



Official Communiqué No. 24

*...In God's plan and the mission of the Church...
...we, who are baptized in Jesus Christ,
let's go today,
with joy and hope of the Spirit,
to welcome and reveal to the world
the Word that frees and gives life.
(Mission Statement, June 14, 2014)*

Diocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Vocations [Commission diocésaine de la pastorale des vocations (CDPV)]

Introduction

The Diocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Vocations was created following the North American Vocations Congress, held in Montreal in 2002. Since then, it has taken pains to support pastoral care for vocations. However, taking into account the Church's evolution, the Commission has brought its guidelines up to date in order to respond to God's plan and the Church's mission today.

Mission of the Diocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Vocations

The baptismal vocation is the cornerstone of every specific vocation at the very heart of the Church. This vocation is spreading in the community, the commitment in a community setting, the consecrated life, the practice of various ministries and in missionary and priestly vocations. The CDPV then has the mission to suggest guidelines to the Bishop with the aim of establishing a culture of vocations that leads to the discernment of the call that is addressed to each of us.

CDPV Mandate and Functions

In the exercise of its mandate, the Commission understands that it is not the only one with responsibility for pastoral care for vocations. This equally concerns the Christian Community, the pastors, the pastoral agents, the diocesan services and the Youth Ministry Mission.

The Commission has as its duties, on the one hand, to provide suggestions to the bishop in order that the Diocesan Church authorities feel committed to putting into place genuine pastoral care for vocations and, on the other hand, promote activities meant to raise the youth's awareness of the various aspects of Christian vocation (pastoral, priestly, missionary, consecrated life) at a time when they are seeking to shape their own life.

It is up to the CPDV to suggest to the Bishop some approaches for pastoral action so that:

➤ **the Christian Community**

- and all the baptized should be encouraged to bear witness to an authentic Christian life in keeping with the Gospel, wherever they may be;

➤ **the Pastors and Pastoral Agents**

- sensitize the members of the parish community of their baptismal vocation;
- enable the discernment of a call to a particular vocation,
- foster youth participation in the Church's mission;
- support families during liturgical celebrations, at baptism preparation meetings, so as to awaken their faith and catechetical knowledge, for their children's faith formation;

➤ **Diocesan Services**

- each member, according to his or her own talent and capability, should highlight the richness of the baptismal vocation by offering his or her service to the Church in one capacity or another;

➤ **Youth Ministry Mission**

- focuses on initiatives allowing the youth to experience a fraternal, committed life of faith;
- facilitates meetings with pastors, the religious, pastoral agents, committed lay people so that they may witness to their faith and their commitment in the service of the Church.

Membership of the Diocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Vocations

When naming members to the Commission, care should be taken, to the extent possible, to have complete gender parity and representatives from the various vocations. As the pastoral care for vocations is linked to the Youth Ministry Mission, it would seem appropriate that a youth should be named as one of the representatives. Finally, attention should also be given to ensuring that there is representation from the anglophone region.

The Commission comprises six to seven members:

- one diocesan priest, so as to distinguish between the charism of a diocesan priest from that of a priest from a religious community,
- one member from a religious community at work in the diocese,
- one pastoral agent coming from the pastoral region,
- one baptized young adult volunteer,
- one permanent deacon depending on his availability, named by the Bishop,
- the diocesan leader responsible for the pastoral care for vocations and the Youth Ministry Mission as an ex officio member of the Commission.

Mandate of the members of the CDPV

In carrying out their mandate, the CDPV generally will endeavour to dialogue with other diocesan groups and parish communities with a view to sharing pastoral tools and ensuring an effective partnership.

Duration of a Mandate

An initial mandate is for two years, which may be renewed twice, for a term of six years on the Commission.

Number of Commission Meetings Per Annum

The CDPV will meet four or more times a year as needed.

Conclusion

The members of the Diocesan Commission for the Pastoral Care of Vocations acknowledge that their identity as Christians is fully reflected in a sense of belonging to all of the Church of Saint-Jean-Longueuil. Thus, they should feel responsible for the entirety of the pastoral vocation, in collaboration with the Bishop and the diocesan authorities and be aware of the role they are called upon to play in the Church today.

Done in Longueuil on September 12, 2016,

† Lionel Gendron, p.s.s.
Bishop of Saint-Jean-Longueuil

Jean-Pierre Camerlain, v.e.
Chancellor