

**COMMUNIQUÉ No. 51 - DECEMBER 17, 2021
INFORMATION**

**To members of pastoral teams,
To priests, deacons, CSRs, LPAs,
To the faithful active in their communities,
To members of religious communities,
To Archdiocese staff,**

Dear brothers and sisters, artisans of Christmas Peace,

On the eve of these Holidays filled with radiance, I am sending you this last communiqué of the year, beginning with two announcements of major importance.

1. Coming soon! Training in Abuse Prevention and Reporting

As announced in the fall, during this coming winter and spring period there will be an opportunity for all mandated pastoral workers in our Church to participate in an important training program aimed at combating abuse in all its forms.

This **mandatory** 10-hour training program will be presented in a series of four meetings (one meeting every four weeks) over the course of the next few months, from January to May 2022. **Initially given** to all mandated pastoral workers, Archdiocese staff, priests, deacons and lay pastoral agents, the program will also **subsequently**, during the fall and winter of 2022-2023, **be provided** to all others who serve in the field of pastoral ministry or who are involved in other areas of the life of the Church.

Given that we are all required to take this training, **why not do it as a trainer?** In addition to being a great help to our colleagues, it's an excellent way to become better acquainted with the course content. As trainers, we don't have to be experts in the subject of abuse. We only have to do a brief focused training session and have the desire to help our sisters and brothers, the ministers and others who serve the Church as volunteers.

We are therefore looking for people who will be able to train small groups, up to a maximum of 25 people, using an approach put together by a committee of specialists in the subject.

Kindly indicate if you are interested in becoming a trainer by addressing your email to that effect to Mr. Christophe Eskaf, the new diocesan Coordinator of Responsible Pastoral Ministry (ceskaf@diocesemontreal.org). The first training session for trainers will be held virtually on January 8, 2022. Further details will follow.

We are undertaking this shift together, and together we will participate in this cultural transformation, the better to prepare ourselves for the combat against abuse in all its forms. Let us remember that our commitment to this cause is an integral aspect of our missionary transformation and thus represents a further opportunity for us to collaborate "together on a mission!"

2. Health Guidelines for the Holiday Season

The Government's announcement of restrictive measures now being imposed on places of worship is a disappointment to us all. Evidently, we are not the only ones feeling the effects of these measures. In fact, almost all aspects of our province's social and economic life have been disrupted. And those families who had wanted to gather together for Christmas have had their hopes disappointed, as well.

A summary of the measures that will come into effect Monday, December 20, can be found here: [link](#)

In practical terms, as of Monday, December 20:

- All persons participating in a Mass and all liturgical servers must practise the utmost diligence in following the health guidelines in effect.
- All volunteers (deacons involved, lectors, altar servers, those distributing Communion, ushers, volunteer musicians) must show their vaccination passports in order to participate in the service.
- Priests and other paid liturgical servers (cantors, musicians) who are not adequately vaccinated must, in addition to following the required health guidelines, avoid coming in proximity with or interacting for any length of time with any other participants in the congregation. I would ask those priests to whom this applies not to distribute Communion until further notification.

- An adequate number of volunteers must of course be put together in the shortest time possible, in order to be instructed as soon as possible in welcoming the congregation. If you have difficulty finding volunteers for your church, contact neighbouring communities. If necessary, contact your episcopal vicar in order to find appropriate solutions.
- The effort must be made to communicate the necessary information to your parishioners and visitors, particularly concerning arrival times at Masses, as the verification of vaccination passports and identification may slow the process of entering churches.
- I would ask pastoral teams to coordinate arrangements to ensure that Communion will be provided for those among the faithful who, for whatever reason, cannot or do not wish to attend gatherings in person.
- Details are yet to be received regarding the possibility of visiting our churches outside of Mass times without possessing a vaccination passport.
- A special Zoom meeting to discuss health guidelines is scheduled for the Diocesan Deconfinement Committee on Monday, December 20 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. It's a date!

Zoom link:

<https://umontreal.zoom.us/j/85411385690?pwd=NXFCQmMvVlVlR0NzUxQkZyRGNwUT09>

Meeting ID: 854 1138 5690

Passcode: 577826

One-click access on mobile device

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3. Announcements

a) Job postings

We're hiring! I would like to draw your attention to this page on our website that shows the various jobs available in the Church, whether in a parish, in an organization or in the Archdiocese itself. I encourage you to visit this site and to pass the word along in your social circles. [Link here](#)

b) Youth Ministry Training Microprogram

It is often said that young people are our hope for the future. This is the reason why the Catholic Church considers the ministry to young people to be so important. Instructing them and accompanying them adequately requires us to be well prepared.

To prepare individuals for this role, the diocese, in partnership with the IFTM, is offering an undergraduate microprogram of 15 credits, comprising courses in Bible study and theology, as well as courses specific to youth ministry. Those interested may take the entire microprogram or select individual elective courses for their own interest. The program begins in January 2022 and is offered in French and English. These courses are also offered in a non-credit program and free of charge.

For further information please see the attached brochures or visit our website:

Diploma for Youth Ministry: [here](#)

IFTM:

<https://ifti.ca/diplome-pour-la-mission-aupres-de-la-jeunesse-hiver-automne-2022/>

Youth Ministry Montreal:

<https://bit.ly/Diplomemissionjeunesse>

I wish you, in the midst of these difficult circumstances, a happy journey towards Christmas and... some time to rest over the Holidays. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your invaluable contribution to the Church in the service of the Good News. You are each and every one of you a real gift to our Church!

In Jesus the Saviour,



+Alain Faubert, AG

Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal