

What is our Diocesan Church doing in this time of pandemic?

Greetings to all of you !

The pandemic that is hitting us continues to mark our lives. It is shaking our social fabric and upsetting our habits. It has weakened our seniors and families, causing vulnerability and anxiety, particularly among the most disadvantaged among us. The health crisis has affected us all and continues to worry us.

For several weeks, our churches had to shut their doors. It was not without pain that we interrupted our celebrations and gatherings. Even if some people thought that the life of our Diocesan Church had come to a complete standstill, I want to reassure them:

we have not ceased to be in service... but we are working in a new way!

The Diocese has courageously implemented many measures to ensure that pastoral services continue to be offered. The most important one has been to refuse to lay off our pastoral personnel. Aware of the financial difficulties caused by the pandemic, we paid out to the Fabriques that needed it the necessary sums to ensure that pastoral personnel remaining active did not suffer any loss of salary.



By mobilizing Diocesan Services personnel, pastors and pastoral agents in all our parishes, we have forged ties with community organizations and are constantly remaining alert to the needs of people that are suffering. In this way, the communities of the diocese were able to carry out many projects such as :

- Sunday and daily celebrations on the Internet;
- Celebrations of the Easter Triduum and a series of programs for moral and spiritual support on community television;
- Sessions of catechetical formation bringing together a large number of families on social networks;
- Thousands of telephone calls to encourage people, be of service, pray with them and accompany them;
- Assistance to food banks and mutual aid support groups;
- Partnering with civil organizations to transform even a church into a temporary day and accommodation centre for the homeless.

I am proud of the work accomplished by all our personnel. Our Diocesan Church has been on the front lines and continues to be there. The Church has invested a considerable amount of money to maintain an effective and comforting presence with everyone. As we reopen places of worship, the spiritual and material needs of our people continue to challenge us. Today, more than ever, we need you!

Help us rebuild our strength. Help our Diocesan Church to continue her mission.
Thank you for your trust, your solidarity and for your donation.



† Claude Hamelin
Bishop of Saint-Jean-Longueuil