

COMMUNIQUÉ A special Mass "in time of pandemic" Wednesday, April 22

Montreal, April 21, 2020 – Following the recent decree from the <u>Congregation for Divine Worship</u> and the Discipline of the Sacraments, Archbishop Christian Lépine will preside at a special Mass tomorrow, entitled "In Time of Pandemic". This celebration will be part of the regular weekday mass schedule that takes place "in camera" (privately) and is broadcast live from Montreal's Mary Queen of the World Cathedral on Salt + Light Television at 8:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to tune in or follow the live stream online <u>here</u>.

«It is possible to emerge stronger from this ordeal confronting us if each one of us focuses on the role of prayer and mercy in our life. Let us show solidarity in doing our part regarding prevention and showing compassion for those most-at-risk.", declared Most Reverend Christian Lépine, archbishop of Montreal.

The Congregation for Divine Worship issued the text at this time "to celebrate a specific Mass to implore God to bring an end to this pandemic". The Opening Prayer, or Collect, reads "Almighty and eternal God, our refuge in every danger, to whom we turn in our distress; in faith, we pray, look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to healthcare workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name."

Everyone is invited to follow the celebration via Salt + Light Television, on their website: <u>https://seletlumieretv.org</u>, on YouTube : <u>https://www.youtube.com/user/seletlumieretv</u> on Facebook: <u>https://www.facebook.com/seletlumieretv</u>

Regarding the "Ringing of Church Bells" initiative, it has received a positive response from fellow citizens. The Archbishop, therefore, invites pastors and/or pastoral teams to continue, if at all possible, ensuring their church/chapel bells are rung every Sunday at noon for 10 minutes until further notice, as a sign of hope while this public-health emergency continues.

In addition, as the bells are rung members of the Church and all people of goodwill are invited to pause in silence, step outside for a moment and pray for those most affected by the pandemic, especially the deceased.

"The faithful are encouraged to go on their balconies or to their front entrances and pray, asking the Lord to grant to the most vulnerable, their loved ones and those who care for them all the strength, patience, perseverance and serenity they need to face the current hardship," declared Most Rev. Christian Lépine, Archbishop of Montreal. **Source :** Erika Jacinto Press officer of the archbishop and Director, Communications and Media relations Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Montreal ejacinto@diocesemontreal.org