

COMMUNIQUÉ No. 17 — August 20, 2020  
INFORMATION UPDATE  
For Pastors, Pastoral Teams and Religious Communities

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to address you all once again with additional information regarding the ongoing developments in pastoral life, keeping in mind the directives issued by the government and public health authorities.

1. As “deconfinement” progresses

a. **Pending: Poster to be issued by the *Commission des normes, de l'équité, de la santé et de la sécurité du travail* (CNESST)**

We are currently waiting for the release of special signage being developed by the CNESST for places of worship, depicting required safety measures through pictographs. Once released, places of worship will be asked to provide a printout of this poster to be made visible to the public at all entry points of their venue. In the meantime, we recommend that you continue to follow the safety guidelines previously communicated.

b. **Keeping a record of participants/visitors**

We have some good news: to date, no outbreaks have occurred in our places of worship. However, the recent infection of an employee in a presbytery prompts us to strongly recommend the following practice to help facilitate any required public health investigation process: if possible, each community is encouraged to **keep a record of all participants** attending pastoral activities. This will help expedite the process of contacting them in the event of an outbreak.

c. **Safety measures for catechetical activities**

The “deconfinement” committee, in compliance with the AÉCQ, is also publishing a document outlining safety measures for the preparation and co-ordination of catechetical activities this fall. The document will be made available here: <http://bit.ly/COVID-19Deconfinement>

2. Confirmation celebrations and Holy Oils: additional information

a. **Decree and pastoral note:** By a general decree, Archbishop Christian Lépine grants parish pastors, parochial administrators, and those in charge of missions, extraordinary faculties for the Confirmation of children and adults. Please consult the decree and explanatory notes on the diocesan website: <http://bit.ly/COVID-19Deconfinement>

b. **Requesting a Minister of Confirmation:** In cases where a pastor prefers the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation by one of the usual ministers, (i.e. a bishop or a priest specifically mandated by the Archbishop) rather than by decree, this option remains **available**. For full details, please consult the above-mentioned link, i.e. pastoral note No. 7, and follow the application process for a Minister of Confirmation : <https://diocesemontreal.org/en/parish-resources/faith-education> . A list of the usual ministers available for Confirmation this fall can be found here: <https://diocesemontreal.org/en/parish-resources/faith-education>

c. **Holy Oils:** You will recall that distribution of the Holy Oils could not take place this year on account of confinement measures announced by the government. The oils, however, were still blessed during the Chrism Mass, held April 5. As needed, the sacristy at Mary Queen of the World Cathedral will be open during the week to receive requests for pick-up, i.e. Monday to Saturday between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. (entry accessible from inside the Cathedral). To obtain the Holy Oils, please present upon arrival the request form

(available online) duly signed by the parish pastor :<http://bit.ly/COVID-19Deconfinement>. We remind you that parishes may also use any oils remaining from last year.

- d. **Ritual of Confirmation in times of pandemic:** The diocesan “deconfinement” committee is currently preparing a document **outlining guidelines to safely administer the sacrament of Confirmation**. In the coming days, this document will be made available on the diocesan website: <http://bit.ly/COVID-19Deconfinement>

**3. Re-launch of the diocesan worksite: Monday evening, September 14, 2020**

As previously announced in Communiqué No. 16, a diocesan “re-launch” event is currently being organized. Some of you will soon be asked to form a working committee to help develop the content and format of this event.

These current times of pandemic give us more reason to continue to heed, and be mindful of, the joys and sufferings of our brothers and sisters, and to properly discern new avenues for the mission of evangelization, given to us by the Lord. You are most welcome at this time to send me any feedback, suggestions or ideas you would like to share regarding our approach toward pastoral renewal. Please write to: [vg@diocesemontreal.org](mailto:vg@diocesemontreal.org)

**4. Good news: upcoming priestly ordination**

Deacon Pascal Cyr will be ordained to the priesthood on August 28, 7:30 p.m., at Montreal's Mary Queen of the World Cathedral: <http://bit.ly/CyrOrdination>

Everyone is invited to take part in this event. Current safety measures will apply. The celebration will also be livestreamed. More details to follow.

**5. In solidarity with Lebanon: a reminder**

Following the devastating August 4 explosions in Beirut, Archbishop Lépine invited all pastors, parishes and Christian communities to unite the weekend of August 12 through community prayer for the victims, families and the people of Lebanon. Many parishes responded to the call through a **special collection taken up for Lebanon**, to be forwarded to the Maronite Church in Canada. Even if you were unable to facilitate a collection by Sunday, August 16, we continue to encourage the faithful to donate.

Below are some Catholic organizations to which one can donate:

- **Development and Peace – Emergency Fund for Lebanon** : Donations to Development and Peace - Caritas Canada will be matched by the Canadian government until August 24: <https://www.devp.org/en>
- **CNEWA Canada – Emergency Relief for Lebanon:** <https://cnewa.org/ca/campaigns/lebanoncrisis/>
- **Aid to the Church in Need Canada:** <https://acn-canada.org/urgent-call-for-lebanon/>

Our best wishes for your fall planning!

In the Risen Christ,



+ Alain Faubert, VG  
Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal