

MOST REVEREND ALAIN FAUBERT
by the mercy of God and the grace of the Apostolic See
Bishop of Valleyfield

to the priests and faithful of the entire diocese

Greetings and blessings in the Lord

DECREE

permitting the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance with collective absolution during the Lenten Season of 2025

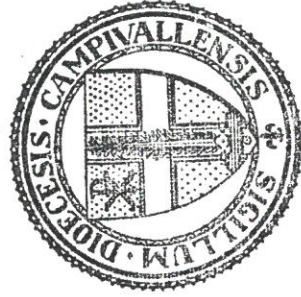
CONSIDERING that, in our diocese, recourse to the only ordinary way of celebrating the Sacrament of Penance, i.e. the individual meeting with a priest with the presentation of faults (at least serious faults) followed by absolution, would mean that many of the faithful who are used to going to confession to prepare for Easter celebrations could be deprived, through no fault of their own, of the grace of a sacrament that brings them peace and serenity before God and before their brothers and sisters ;

CONSIDERING the process of reappropriation and implementation the provisions of the Apostolic Letter *Motu Proprio Misericordia Dei* (7 April 2002), initiated in our diocese, and the decree implementing it in Canada (30 January 2008);

BY THE PRESENT: I, the undersigned, Bishop of Valleyfield, although the conditions for resorting to it are not clearly fulfilled (cf. Canon 961, 2)

- 1) Authorize all priests working within the territory of the Diocese of Valleyfield to give collective absolution to the faithful during community celebrations of Penance offered during the Lenten Season of 2025.
- 2) Ask our brother priests, ministers of the Lord's mercy:
 - a. To place the rite of collective absolution at the heart of a well-prepared penitential celebration, including a short but adequate catechesis on this rite and its use;
 - b. To recall on this occasion that forgiveness of any serious fault requires that the faithful who are aware of it confess it to a priest during an individual meeting during which absolution is given;
 - c. To highlight briefly, during the community celebration, the reasons for this need and the specific benefits of the individual, fraternal and personal meeting with a priest;
 - d. To offer, as far as possible, for those who so desire, at the end of the community celebration, a personal meeting with individual absolution, or to grant to anyone who so requests an appointment that will enable this to take place as soon as possible;
 - e. To present, during a Sunday homily, or at another time deemed appropriate during this favorable season of Lent, the beauty of divine mercy, source of healing and liberation, the particular graces of the Jubilee Year and the possibility for the faithful to benefit from the plenary indulgence of the Jubilee, which requires, among other things, in order to obtain it, confession of one's faults during a personal meeting with a priest.

Given at Salaberry-de-Valleyfield, under my hand and the countersignature of the Chancellor, on the fifth day of March in the year two thousand and twenty-five, Ash Wednesday.



✠ Alain Faubert
Bishop of Valleyfield

Jean Trudeau
Episcopal Vicar and Chancellor

By order of the Bishop
AE 034/2025