

COMMUNIQUÉ No. 30 - February 18, 2021
INFORMATION - DECREES AND PASTORAL NOTES
To pastors, pastoral teams and religious communities

Brothers and Sisters,

As mentioned in Communiqué No. 29, the mandated pastors of the Catholic communities of the Archdiocese of Montreal are once again called upon to share in the ministry of the Bishop. By virtue of two separate general decrees, Archbishop Lépine gives parish priests, parish administrators and mission leaders extraordinary faculties with respect to:

- Baptism, Confirmation and professions of faith for children and adults
- the Rite of Election and the inscription of the names of the catechumens deemed suitable

These faculties come into effect on **February 18, 2021**, and remain in effect until **June 24, 2021**, inclusive. Please consult the respective Decrees and Accompanying Notes on the diocesan website:

<https://diocesemontreal.org/en/parish-resources/pastoral-personnel>

At the same time, let me point out the following:

A. Sacrament of Confirmation

It is still possible for a pastoral team to decide that the Sacrament of Confirmation should be celebrated by one of the ordinary ministers (bishops or priests specifically mandated by the Archbishop), rather than resorting to the decree. The list of Ordinary Ministers and the "*Request Form for Minister of Confirmation*," which must be completed online by **March 12, 2021**, are available at <https://diocesemontreal.org/en/parish-resources/faith-education>

B. Rite of Election

Normally, the Rite of Election is celebrated during Mass on the first Sunday of Lent, which falls this year on February 21. In view of the current circumstances, various options are open to you in addition to this Sunday:

- During the season of Lent
- At times outside Lent

Of course, our Archbishop favours the celebration of the Rite of Election during Lent. Having said this, the preparedness of the catechumen remains the criterion that can best be discerned by those responsible for catechumenal formation (priests, deacons, catechists and those accompanying the catechumens), sponsors, and the catechumens themselves. The Catechumenate Service of the Office for Faith Education provides resources at : <https://diocesemontreal.org/en/parish-resources/faith-education> , to provide support to pastors in this exercise:

- A **proposed Liturgy of the Rite of Election**, with necessary adaptations due to the date of the celebration of the rite. The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Pastoral Notes and procedures for the celebration of the rite are also attached for this purpose.

- A sample document for the **inscription of the names**, to be completed and returned to the Office for Faith Education after the celebration has taken place. It is important to complete this document, which will be inserted in the "Book of the Elect" and given this year to the *Fraternités monastiques de Jérusalem*, thereby entrusting those elected to their prayers.

As we enter the Lenten season, I encourage us all to come under the watchful care of our Father who sees our hidden efforts and sacrifices.

In Jesus, our Resurrection,



+ Alain Faubert, VG
Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal