



Diocese of Edmundston

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March 13th 2025

Pastoral Letter

Letter to the Diocesan Church of Edmundston Modalities of the jubilee year.

Dear brothers and sisters in faith,

Pope Francis has invited us all to enter the Jubilee year. Several gathered at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception to mark the opening of the Holy Year on December 29.

Pope Francis invites us to have a living experience of God's love as we face difficult political and economic times. He therefore invites us to be "**pilgrims of hope**", a hope rooted in the grace of God and the fullness of his mercy.

The Jubilee year leads us to speak of the **plenary indulgence** where the mercy of God reaches the forgiven sinner and frees us from all that remains of the consequences of sin, beyond the sacrament of reconciliation.

The truly repented faithful, animated by a spirit of charity, purified by the sacrament of reconciliation and nourished by holy communion will pray for the intentions of the pope, will obtain from the treasury of the church full indulgence, remission and forgiveness of their sins, applicable to our deceased, still present in Purgatory.

The holy year invites us to make a **pilgrimage**. If some will be able to go to Rome or the Holy Land, for most of us it will be home. The main site for our church will be the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Edmundston. During the month of July, as part of the novena to Saint Anne, the church of Sainte-Anne de Madawaska will also be the destination of our pilgrimage, as well as the parish of Saint-Léonard, which celebrates its 100th anniversary as a parish, and which celebrates the Assumption of the

Virgin Mary on August 15th; the parish of Saint-Léonard will also become a destination for pilgrimage during the month of August. For our English-speaking brothers and sisters, the **Saint Mary of the Angels church** in Perth-Andover will also be a venue to celebrate the Jubilee.

In these places linked to the Jubilee, one will be able to participate in the Eucharistic celebration, live a celebration of the Word of God, a penitential celebration with individual confession of the penitents.

We could also visit one of the Jubilee sites in our diocese individually or as a group. The time spent in this place could include a time of Eucharistic adoration and meditation, concluded by the Our Father, the Creed and the invocation to Mary, Mother of God.

For those who cannot take part in pilgrimages and visits for good reasons, the elderly, the infirm, and those who serve the sick in hospitals and homes will be able to unite themselves spiritually with the faithful present. They will be able to receive the words of the Pope and the bishops broadcast for the new means of communication. Reciting the Our Father, the Creed, offering their sufferings or difficulties of life.

The pope adds to these steps the **works of mercy and penance**. One can participate in spiritual retreats, training meetings on the documents of the Second Vatican Council or the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Plenary indulgence may apply to the deceased. Thus the link between us, still on pilgrimage on earth and those who are at the end of their journey is manifested.

During the year, we are called to become **pilgrims of hope** to those who live in conditions of distress. The Pope reminds us of the **corporal and spiritual works of mercy**:

Corporal Works of Mercy:

- feed the hungry
- give drink to the thirsty
- clothe the naked
- shelter the homeless
- visit the sick
- visit the imprisoned
- bury the dead (Misericordiae vultus, 15)

Spiritual Works of Mercy:

- admonish the sinner
- instruct the ignorant
- counsel the doubtful

- bear wrongs patiently
- forgive offenses willingly
- comfort the afflicted
- pray for the living and the dead

Initiatives can also implement the spirit of penance, which is the soul of the Jubilee.

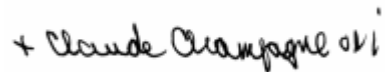
Recover the penitential value of Friday by refraining from futile distractions (real and virtual), supporting social and religious activities, volunteering for youth, single people, migrants.

In the Diocese of Edmundston, we plan to impart the **Apostolic Blessing** at the Chrism Mass on Monday, April 14th, in the church of Saint-Léonard.

Each pastoral unit is invited to determine the different activities to be proposed to the members of their community in this time of grace that is the Jubilee year 2025.

In closing, I entrust this Jubilee Year to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, the patron saint of our diocese and assure you of my solidarity in this pilgrimage,

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Claude Champagne o.m.i.". The signature is written in a cursive style.

+Claude Champagne, o.m.i.,

Bishop of Edmundston