



Archbishop of Montréal

Pastoral Letter

**Synod on Synodality:  
Diocesan launch**

Dear People of God in Montreal,

*“The world in which we live and that we are called to love and serve even with its contradictions, demands from the Church the strengthening of synergies in all areas of her mission. And it is precisely on this way of synodality where we find the pathway that God expects from the Church of the third millennium.”*

(Pope Francis, 2015, COMMEMORATION OF THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE INSTITUTION OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS)

The XVI<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will be held in October 2023 on the theme: "For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission." On October 10, 2021, Pope Francis will launch the preparation process for the Synod at the level of the universal Church. On October 17, this process will also be launched in every diocese in the world.

The Church of God is being convened as a Synod: a time of listening, dialogue and discernment, during which the whole Church is called to participate over the next two years so that we are better equipped to fulfill the mission of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to the whole world.

For the Diocese of Montreal, this process is an opportunity to pursue the path of synodality more vigorously at the local level by living the missionary transformation of our Diocese under the Holy Spirit's guidance in a more profound way.

In this context, dear brothers and sisters, and in addition to the parish-level launch, I invite you this **October 17, at 5 p.m.**, to take part in a **Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit at Mary Queen of the World Cathedral** to mark the beginning of this diocesan synodal experience.

In view of the current restrictions, you may attend in person or take part virtually on the YouTube channel "Catholic Church in Montreal."

On the eve of the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, let us keep our eyes fixed on Mary. Let us implore the aid of the Holy Mother of God, who is uniquely associated with the Incarnation, Passion and Resurrection of the Son of God, by reciting the Rosary and meditating on the Mysteries of Christ under her protection.

May God who is rich in mercy fill you with the grace of salvation which comes to us through the pierced Heart of Jesus Christ.

† Christian Lépine  
Archbishop of Montreal