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The summer is already drawing to a close. You have undoubtedly taken advantage of it for a time of rest, spending more time with family and I hope you left some time for the Lord.

As for myself, the month of July was quite busy. I participated in Sunday celebrations in a few parishes in Timmins (St-Dominique, Sacred Heart, Cathedral).

1- Aboriginal communities

To highlight the canonization of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, the first North American aboriginal saint, I met with the faithful of the First Nations people living in our diocese on the Matachewan and BeaverHouse reserves. I presided over a Eucharistic celebration, followed by a time of fraternal sharing. In this same context, Holy Name Parish in Kirkland Lake offered an afternoon gathering for people wanting to know more about aboriginal communities. This was followed by mass and a fraternal meal.

Thank you to those who devoted themselves to preparing and animating these events that were a beautiful time of ecclesial communion.

2- WYD at Rio de Janeiro

In July, Pope Francis went to Rio de Janeiro for World Youth Day. Hundreds of thousands, even millions, of young people participated in this major and very stimulating event for the life of faith. Our diocese did not have any representatives there but we can hope to have some for WYD in Krakow, Poland in 2016.

I invite those working in pastoral ministry among the youth, indeed parents and grandparents who are interested in the Christian life of their children, to review the speeches made by the Pope in Rio de Janeiro. They are an extraordinary resource for the growth in faith of our young people.



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3- Bishop's Stay in Rome

For several years now, the Congregation for Bishops has organized a formation session for bishops who were appointed over the past year. I will therefore be participating in the one to be held in Rome from September 11-19th.

This is an excellent opportunity to get to know bishops (usually about a hundred) coming from different countries. With experienced pastors, we will address numerous themes in the life of the Church. With the Prefects of different Roman Congregations we might also have a more universal vision of the Church. An audience with the Holy Father is also planned.

I want to assure you that I will keep all the faithful of the diocese in my prayers and in a special way, the sick and the youth.

4- Meeting of the CCCB

I will be away from the diocese for the Plenary Assembly of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) that will be held from September 23-27, 2013 at Saint-Adèle, Quebec.

5- September 29, 2013: CCCB collection

The Catholics of Canada are invited to give to the Bishops' collection for the needs of the Church in Canada. The CCCB supports several pastoral projects in the areas of social action, Catholic education, the family, liturgy, ecumenism ... The CCCB also works in direct collaboration with several national organizations.

6- Session on the New Evangelization: September 14, 2013

On September 14, 2013, the Diocese of Hearst is offering a session on the New Evangelization at Immaculée-Conception Parish in Kapuskasing. It will be animated by Father Marcel Dumais O.M.I., professor at St. Paul's University in Ottawa and author of the book « *La nouvelle évangélisation : modèles bibliques* ».



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The New Evangelization is fundamental for the life of the Church. Pope Benedict XVI even instituted a Pontifical Council in regard to this. For my part, I have appointed Father Léo Rancourt as Episcopal Vicar for the New Evangelization.

People interested in participating in this session in French, can inquire at the Diocesan Centre or contact Father Sébastien Groleau, the one who is directly responsible.
(cdphearst@hotmail.com).

7- September 27: Migrant Day

The Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant Peoples published a message for World Tourism Day 2013 that will be celebrated September 27, 2013. This message, the theme of which is: *“Tourism and water: protecting our common future”*, is available in several languages on the site of this Dicastery (www.pc.migrants.org). This year’s **theme** was proposed by the World Tourism Organization and is in line with the *“International Year of Cooperation for Water”*, that was proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations, during the International Decade for Action “Water, Source of Life” (2005-2015).

8- Cursillo Session

The faithful of the Diocese of Timmins who wish to experience a Cursillo weekend in French will be able to do so on the following dates :

Men: from September 19 to 22, 2013.
Women : from October 17 to 20, 2013.
Men : from November 21 to 24, 2013.
Women : from January 16 to 19, 2014.
Men : from February 20 to 23, 2014.
Women : from March 27 to 30, 2014.
Couples : from May 1 to 4, 2014.



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Diocèse de Timmins / Diocese of Timmins

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The weekends will take place at la Maison Bruyère, Couvent Street, Gatineau (Aylmer), Quebec.

For further details or to reserve, contact Louise Riel, Secretary of the Outaouais Cursillo Movement : lriel@hotmail.com

United in prayer!

✠ Serge Poitras
Bishop of Timmins