



DECREE
BY H.E. MOST REVEREND CHRISTIAN LÉPINE
ARCHBISHOP OF MONTREAL

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY TO ENSURE A HEALTHY AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR
EVERYONE AND TO COUNTER ALL FORMS OF ABUSE
WITHIN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF MONTREAL

Considering that our diocesan Church, its Parishes, and its Missions have an obligation to ensure the safety and integrity of the people to whom we bring the Gospel message and offer our pastoral care;

Considering that any form of abuse committed by persons exercising a pastoral duty not only constitutes a counter-witness to the Gospel but also a cause of serious injury;

Considering that it is the responsibility of every parish and organization working within the Church of Montreal, to ensure the sound management and supervision of its personnel;

In order to preserve the integrity, security, and good reputation of God's people who are entrusted to us, of those who participate in our pastoral activities, of the paid and volunteer personnel, and of our institution, I hereby decree that that all the Parishes, Missions, and organizations of the Archdiocese are to implement the diocesan policy on *Responsible Pastoral Ministry*.

Furthermore, to implement this policy of *Responsible Pastoral Ministry* and to support the parishes and organizations in their efforts to put these measures in place, I am forming a new diocesan service called the Service of Responsible Pastoral Ministry.

Issued in Montreal, at the Chancery Office, on June 7th, 2016.

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