
3331, rue Sherbrooke Est Montréal QC H1W 1C5

Message from the Bishops Gathered in Plenary Assembly
to Parish Pastoral Teams
September 30, 2020

THROUGH OUR MINISTRY,
LET US BE BEACONS IN PEOPLES' LIVES

Dear sisters and brothers,

In the last few hours, we have seen encouraging progress in our dialogue with the Québec government. We have sought this dialogue for some time and spared no efforts to bring it about. We are delighted, as you doubtless are, that our requests have been heard.

Let us continue to pray that the dialogue that is now opening may continue to deepen and may help us to better live out our mission at the heart of the Québécois people whom we love profoundly.

The bishops are well aware of all the re-arrangements you have had to make to your liturgical and pastoral practices on account of public health measures. We are also sensitive to the fatigue that is beginning to accumulate. Nevertheless, the crisis that we are living through makes our pastoral and spiritual mission more important than ever: in Christ's name, we are able to bring comfort, meaning, strength, and resilience to people who are worried and overwhelmed.

There is no doubt that the public health measures limit our usual routines. With the boldness that the Spirit inspires in us, we can also see in them an opportunity and a call to use our pastoral imaginations to seek innovative ways to carry out our mission.

Since the public health measures apply differently from one region to the next, depending on the alert level, we don't all have the same challenges to overcome. This can even be the case within the same diocese. These differences should not cause us to lose sight of the fact that we are one body. Paul's words here take on a special meaning: "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." (Rom 12:15). Let us carry one another in our hearts and our prayers – our unity as Church will only be the greater for it.

Besides pastoral, liturgical, and catechetical initiatives, it is important to develop initiatives to become more involved in our neighbourhoods and communities, especially among the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Above all we must not forget that the authorities are asking these efforts of us for the next 28 days. Let us welcome these days as a crossing of the desert that will bring us closer to God and strengthen us in our mission. Thanks to one another's efforts, with the help of the Spirit, we can hope that the coming months will be brighter for everyone.

From the very founding of our country, the baptized have been involved in serving the common good and the evolution of Québec society. We wish to carry out this mission together.

We thank you for your partnership with the faithful of your communities in living this great adventure. May the Holy Spirit be our inspiration and guide, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church.

In the name of my brother bishops,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Christian Rodembourg". The signature is written in a cursive style.

+ Christian Rodembourg
Bishop of Saint-Hyacinthe
President of the Québec Assembly of Catholic Bishops