Committee will resume on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m., starting next Wednesday, September 15.

3. Christian Initiation

a) Catechetical activities

According to the guidelines in effect, "in-person" catechetical activities are permitted; however, we suggest that you adopt the hybrid approach, prioritizing virtual sessions. This new hybrid reality is here to stay... even after the pandemic is over. Should you require information or training with respect to the hybrid approach, I would ask you to consult the following link: <https://microsites.diocesemontreal.org/microsites/missionjeunesse-mtl/pastorale-hybride/>. You may also get in touch with the Office for Faith Education by contacting Director Pascale Haddad at: phaddad@diocesemontreal.org

b) Extension of the general decree granting faculties permitting administration of the sacrament of confirmation

In accordance with the Archbishop’s decision, faculties granted under the previous general decree, permitting parish priests to administer the sacrament of confirmation to members of their parish or mission, have been further extended until November 21, 2021.

Please note that the same provisions set out in the previous general decree remain in effect. To view the new decree, click [here](#):

https://diocesemontreal.org/sites/default/files/ressources/Decrets%20et%20actes%20officiels/General%20Decree%20-%20Confirmation%20June-August_0.pdf.

4. Dates to remember

a) **Abuse Prevention Awareness Session: September 27 and 28**

In June 2021, you were invited to participate in an awareness-raising program. This session consisted primarily in viewing a video on abuse prevention. At that time, many of us were unfortunately unable to attend.

We have therefore scheduled two more sessions:

- Monday, September 27, 7:00 to 9:15 p.m. (in English)
- Tuesday, September 28, 7:00 to 9:15 pm (in French)

Thank you for taking the time to participate in these awareness-building initiatives. Combating all forms of abuse is part of our missionary commitment as members of the Church.

You will receive the link to register for one of these sessions shortly.

b) **World Day of Migrants and Refugees**

Each year, this day is celebrated on the last Sunday of September. This year we invite you to Notre-Dame-des-Hongrois parish on September 26, 2021 at 5:00 pm. As the title for his annual message, the Holy Father has chosen **Towards an ever wider “we”**. Further details will follow.

c) **Transforming Communities: October 2, 2021, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Zoom**

In light of the relaunch of our diocesan missionary transformation project, “Transforming Communities”, an interactive event, will focus on the “come and see” approaches that lead to personal and faith community transformation and the “go and serve” approaches that transform the communities around us. The session will be grounded in prayer, testimony and sharing. Priests, the diaconal community, pastoral staff and volunteers, hospitality teams in parishes, secretaries, and community organizations are invited to attend. This event will be held in English with simultaneous translation. More information to follow.

d) **TRAINING: Fondement du leadership pour la mission auprès des jeunes**

Beginning September 13, this training program will explore the theology, principles and practices behind productive leadership in the service of the Christian mission.

Participants will study various current concepts and approaches to leadership, as well as Christian points of view on leadership. The program, combining both theoretical presentation and experiential learning, will take place September 13, 20, 27 and October 4, 2021, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. For further information, visit:

<https://bit.ly/38SFFX6>

Participation in the course may be on a for-credit or not-for-credit basis.

e) **YOUTH MINISTRY LAUNCH OF THE PASTORAL YEAR**

September 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. 2021-2022

THEME: Mary set out and went with haste Luke 1:39

The Youth Ministry Office invites Youth Ministers from the Archdiocese of Montreal to four meetings per year. This is an opportunity to network, to share resources, build communion and better enable ourselves to respond more dynamically to the mission of evangelization in our city.

FOR WHOM? For all youth ministers who works with young people (13-35 years old) as volunteers in the academic milieu, parish groups, associations, movement leaders, etc.

REGISTRATION: <https://bit.ly/3yQ9hPK>

5. Notice

Year of Amoris Laetitia

The Year of Amoris Laetitia (the Joy of Love) was launched March 19, 2021 by Pope Francis in order to disseminate the spiritual wealth contained in his apostolic exhortation of the same name. The Year will close June 26, 2022 at the conclusion of the 10th World Meeting of Families. For the occasion, the Diocesan Centre for Marriage, Life and the Family has created an entire web page dedicated to activities and resources to accompany you in your mission. Visit us at: <https://www.diocesemontreal.org/fr/amoris-laetitia>

Brothers and sisters, let us pray for one another through these times as, in spite of our insecurity, we are recovering. Let us ask the Lord to grant that we may be ever more fervently "Together on his Mission."



+ Alain Faubert, VG
Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal