



Pastoral Year 2021-2022

Subject: Pastoral Year 2021-2022

Our five-year plan was initiated in 2017-2018 under the theme of "*teaching the faith that leads to a personal relationship with Christ.*" In 2018-2019, we focused on a *personal relationship with Christ*: among the suggested ways to do this, I proposed the introduction of a thanksgiving prayer time after communion during Mass; in addition, a recollection was experienced with the mandated pastoral staff and in specific settings (our two Catholic school boards). In 2019-2020, we deepened the encounter with Christ through the *sacraments*: Baptism in October, Confirmation in November, and Reconciliation in December 2019; in February 2020, we touched on the Anointing of the sick.

The global pandemic has caused the process to be suspended. During Lent 2021, in addition to my Pastoral letter on the *Pandemic and the Life of Faith*, in order to help the faithful better understand and live the Sacrament of the Eucharist, we focused our reflection on this Sacrament, by presenting each Sunday an element of the Eucharistic liturgy.

The sacraments of Holy Orders and Marriage were to be addressed in May-June 2021, but the re-confinement has once again thrown everything off. They are now scheduled respectively for January and February 2022; in due course I will send the required documentation.

For now, it is fundamental to look at the concrete situation of each of our parishes, in order to better identify their leadership, their resources and needs and to highlight possible formation paths for the laity. In this line, during the months of December and January, I invite each parish to proceed to an analysis with the following elements:

- 1- Beginning with a meditation on the Word of God :
Two texts of St. Paul on the Church (I Cor 12 and Eph 4) can inspire us to have a spiritual instead of a sociological vision of the Church. A sharing time on both texts by the participants is fundamental.
- 2- Parish analysis Grid
Staff

Committees
Services
Movements
Youth ministry

We can thus identify
the strengths and weaknesses of our parishes,
their particular needs (n. 2).

We can also draw inspiration from Mallon's book (n. 3).

We can become aware of the sacrament of Holy Orders that will be considered in January 2022: n. 4) and of Marriage (February 2022, n. 5); they constitute important elements of leadership in the Church and society.

- 3- Following the establishment by the Pope of the Synod on synodality, a first reflection on the proposed questionnaire can be initiated.

Yours in Christ,



✠ Serge Poitras
Bishop of Timmins