

**COMMUNIQUÉ No. 22 — November 12, 2020  
INFORMATION  
To Pastors, Pastoral Teams and Religious Communities**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The beginning of a new liturgical year is fast approaching; here are some suggestions, instructions and reminders to help us move forward together, in communion with one another:

**1. Advent-Christmas**

**a) Sharing ideas: November 18 meeting**

We cannot foresee at this point in time what the public-health situation will be during the Advent and Christmas seasons. However, this uncertainty should limit neither our imaginations nor our ideas on how to prepare the Christian community for the Saviour's coming. Staff members of various diocesan services have begun to explore ideas, and, perhaps, you might have questions or ideas arising from discussions with your pastoral team. I am, therefore, inviting you to a videoconference meeting on **Wednesday, November 18**, during which we will have the opportunity to share our ideas, for example, under the following three headings:

1. Liturgy: How does one plan various celebrations accommodating only 25 people? How does one conduct the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
2. Faith enrichment: How does one support the faithful spiritually?
3. Fellowship: How does one tackle the sense of isolation, encourage sharing and solidarity?

**Everyone is welcome to participate in this meeting on November 18. Registration is not required. Just click on the link to access the virtual meeting-room:**

- **ENGLISH – 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**  
<https://zoom.us/j/96967166203>  
ID de réunion : 969 6716 6203
- **FRENCH – 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**  
<https://zoom.us/j/94467362820>  
ID de réunion : 944 6736 2820

Following these meetings, diocesan guidelines will be issued, specifically concerning liturgical celebrations and group activities.

**b) Advent – Christmas Microsite**

A diocesan microsite dedicated to Advent and Christmas is being developed for the purpose of supporting faith and hope for all ages: children, teens, adults, those living alone or in a family; it will feature prayer, listening and response. Various initiatives will be presented along with suggestions on how to approach Advent and the Christmas season in the context of this pandemic. Further details will be shared in the next communiqué.

**c) Solidarity and food drive**

The fourth **World Day of the Poor** will be celebrated this November 15, 2020. This year's theme "Stretch forth your hand to the poor" is thus a summons to responsibility and commitment as men and women who are part of our one human family. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Montreal will stretch forth its hand during its traditional (virtual) food drive this November 15 at: <https://ssvp-mtl.org/en/128/guignolee>

**2. Instructions in force**

Following the weekly Zoom meetings between local "de-confinement" committees and the Diocesan 'De-confinement' Committee, regular updates are made to the website's FAQ: <https://bit.ly/FAQupadtes20201112> . We would draw your attention to certain important points, which remain in force until further notice.

- **Time allotted between celebrations:** As long as cleaning is performed thoroughly and time is permitted for ventilating the space, it is not necessary to leave an extended period between celebrations. The "three-hour" rule, which has been mentioned, does not apply in the majority of situations that concern us.
- **Ventilating our spaces:** Given that our churches are large, ventilating them ought to be sufficient to allay any worries for the next while. Nevertheless, always remember the following instructions: as each person arrives, check his or her general state of health, ensure a mask is being worn, that physical distancing is being observed and that every person's hands are disinfected.
- **Wearing masks:** On arriving at church, each person is required to wear a mask (except in certain cases as specified by law). Once seated, people may remove their masks. The mask must be put on again each time the person changes place (before going to take Communion, for example). However, after having exercised discernment, and depending on the place of worship, the local "de-confinement" committee can legitimately require participants to wear their masks at all times.
- **Participants' list:** Thank you for continuing to keep and retain these lists for 30 days. The requirement to keep the list (with names, email addresses and telephone numbers) for funerals was issued by the public-health authorities. The Assembly of Quebec Catholic Bishops recommends extending this to all celebrations. This is what we are doing in Montreal.
- **Singing during Mass:** The congregation is prohibited from singing. One person or a small choir may sing during celebrations while observing the distancing rules. We also ask you to limit social interaction inside the church following celebrations.
- **Number of participants at Mass:** The maximum number of participants at a celebration in the "red zone" is set at 25 people in the congregation. This excludes those leading the liturgical celebration (priest, deacon, lector, cantor, musician, altar server, ushers). Each member of a family is counted individually; this includes children.
- **For Sunday Mass:** Wherever possible, you are encouraged to: use parish halls (with separate entrances) for a Liturgy of the Word with Communion, for following Mass broadcast online, and to station Eucharistic ministers for people who are not able to enter the church due to numbers.
- **Sacramental celebrations:** With the exception of funerals, it is strongly advised that scheduled sacramental celebrations be postponed. However, having exercised discernment, exceptions may be permitted.
- **Catechesis:** Until further notice, the situation still requires the cancellation of classroom catechetical sessions. Maintaining communication with families and individuals is important, even if catechetical instruction is restricted. All efforts to maintain contact is important (virtual means, by telephone, etc.).
- **Dispensation:** Archbishop Lépine is extending the dispensation from the Sunday obligation, which remains valid during the pandemic until further notice.

For all other questions, please refer to the FAQ (<https://bit.ly/FAQupadtes20201112>) or contact the Diocesan “Deconfinement” Committee at: [deconfinement@diocesemontreal.org](mailto:deconfinement@diocesemontreal.org).

### 3. REMINDERS

#### a) Missionary renewal – November 21

Taking time for personal renewal is more than welcome these days. Archbishop Paul-André Durocher of Gatineau will be accompanying participants in a reflection on the Church’s missionary shift, based on his work: *Called by My Name, Sent in His Name* (Bayard-Novalis, 2019). Open to everyone, this videoconference is intended for all those who desire to engage dynamically right now in the mission of the outward-bound Church. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link:

**ENGLISH – OUTWARD-BOUND:** [http://bit.ly/PVC2020\\_OutwardBound](http://bit.ly/PVC2020_OutwardBound)

**FRENCH – EN SORTIE:** [https://bit.ly/PVC2020\\_EnSortie](https://bit.ly/PVC2020_EnSortie)

#### b) Holding Fabrique meetings: Election of churchwardens in times of pandemic

As was explained in Communiqué No. 21 (<https://bit.ly/Communiqué21Eng>), Fabrique meetings convened to elect churchwardens may be held in times of pandemic under certain circumstances.

#### c) Chairpersons for Fabrique meetings

We extend our thanks to those who have generously offered their services to act as chairpersons for Fabrique meetings. **If you know someone** who could devote some time to assisting certain parishes in our diocese that are struggling, I would be grateful if you would let us know at [vg@diocesemontreal.org](mailto:vg@diocesemontreal.org).

May the Lord of Hope guide us in perseverance and in peace!



+ Alain Faubert, VG  
Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal