



Towards **Renewing** the Church

In his book *Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future*, Pope Francis, speaking about the global health situation we are currently facing, mentions that *the basic rule of a crisis is that you don't come out of it the same. If you get through it, you come out better or worse, but never the same.* While there is no real indication that we are 'out of the woods' of this current crisis, all can agree that the pandemic has changed many things in our lives. Indeed, the pandemic has changed us and our Diocesan Church.



Bishop Hamelin at the "Halte du coin", a church that has been converted to welcome and accommodate homeless people.¹

Since March 2020, we have made considerable efforts to maintain our services. Volunteers, priests, pastoral agents, support staff and the Diocesan Centre have all sought to provide more support to those made more vulnerable by the crisis. Telephone support, celebrations of mass via social networks, catechesis on the Web, a church dedicated to the homeless, and collaboration with social organizations are, inter alia, just some of the means we have employed to remain at the service of the Diocesan faithful. The contact with those most in need, the families, the sick and the bereaved revealed to us how much we needed to pursue our mission and find new ways of serving.

Despite the fragility of both our human and financial resources, I am confident that we can continue the essential service of proclaiming the Good News. With you, I wish that we may continually let ourselves be renewed by the Spirit to remain a sign of God's loving presence in the heart of our world.

Please pray for your Diocesan Church and the personnel who generously work there.

Thank you for being witnesses of Christ's compassion around you.

Thank you also for contributing to our mission with your donations.

+ *Claude Hamelin*

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bishop of Saint-Jean-Longueuil

¹ Photo: François Gloutnay / Présence