



MESSAGE FROM MGR NOËL SIMARD TO THE DIOCESAN PEOPLE

New instructions concerning the number of faithful in our churches

September 30, 2020

The Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Quebec, in its September 29th press release, announced that "Religious leaders take note of the announcement made yesterday by the Premier restoring the limit of 250 people admitted to places of worship for regions that are not in the red zone. They also welcome the fact that in the red zones, it will be possible to continue to admit 25 people at a time to provide them with the spiritual support they need. In all regions of Quebec, those in charge of places of worship will continue to apply the health protocol rigorously. »

For the parishes of the diocese that will be in the red zone (cities of : Beauharnois, Châteauguay, Mercier, Hudson, Les Cèdres, Ile-Perrot, Notre-Dame-de-l'Ile-Perrot, Pincourt, Pointe-des-Cascades, Saint-Lazare, Vaudreuil-Dorion)

- The number of people allowed in indoor gatherings is a maximum of 25 people, (excluding the priest and the pastoral and reception team on duty).
- It is also required to keep a register of those who will participate in the celebrations.
- Churches remain open for recollection, prayer, confession, pastoral counseling, as much as possible.
- No other in person gatherings, including catechesis, are permitted.

For parishes of the diocese located in the Orange Zone

- The number of people allowed in indoor gatherings is a **maximum of 250 people, taking into account the physical distance maintained in this place.**

We invite you to read again the Protocol for the safe reopening of places of worship in Quebec and the Complement to the Health Protocol for the celebration of Christian funerals in churches dated May 31, 2020, to ensure that the instructions are respected. In a particular way, for communion, we invite you to recommend the option "without displacement of the faithful" article 4.11.

The government asks us to limit all gatherings to essential situations until October 28. This directive must be strictly observed, for our own good and that of others.

We cannot stress enough for you to be to VIGILANT and PRUDENT.

"Missionary Disciples: To spread happiness, I have words of consolation!" May our theme of the pastoral year find its echo in our actions and words between us.

N.B. Please note that as of next Monday, October 5, access to the offices of the Diocesan Centre will be possible only by appointment.

+ Noël Simard, Bishop)