

COMMUNIQUÉ No. 28 — February 5, 2021
INFORMATION
To Pastors, Pastoral Teams and Religious Communities

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Superior Court has just handed down its ruling in the action brought earlier this week by the Hasidic Jews. The Court clarified one of the regulations regarding places of worship: **the authorization to accommodate a maximum of 10 people is valid for each room that has independent access to the street, without sharing a common space with the other rooms.** This multiple room rule applies to all areas in the red zone.

In practice, this ruling applies to our Catholic places of worship.

Therefore,

- if your place of worship has independent rooms, with separate street access that safeguards against any groups occupying different rooms coming into contact with each other, whether that be at the entrance, at the exit, or throughout the liturgical service,
- if you have the volunteer resources to do so,
- if your pastoral discernment deems it appropriate,
- in strict compliance with the well-established sanitary measures,

You may, from this weekend, February 6-7, open these independent rooms to accommodate a maximum of 10 faithful for the celebration of the Eucharist (Mass).

A Communique is being prepared about this coming Lenten season, including the celebration of Ash Wednesday. It will be sent to you this coming week.

For your information, here is an interesting extract from the judgement:

[184] If the Tribunal had one single message to relay to the Applicants and the entire Hasidic Jewish community which they represent, as well as to all the believers who will benefit from this decision, it would be to encourage strict compliance with the rules of law regarding health measures, however restrictive they may be, as long as they are to be presumed valid. This is a requirement of life in a society governed by the rule of law.

[185] Believers may also choose, because they have this freedom, to make respect for these rules a prayer to their God, a sacrifice in the name of all, persons belonging to their own communities, believers of all religions and non-believers alike.

[186] Everyone has the right to life. All are likely to have recourse to hospitals and health care staff.

[187] This message, it is hoped, will be relayed by those who have the right to do so and will be heard, whatever the length of the judicial victory granted by the present judgment. All leaders have, these days, significant responsibilities.

Thank you for your valuable support and cooperation as we continue to work together to get through this pandemic.

In Jesus, our hope,



+ Alain Faubert, VG
Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal