



1 November 2021

Dear Pastors and Faithful of the Archdiocese,

Catholic Education Sunday

The Catholic community across Alberta celebrates Catholic Education Sunday this year on November 7th. This is an occasion for us once again to be mindful of the gift of fully-funded Catholic schools, and to pray for our schools and all those who rely on them as communities of faith. Over the past few years, GrACE (Grateful Advocates of Catholic Education) has kept before our eyes the blessings of truly Catholic education. Whether or not we have children in this education system, let us show our appreciation and our encouragement by our prayers, words and actions.

Remembrance Day

Thursday the 11th is a day set aside for us to remember our armed servicemen currently serving, as well as those who have made the supreme sacrifice in years gone by to safeguard our peace and that of the world. Armed aggression is a threat on many fronts and in every generation. May we ever keep in mind the words of a popular song: “Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.”

CCCB Committees

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has several committees that address the interests and concerns of the Conference. Over the 14-plus years that I have been a bishop, I have served on some of these. Let me share with you my membership at this point in time on two such committees.

The Standing Committee for Family and Life. This committee promotes both reflection and action in support of family life across Canada, as well as the dignity of human life from conception to natural death. This is a relatively new committee, which grew out of the now-defunct COLF (Catholic Organization for Life and Family). Some of our recent actions were the production of a video reflections on Grandparents and Elders Day, and resources for the National Week of Life and the Family in May of each year. We will also be promoting the 10th World Meeting of Families to be held in Rome in June 2022. Members of this committee are the chairman Archbishop Christian Lépine (Montreal), Bishop Doug Crosby, OMI (Hamilton), Mrs. Teresa Hartnett (Hamilton), Dr. Alisha Montes, M.D. (St. John’s), Mme Katerine Perrault (Quebec), Mme Dominique Rainville (Quebec), Bishop Christian Rodembourg (St. Hyacinthe),

Sister John Mary Sullivan, F.S.E. (Vancouver), and me. We are awaiting a member from the Knights of Columbus. Michelle Dabrowski is the executive director.

The Standing Committee for Relations with Movements and Associations. This committee maintains contact with the many movements and organizations of the laity and clergy that are engaged in the life and ministry of the Church, groups such as Cursillo, the Charismatic Renewal, St. Vincent de Paul Society, CCO, CWL, Knights of Columbus, etc. I am presently the chair of this committee; swerving with me are Archbishop Marcel Damphousse (Ottawa-Cornwall) and Bishop Guy Desrochers, C.Ss.R. On October 23rd, we held a very insightful and helpful conference on COVID and its effects on the various groups represented. Sr. Nuala Kenney, SC, gave our deeply appreciated keynote presentation.

Archbishop's Dinner Friday 5 November 2021

Once again, due to COVID restrictions, we are holding a virtual archbishop's dinner, much like we did last year. Rather than a deanery hosting a meal which I and many others would sit down and enjoy, it is I who will prepare a meal on-line, which Father Remi and I will then enjoy. Along with this, there will be a silent auction of donated items, a question and answer quiz (about me, it seems – I don't plan this stuff, others do!) and I will give a short presentation about a topic of my choosing. This year I will be speaking about young saints, especially Carlo Acutis.

If you wish to join us for this by livestream, simply search on the Internet: Facebook.com/archgrouardmclennan, starting at about 6:30 p.m. This is open equally to any of you who receive this letter but do not live in the Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan.

COVID19

Thankfully, the number of cases and hospitalizations due to COVID are decreasing in Alberta. Let us pray that this trend continues, and that we see fewer deaths and serious illnesses, a reprieve for front-line workers and medical staff, and an easing of the tensions that burden many. I encourage all of you to stay grounded by prayer and care.

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,



Most Rev. Gerard Pettipas, C.Ss.R.
Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan