



Infifax



1- Solemnity of Saint Anthony of Padua

Next Friday, June 13th, our diocese celebrates the solemnity of its patron, Saint Anthony of Padua (1195-1231), canonized one year after death (1232) by Pope Gregory IX. I will preside over the solemn concelebration Thursday evening, June 12th at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral when we will highlight Mr. Lionel Venne, member of the mandated pastoral staff for 20 years as well as Saint Anne's Parish in Iroquois Falls that achieves 100 years of existence this year.

2- Pastoral Letter on the Holy Eucharist

On the occasion of the feast of our patron, I am publishing a Pastoral Letter on the Holy Eucharist. It seems important to me to reflect on this sacrament, its significance, its importance in Christian life. Indeed we risk becoming accustomed to this marvellous sign of the love of God for us and to participate at mass in a routine way. On the other hand, some Catholics neglect this sacrament for which they no longer perceive the need.

In my Letter, I want to offer a reflection on the presence of the Lord in the sacrament of the Eucharist as the faith of the Catholic Church expresses it. I invite you to take some time during the summer to expand this teaching. The division of my Letter into numbers facilitates reading. With one or two numbers a day, one can easily look through this document and I hope, rediscover the wonder of the Eucharist.

3- Pentecost

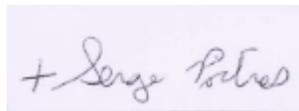
The Solemnity of Pentecost on Sunday, June 8th allows me to draw attention to the sacrament of Confirmation that I conferred to 215 young people this year. I take advantage of this to underline what young people have done in this regard: they generously committed to a process that prepared them to receive this sacrament in a more conscious manner. I also

thank parents and godparents who accompanied their young people as well as people (catechists, guides, pastors) who offered their time and expertise in this preparation.

On Pentecost Day I will be in Val d'Or in the Diocese of Amos. This diocese, erected December 3, 1938, is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its foundation this year. Until then, its territory was part of the Diocese of Haileybury, becoming the Diocese of Timmins precisely in 1938. To highlight this anniversary, His Excellency Bishop Gilles Lemay, Bishop of Amos, wanted as a noteworthy event, a diocesan celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. I will therefore be part of a group of 8 bishops who will confer Confirmation on the young people of Amos.

4- Elections

Provincial elections in Ontario will be held on June 12th. Catholics have a duty to vote in a conscientious manner. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us: *"The exercise of authority is meant to give outward expression to a just hierarchy of values in order to facilitate the exercise of freedom and responsibility by all."* (n.2236) *"Political authorities are obliged to respect the fundamental rights of the human person. They will dispense justice humanely by respecting the rights of everyone, especially of families and the disadvantaged ... Political rights are meant to be exercised for the common good of the nation and the human community."* (n.2237)

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "+ Serge Poitras", enclosed in a light purple rectangular box.

✠ Serge Poitras
Bishop of Timmins

June 8, 2014, Solemnity of Pentecost