



**Officiel communiqué
no 11**

DECREE
On the application of Mass celebrated
For a sole collective intention

WHEREAS the Holy See¹, introducing an exception to the canon law in force on Mass offerings, has authorized, under specified conditions, the accumulation of several offerings in a single offering for a single Mass celebrated for a sole intention designated as « collective »;

CONSIDERING that it has become practically impossible to discharge all the individual mass intentions of the faithful because of the consolidation of parishes, of the multiplicity of places of worship and of the decrease in the number of priests;

CONSIDERING that it is very difficult to satisfy the faithful who wish to have a mass celebrated for a particular intention on a specified date;

CONSIDERING that it is necessary to avoid the accumulation and recognition in a single Mass of Mass intentions originally accepted on an individual basis, which would violate the law of the Church²;

CONSIDERING that the authorized experience in two parishes of the application of Mass celebrated for a sole collective intention in conformity with Church legislation has proven to be positive and that it also allows the intentions of less fortunate persons to be taken into account;

CONSIDERING the unaltered obligation to celebrate a Mass « *pro populo* » (for the intentions of the parishioners) in every parish;

CONSEQUENTLY, taking the advice of the Presbyteral Council and conforming to article 6 of the Decree *Mos jugiter obtinuit* of the Congregation for the Clergy, I decree as follows :

1. I permit pastors and moderators of the parishes of the Diocese of Saint-Jean-Longueuil to avail themselves of the authorization given by the Holy See to use the intention termed collective, in effect to celebrate a Mass with a single intention uniting the requests and offerings of more than one person;

¹ CONGREGATION FOR THE CLERGY, Decree *Mos jugiter obtinuit*, February 22, 1991, CD87 (1991) 431-432.

² CODE OF CANON LAW, c. 948.

2. The following conditions must be scrupulously observed :
- a) the faithful shall be informed of this possibility, in the parish bulletin and from the pulpit;
 - b) the donors shall be expressly advised in advance and shall give their consent to the joining of their intention and their offering to those of other persons for the celebration of a single Mass;
 - c) the offering given for this celebration shall be left to the discretion of the donor;
 - d) the celebration of the Mass with a collective intention shall be announced publicly, with the day and the hour, and shall not take place more than once a month at any place of parish worship and preferably during the week; the announcement in the parish bulletin shall say only « Mass for collective intention », without any other specification;
 - e) nevertheless, the intentions that constitute the collective intention may be written on a sheet of paper or in a notebook that can be placed in front of the altar before the beginning of the celebration;
 - f) the priest-celebrant may retain only the sum of \$5 and the remainder of the offering is divided between the Fabrique and the Caisse de compensation for priests in the same proportion as the other Mass offerings during the week;
 - g) the application of the collective intention means no change in the obligation to celebrate the Mass *pro populo* every Sunday nor in the possibility of the faithful having individual Masses celebrated for their intentions.

The present decree abrogates the previous dispositions set forth in the Handbook of Fabrique Administration and it will go into force on January 1st, 2008.

Done and signed at Longueuil, this 26th of November, 2007.

↙ Jacques Berthelet, C.S.V.
Bishop of Saint-Jean-Longueuil

Jean-Pierre Camerlain, priest
Chancellor