

January 7, 2019, Montreal

Object: Two different and complimentary organizations to support and accompany the formation of priests

To all the faithful of the Archdiocese of Montreal,

For the past 76 years, “l’Oeuvre des Vocations du Diocese de Montreal” has contributed to the formation of candidates to the priesthood by providing funding to those who are journeying toward becoming priests in our diocese on a direct personal basis. For 35 years, “la Fondation du Grand Séminaire de Montréal” has made an annual donation to the institution of the “Grand Séminaire de Montréal”.

On the one hand, there is the **individual support of the seminarians** themselves who are receiving formation with its four aspects: spiritual, human, intellectual and pastoral.

On the other hand, there is the **direct support of the “Grand Séminaire de Montréal”**, because whatever the number of seminarians, there are fixed costs to maintain the “Grand Séminaire” building: such as the use of the building and the teaching staff.

Where is your money going? It is important to inform yourselves about where donations go, so as to respect each donor’s intentions. I have asked “l’Oeuvre des Vocations du Diocèse de Montreal” as well as “la Fondation du Grand Séminaire de Montréal” to add this letter to their communications so as to reach all those who contribute to the formation of priests in our territory.

L’Oeuvre des Vocations du Diocese de Montreal (OVDM) finances vocations ministry and personally supports the candidates throughout the nine years of formation: 1 preparatory year of spiritual foundation, 5 years living at the seminary, studying philosophy and theology, 1 year of pastoral experience in the parish setting after three years in the seminary, at least 1 year of internship in the parish setting at the end of those years of study, to arrive at the diaconate and the priesthood.

Providing individual support for candidates to the priesthood is indispensable to encouraging them. By their prayers and their contributions, the People of God express their desire to have and to form priests.

La Fondation du Grand Séminaire de Montréal (FGSM) sees to the fees associated with the Grand Séminaire de Montréal. The goal is to lend financial and spiritual support to the institution itself as well as to promote its visibility. This foundation is responsible for having the necessary funds to assure the basic infrastructure for the formation of the future priests of the diocese of Montreal, neighboring dioceses, and abroad.

Directly supporting the Grand Séminaire de Montréal is indispensable to assuring the stability of this noble institution, whatever the annual number of seminarians may be.

Dear members of the People of God and faithful in Christ, I give you my deepest recognition for your prayers and your contributions. We are all missionary disciples called to holiness with various missions. Let us continue to desire and to form priests in response to the call of the Lord who builds His Church.

May God pour down his blessings upon you, may his grace live in you and help you to grow in the freedom of the children of the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit.

Archbishop

† Christian Lépine