

GENERAL DECREE

EXTRAORDINARY FACULTIES FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Given the current pastoral context created by the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to adapt our ways of working to respond to the needs of the faithful. By virtue of their mandate, all the pastors of the numerous Catholic communities throughout the diocese of Montreal are called to share in the ministry of the bishop (can. 519 CIC), and therefore must be enabled to respond to this great vocation.

CONSIDERING that the bishop is the ordinary minister of the sacrament of confirmation (can. 883 CIC), and that the faculties to administer the sacrament may be conferred to priests by a special mandate (can. 883 2^o);

CONSIDERING that the conditions created by the pandemic make it impossible to administer the sacrament of confirmation in a fair and timely manner without a significant increase in the number of ministers;

CONSIDERING that the faithful are currently deprived of the graces of this sacrament, which are so important during this time of trial and uncertainty;

I decree

that all parish pastors, administrators, and those in charge of missions, officially appointed to their office by a mandate of the Archbishop of Montreal, be granted the faculties to administer the sacraments of baptism and confirmation to adults, and confirmation to children, who are members of their own parish(es). These faculties will be in effect from September 1st 2020 to December 13th 2020, inclusive.

Special care must be taken to ensure that all candidates are adequately prepared and properly disposed to receive the sacraments, and that the sacraments, once administered, be registered in the parish registers according to the norms of canon law (can. 894-895 CIC).

In order to ensure that no one is deprived of the light of the Gospel and the graces of the Holy Spirit during this pandemic, and to encourage and strengthen the faithful during this time of trial, I call on all pastors and their collaborators to make available the signs of grace which are the sacraments of the Lord.

Signed in Montreal, this 6th day of August, 2020.

† Mgr Christian Lépine
Archbishop of Montreal