

COMMUNIQUÉ No. 90 – NOVEMBER 27, 2023
A Special Invitation

**To Members of Parish Teams,
To our Clergy, PCLs, and LPAs,
To the faithful active in their communities,
To Members of Religious Communities,
To Archdiocesan Staff,**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As Advent knocks on our doors, here are a few announcements of events which, I pray, will enable us to pursue with hope, the mission that Christ, King of the Universe, entrusts to us.

[A NEW YEAR'S GATHERING – IN RECOGNITION OF PARISH COMMUNITIES AND TEAMS](#)

With the holidays fast approaching, Archbishop Christian Lépine cordially invites you to join him in the New Year for a special gathering “**under the star of Epiphany**”, in honour of our valued collaborators and pastoral teams from every community in our diocese.

By coming together to celebrate, we hope we can continue to cultivate a greater sense of communion between us. It's also an excellent opportunity to recognize the invaluable contribution of each and every one of you to our common mission. Your dedication and hard work throughout the year do not go unnoticed!

To help facilitate the reunion across the diocese, **three separate “Coffee & Dessert” gatherings are being planned:**

- 1) Date : Wednesday, January 10, 2024
Time : 7 p.m. to 9 :30 p.m.
Venue: Saint John Fisher Parish
Address: 120 Summerhill Ave., Pointe-Claire

- 2) Date : Thursday, January 11, 2024
Time : 7 p.m. to 9 :30 p.m.
Venue : Notre-Dame-du-Mont-Carmel Parish
Address : 7645 rue du Mans, Montreal

- 3) Date : Saturday, January 13, 2024
Time : 9 :30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Venue : Saint-Pie-X Church
Address : 1065 Pie-X Blvd., Laval

Event highlights:

- *Conviviality and networking:* This is a simple, joyous occasion to welcome the New Year together, reconnect with colleagues and enjoy an evening or morning of camaraderie and networking.
- *Recognition and celebration:* We will also take this opportunity to celebrate and honour those who will receive the prestigious *Ignace-Bourget Diocesan Award of Merit*, for their outstanding contribution to the life and mission of our diocesan Church.
- *Prayer and shared wishes:* We hope that this gathering will enable us to share our dreams for the year ahead, inspired by the Lord Jesus, Light of Nations, and to encourage one another to move forward with renewed energy and vision for the future.

As we know, the challenges of mission are many! More than ever, we need to stick together and focus on what is essential: Christ, Hope of the World. We look forward to meeting you, and together, celebrate Him and thank Him for the precious gift of your commitment to the Gospel.

N.B.: To help us prepare for each of these events, you will soon receive an invitation to register online. **Save your preferred date now!**

[REMINDER/DEADLINE DATE : BISHOP IGNACE-BOURGET DIOCESAIN AWARD OF MERIT](#)

The time is drawing near for the deadline to submit nominations for the *Bishop Ignace-Bourget Diocesan Award of Merit*. Please send a **letter detailing your suggestion** before **Friday, December 1st, 2023**, to the following email address: vg@diocesemontreal.org.

The presentation of the *Award of Merit* will take place as part of our New Year's gatherings being held on the occasion of the feast of the Epiphany, i.e. **January 10, 11 and 13, 2024**.

For more than 40 years, our diocesan Church has recognized the involvement of individuals or institutions by presenting them the *Bishop Ignace-Bourget Diocesan Award of Merit*.

This diocesan recognition aligns with the following goals:

- **To enliven** pastoral creativity and to inform communities, neighbours, families, youth people and neighbourhoods of the most rewarding initiatives at the service of the Mission.
- **To highlight** the important contribution of an organization or an individual towards world transformation, having listened to the joys and struggles of the people.
- **To encourage** members of the Diocese to become involved in outreach, particularly in areas of Christian and civilian community life, such as: faith education; receiving migrants and refugees;

care and concern for the elderly, the sick and isolated people; safeguarding our common home, etc.

I strongly invite you to suggest not only individuals, but also teams and organizations worthy of receiving this recognition for their actions and ministry in view of the goals listed above.

As the external light diminishes, I pray, dear Brothers and Sisters, that the Light of Christ continues to shine within you. May it continue to spur your perseverance in the joyful service of the Gospel. A fruitful Advent season to you all!

In Jesus our Saviour,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alain Faubert". The signature is written in a cursive style and is preceded by a small cross symbol.

†Alain Faubert, VG
Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal