

COMMUNIQUÉ No. 18 — September 10, 2020
INFORMATION
To Pastors, Pastoral Teams and Religious Communities

Dear brothers and sisters,

As our fall pastoral activities slowly resume, we are faced with an upsurge in COVID-19 cases in Quebec. I wish to remind all of us **to continue full compliance** with the health directives. If you encounter difficulties or resistance in the implementation of these measures, the Diocesan Post-lockdown Committee and I are available to you to pursue the conversation.

1. Information from the Diocesan Post-lockdown Committee

a. Poster for places of worship

As announced, the government of Quebec and the Commission des Normes, de l'Équité, de la Santé et de la Sécurité du Travail (CNESST) jointly produced a poster for places of worship, titled: **CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) Preventive measures for safe places of worship**.

It is available on the diocesan website in:

- French: <https://bit.ly/AfficheLieuxdeculte>
- English: <https://bit.ly/Afficheplacesofworship>
- Spanish: <https://bit.ly/Affichelugaresdeculto>

We ask that you **print and post** it at the entrance of every church. It bears the government logo and was produced specifically for places of worship. By posting it, you attest that your place of worship is in conformity with government requirements. This poster does not replace the one produced by our diocese, <http://bit.ly/diocesanposter>, because the latter includes more specific information about Communion. Therefore, both posters must be visibly posted.

b. Health protocol for the celebration of Confirmation

The health protocol for Confirmation, which was published on the diocesan website August 20, has undergone substantial edits. The version, updated September 5, is now available on the website: <http://bit.ly/healthprotocol>. Please be sure to use this most recent version of the protocol.

c. Assistance to facilitate the implementation of the re-opening plan:

Members of the Diocesan Post-lockdown Committee are available to parishes and missions in need of assistance to implement their re-opening plan for their place of worship. Do not hesitate to contact the committee: deconfinement@diocesemontreal.org

d. A webinar in anticipation of the cold:

In anticipation of the coming cold, the Diocesan Post-lockdown Committee will hold a meeting to which all of the members of local post-lockdown committees will be invited. Information on this webinar is forthcoming.

2. Parish news

a. Fall appointments

In recent days, Archbishop Lépine proceeded with new pastoral appointments, keeping in mind the common good, as well as the good of the parish communities and pastors. We accompany each one in prayer and we thank them for having responded generously to the call of the Lord. The pastoral appointments will be published on the website soon: <https://diocesemontreal.org/en/news-and-info/appointments>

b. Return of pastoral and support personnel

Evangelization, education and accompaniment in the faith are more necessary now than ever before for the spiritual life and wellbeing of men and women everywhere. Even though the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) will end September 26, we must think, if you haven't done so yet, about the return of your pastoral and support personnel to your church communities. We encourage you to contact your episcopal vicar for any difficulties, financial or otherwise, that may arise in this regard.

c. Hybrid pastoral outreach

At the initiative of the Office of Youth Ministry, the chancery is offering online formation on a hybrid and multidimensional pastoral approach, aimed at better responding to the social, cultural, spiritual and religious needs of young people. Sessions will be held in English, September 16 at 7 p.m., and in French, September 17 at 7 p.m. For information and to register, go to:

FRA: <http://bit.ly/PastoHybride>

ENG: <http://bit.ly/HybridMinistry>

d. Special collections foreseen for the fall

We are very well aware that the financial situation of many parishes is precarious. All the same, **as much as possible**, each community is invited to take note of the collections that have been planned in the coming months to support the mission of the Church, both nationally and internationally. Here, therefore, are some dates to keep in mind:

- Sunday, September 13, 2020: for the Church in the Holy Land (rescheduled from Good Friday by the Holy See)
- Sunday, September 27, 2020: for the needs of the Church in Canada
- Sunday, October 4, 2020: for the Pope's Pastoral Works (rescheduled from the Second Sunday of Easter by the Holy See)
- Sunday, October 18, 2020: World Mission Sunday
- For Development and Peace: parishes may take information from the organization's fall campaign to sensitize parishioners to donate online.

The list of collections for the diocesan church will be issued soon by the Service aux Fabriques. Thank you for giving what is possible at this time in solidarity with the universal Church.

3. Diocesan gathering: September 14, 2020, from 7:30 p.m. to 9, via Zoom

You are all invited to gather with Archbishop Christian Lépine for a moment of unity for the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

On the program:

- How have we lived the lockdown and post-lockdown since March?
- A spiritual read on what we are living
- The impact of this period of pandemic on our Church and on society
- How are we to face new challenges?

For logistical reasons, please register by clicking on the links below, before September 11.

FRENCH: <http://bit.ly/DIO14sept>

ENGLISH: <http://bit.ly/Sept14DIO>

I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

In the Risen Christ,



+ Alain Faubert, VG
Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal