

COMMUNIQUÉ No. 37 - May 13, 2021
INFORMATION
To pastors, pastoral teams and religious communities

Brothers and sisters, as the efforts of every one of us bear fruit as we combat this pandemic, we can soon look forward to a certain return to normality. I am sending you some reminders, along with some information and invitations:

1. The maximum number of 25 participants per place of worship in red zones is being extended for the time being.

- A. Since they are in a red zone, our places of worship must, until further notice, keep holding celebrations with a maximum of 25 participants (counting persons of all ages, and excluding servers).
- B. It must be remembered that wearing a **procedure mask** is still compulsory and that a distance of two metres (rather than 1.5 metres) must be maintained at all times separating people who do not reside together.

2. Vaccination

Discussions were held May 6 between the Interfaith Roundtable and Public Health representatives regarding vaccination and Quebec citizens. Public Health asks us that we join in the effort to encourage our communities, in addition to the general population as well, to receive the vaccination.

On this webpage you will find information available in several languages promoting vaccination: <https://accesss.net/documents-multilingues-sur-la-vaccination-contre-la-covid-19/>. Please familiarize yourselves with these issues and invite the members of your community to do the same.

3. Reminder - Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations

- A. The limit of 25 participants remains in place for Baptisms, First Communions and Confirmations. The celebration of these sacraments must be held separately from Sunday or weekday Masses. In the interests of solidarity with society and our brothers' and sisters' well-being, you are encouraged to comply.
- B. Dividing First Communions and Confirmations into small groups with 25 in attendance often entails holding multiple ceremonies. This requires an increased availability on the part of pastors and pastoral staff. In some situations, given the scarcity of resources, this is not possible. Therefore, following your team's discernment, you may either hold celebrations with fewer participants by the end of June or postpone these celebrations until fall 2021.
- C. The general decree with respect to celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation by parish priests or administrators remains in force until June 24. Deliberations are in progress to evaluate whether it should be extended beyond that date.
- D. Here is the link to the Health Protocol for Celebrating Confirmation: <https://diocesemontreal.org/Protocole confirmation> . Documentation for all liturgical celebrations can be found at: <https://diocesemontreal.org/en/parish-resources/pastoral-personnel>
- E. I want to remind parishes that they may request a Confirmation minister who has been delegated by the Archbishop. In these financially difficult times, some communities may be reluctant to do so, on account

of the cost that is often associated with these pastoral visits. This matter should not be an obstacle. A discussion with the guest minister should, I am sure, enable the parties to find common ground. For information, here are the guidelines for the remuneration of a priest for occasional services: [OCR Document \(diocesemontreal.org\)](https://www.diocesemontreal.org/ocr-document)

4. Vitality profile

Consideration of the realities on the ground is one of the fundamental elements in the planning process for the Archdiocese of Montreal. We have therefore asked each parish and mission to conduct a self-appraisal with respect to its role and responsibilities in the mission of the diocesan Church. Many parishes and missions have already received or will very soon receive a *Parish Profile of Pastoral and Missionary Vitality* to assist in this effort. We invite each parish and mission to complete the *Profile* as a pastoral team, with the inclusion of the contributions of lay persons involved in leading their communities. For more information, please contact your episcopal vicar.

5. New approach to reporting complaints for the Church of Montreal

Special message to pastoral staff (priests, deacons, PCLs and other lay ministers, whether mandated or not, and whether paid or voluntary):

At a press conference held May 5, the Archdiocese of Montreal announced to the public the main points of the new approach: the creation of an independent Ombudsman, implementation of a revamped protocol, deployment of a restructured Advisory Committee, resort to an independent investigation service and the preparation of awareness and educational training sessions for all diocesan personnel.

Members of the pastoral personnel are invited to peruse thoroughly the documents outlining the measures now in force at: <https://diocesemontreal.org/en/report-abuse>. Once they have read these documents, I would ask them to forward their questions, reactions, comments and concerns to espacedialogue@diocesemontreal.org by 5 p.m. this Friday, May 14. This feedback will be instrumental to preparing for the meeting of all pastoral staff scheduled for May 20 at 1:30 p.m.:

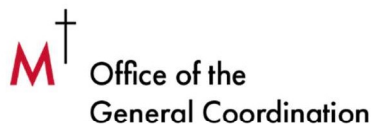
Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82990492688>

This meeting will allow us to learn together about the more practical realities and the concrete ramifications of the new protocols. A question period will also be included in the agenda.

Further meetings on the new approach to reporting complaints are planned for the coming weeks and months, in order to ensure that all persons involved in the Church have been brought up to date, including volunteers, administrative staff, employees of the Fabriques, etc. Further information will be forthcoming shortly. We are all concerned!

6. ProDon presentation for Fabriques

The Administrative Services to Fabriques Department invites you to the online presentation of ProDon, a software program for the management of donations and donors. The presentation will take place via Zoom:
In French - 7:30 p.m., May 17, 2021; and
In English - 7:30 p.m., May 18, 2021.



If you have any questions, please contact Administrative Services to Fabriques at: servicesfabriques@diocesemontreal.org.

Zoom link for May 17, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.:

<https://zoom.us/j/94885558078?pwd=SGtvZkFGR0dQb2FZcnV5NVZKUGw4dz09>

Meeting ID: 948 8555 8078 - Secret code: 550441

Zoom link for May 18, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.:

<https://zoom.us/j/94895833002?pwd=RHRyeU9GdDRSeGZQZjBMWlbnMFQyQT09>

Meeting ID: 948 9583 3002 - Security code: 110423

7. Diocesan Patronal Feast Day

In this time of pandemic, it will not likely be possible to gather as a large contingent to celebrate our diocesan patronal feast, the Visitation of the Virgin Mary. Nonetheless, Archbishop Lépine will preside a solemn Mass at Mary Queen of the World Cathedral on Monday, May 31, at 5:00 p.m., which will be conducted in compliance with sanitary guidelines and will be broadcast live on the diocesan channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9NYP4cnZNcsOXnGx1-Qqg>

8. VIA LUCIS - Path of Light *Open to all*

Join over 50 young people representing various groups in the Archdiocese of Montreal who will accompany the Archbishop in leading the Stations of the Light on May 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. (participation via Zoom) To register, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3o4yWQG>

9. Offering the Youth Ministry course

This course can be taken as a credit or non-credit course! May 17 and 31, and June 7 and 14, 2021: information and registration details can be found at:

<https://bit.ly/2RloZfJ>

[Read more](#)

May the Holy Spirit grant you courage and endurance, creativeness and strength as we carry forward together on our path towards the Solemnity of Pentecost; I pray that the Holy Spirit keep you in the peace of the Risen Christ.

+ Alain Faubert, VG

Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal