



# Infifax



## 1- Pastoral Letter : *“Faithful to the Teaching of the Apostles”*

In my Fall 2016 Pastoral Letter, I invited a reflection on our diocesan Church: so that the Church continue to be present here, it is fundamental that all of the faithful take their faith seriously and allow themselves to be transformed by the presence of Christ and the Gospel message.

How to live our faith if we do not know it well? How to love someone you do not know? To answer these questions the Diocesan Pastoral Council retained as the priority for the 2017-2018 year: *“The teaching of the faith that leads to a personal relationship with Christ.”* It is important to know the Lord and his message in order to become more fervent disciples.

With the Pastoral Letter, *“Faithful to the Teaching of the Apostles”*, that I present to you today, I submit a few avenues for reflection to make us more aware of our situation as disciples of the Lord. We will find in him the wisdom that illuminates our lives. However we know that being disciples of Christ is not self-evident: we encounter resistance within ourselves and in the world. Our faith remains a treasure that we want to share.

Thus, I invite you the faithful to read this letter slowly and allow yourselves to think about your way of being a disciple of Christ. I also hope that as much as possible we share with other people on this subject. This is an excellent way to mutually support one another in our Christian commitment. In addition to this Pastoral Letter, other tools for spiritual growth are offered in our parishes and our schools ... homilies, cards for liturgical prayer and spiritual sharing, concern for people distant from the Church.

## 2- Missionary period for two African Franciscan priests

For a few years, the Diocese of Timmins has benefitted from the presence and priestly ministry of three African Franciscan priests: Fathers Stéphane Kazadi Sanga, Pierre Mafanda Mahuma and Georges Hakiz Nyarubwa.

At my request, their Provincial Superior has accepted to send two other priests, one of whom might eventually return to exercise priestly ministry here. They will do a missionary period in October and

November in parishes entrusted to our Franciscans here: *Sacré-Cœur* in New Liskeard, *Saint-Pierre* in Virginiatown, *Notre-Dame-du-Lac* in Larder Lake, *Assomption de la Sainte Vierge* in Kirkland Lake, *Saint-Laurent* in Ramore, *Très-Saint-Rédempteur* in Holtyre, *Marie-Reine-du Monde* in Matheson, and *Immaculée-Conception* in Val-Gagné, as well as in the missions of Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin in Wahgoshig and Our Lady of Guadalupe in Matachewan.

I am sure that the parishes concerned will welcome them warmly.

### 3- **Our Lady of Fatima**

One hundred years ago this year, the Blessed Virgin appeared to three children in Fatima: Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta.

A group of the faithful hoped, and rightly so, to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the last apparition that took place October 13, 1917.

I am happy to support this initiative by inviting the faithful to a bilingual Eucharistic celebration in honour of the Blessed Virgin on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at *Notre-Dame-de-la-Paix* Church in Timmins. This celebration will be preceded by the recitation of the rosary at 6:15 pm.

With my best regards in Our Lord.



✠ Serge Poitras  
Bishop of Timmins

September 21, 2017, Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist.