

Translated with the authorisation of Mgr Pierre Murray, Secretary General for the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Quebec

For immediate release

Trois-Rivières, March 12, 2020 - Today, the Premier of Quebec announced several preventive measures to stem the spread of VIDOC-19. Meeting in Plenary Assembly, **the Catholic Bishops of Quebec** want to contribute to this Common Public Health effort and act in solidarity with the authorities.

Given the impossibility in many places of managing the limit of 250 people gathered. Taking into account the fact that a large number of our parishioners are over 65 years of age and are therefore at greater risk of contracting the virus. As a preventive measure, we have decided for all dioceses and Eastern Rite Catholic Churches to put in place the following measures.

Until further notice:

- All Saturday evening and Sunday Masses and Sunday celebrations of the Word are cancelled:
- Churches remain accessible for smaller gatherings and for personal visits;
- We invite people to unite in the Church with their brothers and sisters:
 - o By listening to the televised mass;
 - o By reading the Word of God using their bible or web resources to highlight Sunday at home.

The Assembly representatives maintain a contact with the civilian authorities, and closely following developments.

Further directives may be issued in due course.

We pray for the people affected by this virus, for those who are concerned about it and for the caring staff who are very generous in their dedication.

We thank all the church stakeholders for their valuable collaboration in this exceptional situation.

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