

## COMMUNIQUÉ No. 13 — June 23, 2020

### INFORMATION UPDATE

#### For Pastors, Pastoral Teams and Religious Communities

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The gradual reopening of church doors certainly marks a new phase in our ecclesial life. As we journey together along the path toward “deconfinement,” we offer some pertinent information below:

#### A) Application process to reopen church doors: a reminder

As previously announced, parishes attesting that the required health-security measures have been put in place will receive authorization from the Archdiocese to open their church doors. To do so, here are the steps involved:

1. Consult the diocesan checklist to guide your parish through the various steps of the “deconfinement” process, found here: <https://bit.ly/2CzSdpl>
2. Request permission to reopen your church by completing the online form found here: <https://bit.ly/2YpufpE>
3. The application will be processed and assessed to determine whether the criteria required to proceed to the first phase of “deconfinement” are met.
4. The Diocesan Committee will grant permission to reopen church doors for limited public activities.

#### B) Signage and sanitation supplies

1. A sample poster has been designed and made available for your use, depicting health-and-safety rules to be followed in the church and during Communion. It is available on the diocesan website here: <https://bit.ly/3fQEcSH>
2. The Archdiocese has compiled a list of suppliers for you to consider; they offer starter kits for sanitation and signage supplies, found here: <https://bit.ly/386e2sN>

#### C) Follow-up webinar on “deconfinement” issues to be held Thursday evening, June 25

The high attendance at last week’s back-to-back webinar presentations of the diocesan *Guide* (over 600 participants between the two sessions), organized by the “Deconfinement” Committee, demonstrated the level of tangible, vital interest driving the reopening of our churches. A recording of the English session is available online here: <https://bit.ly/16JuneWeb>. We received numerous questions prior to, during and following the webinars. An English version of the answers will be available in the FAQ section of the diocesan website soon.

The Diocesan “Deconfinement” Committee is also here to support you. Do not hesitate to contact any of the following committee members: Fr. Jean-Chrysostome Zoloshi, Project Manager ; Fr. Jean-Pierre Couturier, Pastor, Mission Marie Auxiliatrice ; Ms. Marie Hatem, PhD, Professor, School of Public Health, University of Montreal. Please submit your questions or requests for information to: [deconfinement@diocesemontreal.org](mailto:deconfinement@diocesemontreal.org)

To complete training and learn more about the measures being implemented to reopen places of worship, a **follow-up webinar** will be held on Thursday, **June 25, 2020, from 7:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. (45 min. in French) and from 8:15 p.m. to 9 p.m. (45 min. in English)**. Please note that if you had already registered for the June 16 or 17 webinars, you will be able to join the June 25 meeting using the same link from either session: <https://bit.ly/25JuneWEB>

#### **D) Collaboration between parishes within the same neighbourhood**

Not all parishes will be ready to open their church doors at the same time. Your community may decide to reopen at a later date and in a different way. We encourage you **to be in contact with the local parish pastoral teams or with the dean of your area** so as to consider possible **ways of collaborating** with regard to implementing “deconfinement” measures or organizing the celebration of Mass in your area.

The past few months have spurred the development of new ways of “being” and “building” Church. The challenge now before us does not lie in returning to our ways of operating “pre-COVID,” nor does it lie in continuing to do things the same way but with technological means, rather it means taking into account what we have learned so as to be more creative and courageous in pursuing innovative approaches. To that end, we suggest that parishes **implement and evaluate short-term projects this fall** that could help in developing new approaches to pastoral activities.

#### **E) Priestly assistance needed for parish support**

I would like **to thank all the priests** who have stayed the course during the confinement period and who have demonstrated a level of creativity in their efforts to provide ongoing spiritual support to their respective communities. In the coming months, until physical-distancing measures are lifted (most likely only when a vaccine is available), the contribution of priests will be all the more crucial, given that some parishes will want to resume Eucharistic celebrations while respecting public-health rules.

I **appeal to priests, diocesan or religious**, who are in a position **to help their confrères** in parish ministry during the months of July and August, to contact the Diocesan “Deconfinement” Committee and let them know when you are available: [deconfinement@diocesemontreal.org](mailto:deconfinement@diocesemontreal.org). Likewise, if your parish/community is **in need of support for sacramental celebrations**, please send a message to the same address.

#### **F) Funerals on Sunday afternoons**

For funerals that have been postponed on account of the pandemic and if no other option is available, funerals may be held in church on Sunday afternoons as an exception during the summer months. The celebration must be conducted as a Liturgy of the Word, while respecting the rules of public health.

#### **G) St. John the Baptist Feast Day Mass**

Archbishop Lépine will celebrate the solemnity of St. John the Baptist, our patron saint, on Wednesday, June 24, at 8 a.m. Mass will be celebrated “in camera” (privately) at Mary Queen of the World Cathedral and can be followed live on Salt + Light Television at: <https://saltandlighttv.org/>

#### **H) Availability of diocesan services during the months of July and August, and restarting the pastoral year together**

- 1. Diocesan Services:** The majority of diocesan staff are now available working from home. All personnel will be back working as of July 20. However, they have also been asked to take a portion of their holidays before mid-August. Therefore, some employees will be unavailable at various times over the next few weeks. The Department for Administrative Services to Fabriques remains available during the summer for all your questions about administration. The diocesan offices (2000 Sherbrooke St. W.) remain closed until August 17. Thereafter, limited access will be available to visitors by appointment. More information will follow.
- 2. Restarting Together:** The Archbishop has asked all diocesan personnel to return from vacation by August 17, so as to be available to assist parishes and other organizations with the planning, resumption and reorganization of their activities for the coming pastoral year, according to the schedule announced in Communiqué No. 12, i.e. from September to December 2020: “complete and develop”; from January to May 2021: “launch and conduct.”

As previously mentioned, a diocesan pastoral launch is being prepared for mid-September; a calendar of diocesan events for the coming pastoral year is also being developed.

So as to co-ordinate our efforts, we ask you to take note of these events when planning the return of your parish pastoral and support staff.

Wishing you all the best in your journey toward “deconfinement”!

Yours in the Risen Christ



+ Alain Faubert, VG  
Auxiliary Bishop of Montréal