



Archevêque de Montréal

Montreal, April 2, 2019

Dear colleagues,

The recent turmoil in the Church may seem to cast a shadow over the hope that we carry in earthen vessels, which is why I would like to call attention to certain light-bearing activities underway and sustained in the diocese, that invite us to **be reunited with Jesus Christ, within his Church.**

Be reunited as a family. The challenge these days is putting family first at the heart of our society, is it not? To this end, the Diocesan Center for Marriage and Family Life (**CdMVF**) is working to support couples and their wonderful family units in their daily lives, forming them, and encouraging them to shine in the Church and in society. All this so that people of good will may know the wealth and the promise of joy that God's plan bestows upon human love.

Allowing young people to be reunited. Young people, teenagers and adults in their twenties, often have the impression that they are alone in their faith. That is why the diocesan **Mission-Jeunesse** team is unceasingly dedicated to bringing them together and offering them opportunities for encounters with Jesus Christ, friendship, and involvement in the Church and in society. Their thirst for God and their hope for a true and profound love must prompt us to better welcome them into our communities so we may be enriched by them.

Be reunited in situations of vulnerability. The spiritual accompaniment service for the sick and the elderly who are homebound (**SASMAD**) highlights the importance of offering the sick, the elderly and those who are isolated, a warm and caring presence that is attentive and open to the spiritual life. Offering Jesus Christ to our brothers and sisters in situations of vulnerability allows us to value the dignity of every person and teaches us to trust in God and his eternal Love.

Be reunited in the parish. Mindful of transmitting the faith and providing formation for the Christian life, we currently support parishes that are in precarious situations, helping them to cover the cost of hired personnel who run catechism classes that prepare for the sacraments of Christian initiation. Welcoming families with their children, young people who are growing, and adults with their aspirations, the parish, centered on Jesus Christ, becomes ever more a house of prayer where we are reunited with God, a church family where we are reunited together, a missionary center where we go forth to reunite others.

May the Lord Jesus, who wants to be reunited with you, fill you with his merciful love and keep you in his peace.

+ Christian Lépine

† Christian Lépine
Archbishop of Montreal