



Infifax



Pastoral Visit 2014-2015

The words of the Lord are ringing in my mind: “I know my own and my own know me.” (Jn 10:14). Since my arrival in the diocese, I have taken advantage of many opportunities, such as confirmations, to come in contact with the faithful of the different parishes.

Nevertheless, I cannot be satisfied with these occasional encounters. More extended time is also needed, allowing for better mutual understanding. This is one of the objectives of the pastoral visit that the Church asks every Bishop to make.

To this end, I want to visit each parish or group of parishes in the diocese during the 2014-2015 pastoral year, according to the calendar that I have sent to the priests and to their collaborators. I will meet with the different parish councils (pastoral, finance, liturgical...), likewise the young people and staff in the schools, the sick, seniors living in residences. The parishes have been divided according to the priest who is Parish Priest, Administrator or Moderator. Depending on the situation, the visit will be made to one parish or more. It will take place over a period of three or four days, beginning in principle on a Friday (or a Thursday) and ending on Sunday. A precise agenda will be determined jointly.

This visit will allow each parish to become aware of the quality of their Christian life based on three elements: faith proclaimed, faith celebrated, faith lived. A preparatory document to facilitate this reflection is available.

This visit can also take historical circumstances into account. Indeed, the diocese will celebrate one hundred years of existence in January 2016. In addition, His Excellency Bishop Paul Marchand carried out some important changes ten years ago. Finally, we know that a reorganization of the dioceses of Northern Ontario has been under study for the last few years. The pastoral visit will allow the faithful to reflect on these different elements.

In anticipation of these meetings, I take advantage of the opportunity, dear faithful of the diocese, to assure you of my warmest regards in Our Lord.

✠ Serge Poitras
Bishop of Timmins