

## **Word of welcome**

Père Jean Roudy Denois, vicaire général

Hello and welcome!! I hope you are well.

Dare to be close otherwise! This is the theme of our pastoral day. We were happy to meet all together at the Resurrection Community Center in Brossard in two groups... in person. But now, for the past few weeks, Quebec has entered the second wave. As a result, new sanitary measures have been imposed in order to limit the spread of the virus. As a result, we do differently !!!!

Compliance with these measures is not an optional option. It is about taking care of life.

And, here we are, in small groups... in pastoral teams... by video, we are in communion with each other. The essential is beyond what our eyes can see. The latest changes do not affect the joy of living this pastoral day. We express it differently.

This pandemic does not spare the Church. It is shaking it severely. This is normal, since Christian communities are at the heart of the "REAL" of people's lives. There is nothing truly human that does not find an echo in the heart of God (Cf. GS).

Beyond suffering, this crisis brings forth summits of humanity and solidarity. Many people are showing courage, daring and optimism.

From the beginning, our factory assemblies, our pastoral teams, the volunteers, the Diocesan Center have remained in service dress. Yes, this crisis allows us to be creative and to nourish our daily life in the perspective of a pastoral care of engendering.

Our day wants to be a "favorable" time, as Saint Paul would say, for our diocesan church. What kind of Church do we want to be tomorrow?

With the leadership team, our bishop and other collaborators, here is the plan we propose to live this time as a team!

Thank you to all those who contributed to the realization of this day.

Have a good meeting under the guidance of the Holy Spirit!

### **Presentation of the Pastoral Day Program Francine Vincent**

We have selected 2 objectives for this meeting.

- 1- In the most fraternal way possible, experience a virtual meeting with the new Bishop of the Diocese of Saint-Jean-Longueuil (who was installed on January 10th) and with the vicar general, so that we can get to know them better.
- 2- Reshape our future and move forward **together** with a prophetic impetus.

We will begin then by singing the theme song: "Que le vent nous emporte ! [Let the wind carry us away!]" Bishop Claude likes this hymn a lot because it contains the essence of our mission:

- Following in Christ's footsteps,
- **Let's set out on a journey** to a different way of life,
- **Let's bear the Word of God** that we can share,
- **Let's be the light** when darkness comes,
- **Let's be disciples**, not afraid to proclaim that Christ is alive!
- And all this will be done **under the breath of the Spirit**.

In between the hymn will be a meditation by Pope Francis.

Afterwards, the speakers will be Bishop Claude and Father Jean. They will bear witness to their journey, to the people they met, to the events that shaped them and made them what they have become.

Then, Yvon Métras will present a synthesis of the syntheses... Each pastoral team has re-examined the difficult times caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and replied to three questions: What are we experiencing? What are we learning? What will we do?

This joint review enabled us, the management team, to establish focal points for action. Mgr Claude will present them to you. Finally, time will be given to prayer, which we will share in a communion of hearts.

Enjoy the meeting!

#### **POPE FRANCIS'S TEXT**

## **A Plan to Rise up Again**

❖ From *Life after the pandemic*, Pope Francis, p. 49-52.

It is the breath of the Spirit that opens horizons, awakens creativity and renews us in fraternity to say I am present (or here I am) before the enormous and imperative task that awaits us. It is a matter of urgency to discern and find the pulse of the Spirit to give impetus, together with others, to dynamics that can witness and channel the new life that the Lord wants to generate at this concrete moment in history. This is the favourable time of the Lord, who is asking us not to conform or content ourselves, let alone justify ourselves with substitutive or palliative logic, which prevents us from sustaining the impact and serious consequences of what we are living. This is the right time to find the courage for a new imagination of the possible, with the realism that only the Gospel can offer us. The Spirit, who does not allow himself to be locked up or manipulated by fleeting or fixed schemes, modalities and structures, invites us to unite to his movement, which can “make all things new” (Rev 21:5).

In this time we realized that it is important “to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development”.<sup>41</sup> Every individual action is not an isolated action, for better or for worse. It has consequences for others, because everything is interconnected in our common house; and if it is the health authorities who order confinement in the house, it is the people who make it possible, aware of their co-responsibility to curb the pandemic. “An emergency like that of Covid-19 is overcome with, above all, the antibodies of solidarity”.<sup>42</sup>

It is the Lord who will ask us again: “Where is your brother?” (Gen 4:9), and in the way we respond, may the soul of our peoples be revealed to us. This is the reservoir of hope, faith and charity in which we have been born, and which, for so long, we have anesthetized and silenced.

We must not be afraid to live the alternative – the civilization of love. This is “a civilization of hope: against anguish and fear, sadness and discouragement, passivity and tiredness. The civilization of love is built daily, uninterruptedly. It requires a committed effort by all. For this reason it requires a committed community of brothers and sisters”.<sup>43</sup>

In this time of tribulation and mourning, I hope that, where you are, you will be able to experience Jesus, who comes to meet you, greets you and says: “Rejoice” (cf. Mt 28:9). And may this greeting mobilize us to invoke and amplify the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

*Franciscus*

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41 *Laudato si'*, 13.

42 Pontifical Academy for Life, *Global Pandemic and Universal Brotherhood. Note on the Covid-19 Emergency*, 30 March 2020, 5.

43 Eduardo Pironio, *Diálogo con laicos, Patria Grande*, Buenos Aires 1986.