



# Infofax



In these last weeks of the Lenten season, I want to draw your attention to some activities that will be taking place shortly.

- 1- On April 6th, the 5th Sunday of Lent, the traditional collection for Development and Peace, that I quickly mentioned at the end of Infofax 15, will be taken up. Following a significant reduction in financing by the Canadian government, this Organization that is tied to the Conference of Catholic Bishops is appealing to our generosity to support its programs in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in developing countries.
  
- 2- On Good Friday, April 18th, the Pontifical Collection for the Needs of the Church in the Holy Land will be taken up. It is very important to support the Christian presence in the country where Christ, the Blessed Virgin and the Apostles lived. Last fall, Father Patrick Lafleur, Parish Priest of the Cathedral and Vicar-General of the Diocese as well as Father Léo Rancourt, Parish Priest of Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens and St. Ann's Parish Iroquois Falls and Episcopal Vicar for the New Evangelization, participated in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Here is some of what they had to say on this subject : *"During our pilgrimage to the Holy Land in October of 2013, we were struck by the beauty and number of the Catholic shrines that were there. They were very well maintained, and afforded all pilgrims the opportunity to pray and meditate in surroundings worthy of their locale. It was also with a little bit of pride that we observed how good 'ours' were in comparison to some other denominations. We were informed that this was possible due to the generosity of Catholics around the world through the Good Friday collection. We hope our diocese will continue to do its part in helping to preserve these marvellous sites"*.
  
- 3- To highlight the 30th anniversary of the 1984 visit of Blessed (soon to be Saint) Pope John Paul II, the *Museum of World Religions* in Nicolet is organizing an exhibition that opens May 16th and closes September 7, 2015. An example of what we will see there is the 'popemobile' used by the Pope during his stay on Canadian soil that many described as a 'visitation'.

4- I have some information for you regarding Holy Week.

- a. It begins on Palm Sunday, April 13th when we recall the solemn entrance of the Lord into Jerusalem. Pope John Paul II wanted this Sunday to also be the annual World Day of Youth. I will celebrate mass at Sacred Heart - Sacro Cuore in Timmins.
- b. The Chrism Mass constitutes one of the main celebrations of diocesan life. The Bishop, surrounded by priests, deacons and pastoral associates as well as representatives of the different parishes of the diocese, blesses the oils used for the celebration of Baptism and Anointing of the Sick and consecrates the Holy Chrism for baptisms, confirmations and ordinations. This year it will be held at Sacré-Cœur Parish in New Liskeard on Tuesday, April 15th at 7 p.m. I will give the Apostolic Blessing at this mass.
- c. Holy Thursday highlights the institution of the Eucharist and the Priesthood. I will celebrate mass at Notre-Dame de la Paix Parish in Timmins. It will be followed by a time of Eucharistic adoration in response to the call of the Lord who, invited his disciples to stay awake with him during his agony.
- d. Good Friday recalls the death of the Lord on the cross. There is no mass. Nevertheless, the Church gathers to pray during a unique three part Liturgy : the Passion, veneration of the Cross, communion. Many faithful also, understandably, make the Stations of the Cross. For my part, I will be at Très-Saint-Rédempteur Parish in Holtyre to preside over this liturgy at 3 p.m. following which, in the same town, I will participate in the Way of the Cross that will move through the streets.
- e. Easter Vigil, the highlight of the liturgical year, underlines the victory of Christ over death, of light over darkness, of love over hate. I will preside over this solemn celebration in the Cathedral. Some of the faithful will be confirmed.
- f. Easter Sunday, I will be present at the Cathedral for the 11 a.m. Mass.

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Let us take advantage of the remaining days of Lent to intensify our efforts in prayer, fasting and sharing so that the light of Christ enters our hearts and shines on the world!

✠ Serge Poitras  
Bishop of Timmins