



Infifax



1- Retreat for Bishops

I participated in the retreat for the Quebec Bishops that was held from January 5th to 10th at Our Lady of the Cape Shrine at Cap de la Madeleine. Two Bishops from New Brunswick also attended. The preaching centred on Blessed François de Laval, the first Bishop of Quebec. We went on a pilgrimage to his tomb in Notre Dame de Québec Cathedral.

2- Holy Door in the Basilica-Cathedral of Quebec

This year, Notre-Dame de Québec Parish is celebrating the 350th anniversary of its creation. For this occasion, Pope Francis has allowed a Holy Door to be installed there, such as can be found in the major Basilicas in Rome and at a few rare locations in the world. The fact of passing through this Holy Door is a gesture of faith that expresses the desire for greater closeness to the Lord, who presented himself as the gate for the sheepfold (Jn 10: 9). This pilgrimage can be made either as an individual or as a group (parishes, communities). Information in this regard is available on the web site of Notre-Dame de Québec Parish.

3- Diocesan Marian Feast

For several years, the Diocese of Timmins has honoured the Blessed Virgin through the solemn celebration of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th. The other diocesan events are, of course, the Chrism Mass in Holy Week and the solemnity of our Patron, Saint Anthony of Padua on June 13th. Since two of these events take place in winter, with the difficulties that entails, I thought that we could move our Diocesan Marian Feast. Henceforth, at the diocesan level, we will celebrate the Nativity of Mary that takes place September 8th instead of December 8th. This will undoubtedly facilitate participation, especially for those travelling.

4- Apostolic Blessing

The Diocesan Bishop has the privilege of bestowing an Apostolic Blessing three times a year, at times chosen by him. This Blessing is the one that the Pope bestows with a plenary indulgence. I will therefore grant it for the Chrism Mass, for the feast of Saint Anthony, June 13th and for the Diocesan Marian Feast on September 8th.

5- People Honoured

Each year the Diocese highlights the work of people involved in ecclesial life. Last year we honoured those who work in the area of sacramental preparation. This year we want to honour people engaged in the area of pastoral animation in schools.

We all understand the importance of transmitting the faith to new generations. Animators in school pastoral ministry play a fundamental role in this area, together with parents and teachers as well as pastors and people engaged in parish pastoral ministry.

✠ Serge Poitras
Bishop of Timmins