



Instructions to adopt in the Diocese of Valleyfield, in consultation with the Quebec Assembly of Catholic Bishops.

GREEN, YELLOW AND ORANGE ZONES

- Gatherings:** For all liturgical gatherings, the maximum limit is 250 persons, always respecting physical distance. At all times, it is important [to rigorously apply the protocols you already use](#). This applies to Sunday and weekday gatherings, weddings, funerals, first communions, confirmations, etc.
- Events:** Some of our celebrations are followed by family gatherings: baptisms, weddings, funerals, confirmations, etc. In order to avoid contagion, it is important to make the families concerned aware of this danger and to invite them to limit family gatherings at home, in restaurants or in halls. It is also possible, when a big party is unavoidable, to invite them to postpone the celebration of their event and to accompany them in the meantime.
- Sick:** People who are sick at home and their loved ones need the comfort that the Lord wants to bring them through our ministry. While respecting prudence and [appropriate protocols](#), we invite you to pay particular attention to the requests that will be presented to you and not hesitate to respond to them.
- Catechesis:** A protocol proposed by the Office de catéchèse du Québec [already provides guidelines for the conduct of catechesis](#) in times of pandemic. We invite you to take note of it and to show pastoral imagination to allow families and children to walk with a reduced number of face-to-face meetings, combining them with other types of catechetical activities. Care will be taken to respect the diocesan pastoral guidelines for this purpose.

RED ZONE

- Gatherings:** For all Sunday and weekday gatherings, as well as funerals, the maximum limit is 25 people, in addition to the ministers and volunteers needed for the celebration. **There is an obligation to keep an attendance register for each gathering: name, email and telephone number.** According to the ministerial decree, all participants are required to disclose this information. [At all times, it is important to rigorously apply the protocols you already use.](#) **Even if it requires a lot of effort, it is important to maintain our liturgical celebrations for 25 people. We all want our places of worship to be open and accessible. Now that this is possible, even with limitations, let's look at how we can welcome the faithful who wish to come to pray and celebrate their faith.**
- Funerals:** It is important to continue to care for the reception of bereaved families and their accompaniment. It is recommended that families be made aware of the risks of contagion represented by social events and that **they be reminded that family gatherings after funerals are prohibited.** Some families only require services at the cemetery: as much as possible, there too, it is good to welcome and pastorally accompany families, even briefly.
- Imagination:** The situation calls for the development of other practices that we have sometimes forgotten, **while respecting the limit of 25 people and keeping a register:** offering times of Eucharistic adoration, sharing of the Word, praying the rosary, the Prayer of the Hours, etc. We can open our churches and invite people to come and worship there. Whenever possible, the members of the pastoral team can offer hospitality and listening to the people who come to pray. Together, let us enter the church to pray to God, let us leave the church to serve.
- Events :** All other liturgical gatherings (such as baptisms) are permitted, respecting the limit of 25 people and **ensuring that there are no social or family gatherings attached to them.** A register of participants in each of these gatherings must be kept. The government is inviting a postponement of marriage ceremonies from October 1 to October 28. Listening and pastoral dialogue will be necessary to evaluate each situation. If necessary, contact your diocesan services to make the best possible discernment.
- Sick:** People who are sick at home and their loved ones need the comfort that the Lord wants to bring them through our ministry. While respecting prudence and [appropriate protocols](#), we invite you to pay particular attention to the requests that will be presented to you and to not hesitate to respond to them.

Catechesis:

With respect to diocesan orientations, we invite you to use your pastoral imagination **to propose initiatives that do not require group meetings, since gatherings are prohibited.** [We will be able to draw on the resources proposed by the Office de catéchèse du Québec.](#) It is possible to propose faith experiences that can be lived at home with the family, during a visit to the church to gather with the family, to offer a welcome and accompaniment on the spot, to invite them to live experiences of solidarity in their living environment.

The orientations that we propose must be implemented with all the pastoral flexibility that we are capable of, with a view to accompanying the pilgrims who come to us as best we can, in a meaningful and safe way, in a pastoral dialogue.



† Noël Simard

Bishop of Valleyfield