

**COMMUNIQUÉ No. 19 — September 24, 2020**  
**INFORMATION**  
**To Pastors, Pastoral Teams and Religious Communities**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are all awaiting the guidelines of the Assembly of Quebec Catholic Bishops regarding the government directives about “yellow” and “orange” zones. Just the same, we owe it to each other and to our brothers and sisters to pursue our mission and Church life with patience, determination and creativity.

**1. Health guidelines for the days ahead**

- a) **Increased vigilance.** The pandemic has picked up again, and our primary duty of love toward everyone is to limit, as much as possible, occasions that could contribute to the spread of the virus. Our petition to the government, which requests a revision of its position on the maximum number of people allowed at liturgical gatherings, **rests in part** on our respecting the guidelines and the fact that there have not been any outbreaks in Quebec’s places of worship. Therefore, I am reminding you of the **CNESST guidelines**, which you will find on the poster <https://bit.ly/Afficheplacesofworship> : physical distancing, good hygiene measures and wearing facemasks. **I remind you that you are required to put the poster in a visible spot at the entrance of your place of worship.**
- b) **The communiqués issued by the president of the Assembly of Quebec Catholic Bishops**, on behalf of the Quebec Interreligious Roundtable, highlighted the Church’s concern regarding the lack of recognition of the spiritual needs of the population and the absence of direct communication on the government’s part. These communiqués are available on the diocesan website: <https://diocesemontreal.org/en/news-and-info/latest-news> . We encourage you **to write to your elected officials** in order to raise awareness among as many people as possible. Here is how to contact your MNA:
- If you know the name of your riding: <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/deputes/index.html>
  - To find your riding using your address: <https://www.electionsquebec.qc.ca/provinciales/en/informed.php>
- c) **Civil disobedience** is not an option, as we would risk being associated, despite our best intentions, with fringe groups among the population who are minimizing the seriousness of the pandemic — a position to which we do not subscribe in any way.
- d) Regarding liturgical gatherings for the weekend of **Sept. 26-27 and up until Oct. 2 only**, I ask you, on behalf of the Archbishop and as we await the results of our consultations with the public authorities:
- To reduce the number of participants at Sunday Masses to 25 (in the orange zone) and to 50 (in the yellow zone);

- Whenever possible, to postpone liturgical celebrations (funerals, weddings, baptisms, first Communions, confirmations);
  - When it is not possible to postpone these celebrations, to reduce the number of participants at these celebrations to 25 (orange zone) or to 50 (yellow zone), and to invite participants to respect government guidelines for any private events that will follow.
  - To postpone catechetical or other parish activities that would include in-person gatherings of more than 25 people or to conduct them online.
  - For Mass this Sunday, where it is possible, you are encouraged to use your creativity to adapt to the situation. For example:
    - Use parish halls that have separate entrances and that are adjacent to the church for Liturgies of the Word with Communion (in small groups of 25 or 50), if applicable.
    - Continue streaming Mass online and plan for Eucharistic ministers to distribute Communion at the door of the church.
    - Unfortunately, public health directives do not allow outdoor gatherings with more than 25 people; however, outdoor spaces (outside the front entrance, the parking lot, etc.) could be understood as “additional rooms” that you may use to meet your needs.
  - In the case where a pastoral team discerns that Sunday Masses cannot be celebrated due to the large number of faithful, I invite you still to plan, as much as possible, to welcome the faithful who may show up, to explain the situation to them, to speak with them, to pray with them briefly, and to give them Communion if they so desire.
- e) Archbishop Lépine **has renewed the dispensation from the Sunday obligation**, which has been in effect during the pandemic, and he encourages all of the faithful to observe a time of prayer this Sunday. Thank you for sustaining the faithful during this period through your local initiatives, whether online or otherwise.
- f) **Keep checking for information** that I will be sending you in the next few days, as the situation will undoubtedly evolve from hour to hour.

## 2. 2020 Ignace Bourget Diocesan Award of Merit

In recent years, during the diocesan gatherings for the feast of the Epiphany, Archbishop Lépine has expressed the Church’s gratitude for people or groups by conferring the Ignace Bourget Diocesan Award of Merit. While we do not know right now whether this event,



Office of the  
General Coordination

planned for January 2021, will be held online or in-person, we would like nevertheless to launch the candidate-selection process.

I would like to remind you of some of the criteria to consider for your nominations: the length of the commitment, the level of dedication, and the type of volunteerism (selflessness, assistance to those in need, empathy, peacemaking), the type of apostolate, whether social or educational, and prayer life (faith, hope, love). The times in which we have been living since March have highlighted the resilience, generosity and patience of numerous people, who have demonstrated great faith in the challenges of daily life. We cannot forget them!

We strongly encourage you **to nominate individuals, teams or groups**, whom you deem worthy of receiving this recognition for their actions in connection with the criteria mentioned above.

Please send me a **cover letter**, along with the duly completed [application form](#) in the attachment, **before November 16, 2020**, via email: [vg@diocesemontreal.org](mailto:vg@diocesemontreal.org)

### 3. ORDO for 2020-2021

All orders submitted to the CCCB through the Archdiocese of Montreal will receive a **40 percent discount**. If you wish to benefit from this discount, you are invited to **submit your order to Liturgy Services** at [Ichiarella@diocesemontreal.org](mailto:Ichiarella@diocesemontreal.org). Please specify the following:

- Your name
- The name of your parish
- The delivery address (of your parish)
- The quantity, specifying whether you want the ORDO in French or in English
- Your telephone number.

The order will be delivered to the address provided. Allow for a possible delay in delivery due to COVID-19. Your invoice will be emailed to you. Payment must be sent directly to the CCCB through the mail.

In the Risen Christ,

+ Alain Faubert, VG  
Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal