

COMMUNIQUÉ No. 92 – DECEMBER 6, 2023
IMPORTANT UPDATE

**To Members of Parish Teams,
To our Clergy, PCLs, and LPAs,
To the faithful active in their communities,
To Members of Religious Communities,
To Archdiocesan Staff,**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last November 3rd, we informed you of the decision to temporarily lay off several employees of the diocesan offices, due to the major financial difficulties that the *Corporation Archiépiscope Catholique Romaine de Montréal* (CACRM) has been facing for several years.

At that time, we assured you that we would provide you with information on the temporary reorganisation of the Curia's services as soon as possible. We would also like to shed some light on the financial situation of the Catholic Church in Montreal, in particular that of the CACRM, but also those of other corporations linked to the whole, such as the *Fonds d'Entraide de l'Archevêque pour les paroisses* (FEAPAM), as well as an overview of the financial health of the Fabriques of the parishes in our diocese.

Below you will find some updated key contact information to help you communicate with our diocesan offices, and to help foster communion through our work together:

1. Temporary reorganisation of diocesan services

a) Reception Desk/Mail Services

To reach the diocesan offices, you may call 514-931-7311 to speak to the receptionist (during office hours). Alternatively, an automated response line is open 24/7 at 514-925-4300, which will dispatch your call directly to a staff member's office extension, equipped to receive voicemail.

A dedicated team from various offices has been set up to manage reception needs at "2000", including receiving visitors, parking supervision, and handling mail and deliveries.

b) Diocesan Email Contacts

Given the absence of certain staff members, we have had to redirect some incoming email correspondence to ensure that messages are not missed. If an employee is absent, a welcome message will prompt you with steps to follow to obtain a response to your request. So, while you can always contact us directly using the specific address of a staff member (@diocesemontreal.org), it is always possible to get in touch:

- Services aux Fabriques (DSAF), via servicesfabriques@diocesemontreal.org

- The Chancery Office, via chancellerie@diocesemontreal.org
- Diocesan Communications, via communications@diocesemontreal.org
- Social Action Office, via social@diocesemontreal.org
- Youth Ministry Office/Mission Jeunesse, via MissionJeunesse@diocesemontreal.org
- For all other general enquiries, via info@diocesemontreal.org

For all questions relating to Faith Education, the Catechumenate (RCIA), Bible Ministry, Liturgical Life, and requests for celebrants for Confirmations, please use the new email address below, designated for the *Integrated Service for Evangelization and Christian Life* (ISECL):
evc@diocesemontreal.org

c) The Internal Reorganization of Several Office Teams

- **Diocesan Communications:** Two remaining team members continue their roles as web integrator and webmaster, addressing continued technical and content needs for the site and newsletter. In the interim, senior director of *Integrated Service for Evangelization and Christian Life* (ISECL) is assisting in coordinating operations and services within the department, with ongoing support provided by staff of the *Office for English Pastoral Services*. COMMUNICATIONS@diocesemontreal.org
- **Evangelization and Christian Life Integrated Services (ISECL):** The recently established ISECL department is undergoing reorganization, particularly following a reduction of staff that has greatly impacted the *Office for Faith Education* (ODEF), prompting a redistribution of responsibilities. Focus has been geared on identifying target audiences and optimizing administrative support structures for the various networks supporting Faith Formation, its leadership (PCLs), *the Catechumenate* (RCIA), *Bible Ministry*, and *Liturgical Life*.
- **Social Action Office:** As interim coordinator, Louise Royer continues to monitor requests and needs as they arise, particularly with regards to support for neighbourhood social ministry (supporting committees and parish representatives).

We thank you for your patience as we continue to reorganize our services. In the event of further changes, updates will be sent to you as soon as possible.

2. Information session on the financial situation of the Catholic Church in Montreal

As part of our ongoing efforts to promote transparency and open communication, we invite you to a special online session, via the *Zoom* platform, focusing on the recent financial situation of the diocese as a whole, and the archdiocese in particular, in order to discuss recent measures taken to deal with current circumstances.

Two “one hour” sessions will be offered before the Christmas holidays:

- 1) Friday, December 15, from 1 p.m.-2 p.m. in French
- 2) Friday, December 15, from 2 p.m.-3 p.m. in English

Same Zoom link for both sessions:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82791272060>

ID de réunion: 827 9127 2060

Note: Future meetings may be scheduled early next year, depending on needs that arise.

On the Agenda :

- 1) **Financial Overview:** We will present an overview of the diocese's current financial status, shedding light on the challenges we face and the measures taken to address them.
- 2) **Recent Measures:** We will discuss the recent initiatives and measures implemented to ensure the sustainability of our diocesan operations.
- 3) **Open Discussion:** Your insights are crucial. We encourage an open and collaborative discussion where your questions, suggestions, and concerns are welcomed. Your creativity and awareness are vital as we navigate these uncharted waters together. We will explore how, as a community, we can collectively contribute to meeting the challenges and fostering a sustainable future for our archdiocese.

Your participation is not only welcomed but essential. Together, we can overcome any obstacle and ensure the continued vibrancy of our diocesan mission. Please let us know if you have any specific questions or topics you would like to see discussed during this session (vg@diocesemontreal.org). Despite the short time available for these meetings, we will do our best to honour your requests, either during the meeting or by other means.

We thank you for the commitment, perseverance and joy you bring to our diocesan family. The season of Advent reminds us that our Hope rests in Jesus Christ, the beloved Son, the One sent by the Father. In these turbulent times, both socially and in the Church, let us remember his promise to be with us every day until the end of time.

In Him, our Hope,

Charles Langlois, PSS, VG, Moderator of the Curia
+Alain Faubert, VG, Coordinator of Pastoral Affairs