



PASTORAL MESSAGE FROM BISHOP SIMARD FOR THE 2023-2024 PASTORAL YEAR

TOGETHER LET'S CONTINUE TO BUILD THE KINGDOM!

Alone we may go faster, but together we go further. For the past three years, our pastoral theme has been to spread happiness, inspired by the Beatitudes, the charter of the Kingdom. More specifically, we wanted to be open to the Word of God and to listen to the cries of our brothers and sisters in need, to give with a generous and loving heart, to offer our hands to build a world of justice, peace and solidarity. The Synodal process inaugurated by Pope Francis has given us an urgent call to walk together in our common mission to make disciples, to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to build the Kingdom of God in word and deed.

In these troubled times, faced with the trials that continue to strike our world and our Church, and with the spectacle of indifference or resignation on the part of so many of our brothers and sisters in the faith, we may ask ourselves what point there is in remaining faithful, or even doubt and be discouraged at not seeing the Kingdom of God being built and moving forward.

On the contrary, and more than ever, we are called to continue to believe patiently that the Reign of God is coming and that the Kingdom is being built here and now through the fidelity of our commitments, our projects, our action in favour of the little ones and those left behind in our society, in short through the fidelity of our hope and our inventive and constant charity.

On the other hand, the building of the Kingdom does not rest on our shoulders alone; it is achieved through the participation of each and every one of us, through the commitment of all men and women, but also of all people of goodwill who want a world transformed by a love that shares, helps, empowers, reconciles and brings justice.

Building the Kingdom together is possible! Building the Kingdom is possible because Jesus is with us. His Spirit continues to breathe in our communities and to act in the hearts of the young, the not so young, the elderly and the children who dare to open up to His presence in their lives. Jesus left us the message and the call of the Kingdom of God. Let us continue together to enter into this movement of the Kingdom and to make it happen by relying first of all on God, Father, Son and Spirit; and also on the gifts and abilities that the Lord has entrusted to us. If, together, we immerse ourselves in the heart of Jesus and Mary our Mother, if we allow ourselves to be touched by the heart of God who loves the world so much, we will become bearers of His light and witnesses to the hope that there is always a future in God and with God.