



January 22, 2022

Re: Training Program for Responsible Pastoral Ministry

Dear collaborators,

I am writing to you at the beginning of this year to thank you for your collaboration in the process of responsible pastoral care and to let you know that the new training program "Victims of Abuse First" is ready to be given through sessions broadcast on zoom. There will be 4 modules of 2 to 3 hours each, at the rate of one per month, with animation and interaction, offered to a maximum of 24 people per session.

Our objective is for everyone involved in the Archdiocese of Montreal to receive this training. The training will **begin on January 25** with all pastoral and archdiocesan personnel. This will be followed in the fall by parish staff and volunteers involved in the diocese.

The content of the training addresses: **the different forms of abuse; the impact of abuse on victims and their loved ones; recognizing the signs of abuse; the importance of the role of the Ombudsman in freeing the voices of victims and witnesses of abuse.**

This training, established with specialists for the needs of the mission and the renewal of trust in the Church and in society, is a necessary upgrade for the diocese and the credibility of its commitment. It will allow us to learn to better prevent, to better see, to better listen and to better serve the People of God and society. By undergoing this training together, we will participate in the same content, and we will be able to better work together to make each pastoral environment a friendly, safe and free environment.

We recognize that although people are not always talking about abuse, they do think about it, and this leads to many losing attention when we present Jesus Christ today. That is why I, the vicar general, episcopal vicars, and staff members will be part of the team of over twenty people who will facilitate these sessions.

To register, I invite you to read the following message from Christophe Eskaf, Coordinator of Pastoral Care at OPP, which provides all the information you need.

Please register today to help us make this program a critical step in ending all forms of abuse in our diocesan church.

† Christian Lépine
Archbishop of Montréal