

Dear brother priest,

As part of the 150th anniversary of the “dies natalis” of Saint John Vianney, Pope Benedict XVI has inaugurated a **Year for Priests** “meant to deepen the commitment of all priests to interior renewal for the sake of a stronger and more incisive witness to the Gospel in today’s world”.

The Office for Pastoral Personnel, along with the Ministère auprès des prêtres (MAP) will be responding to this invitation by offering 3 retreats: two in the fall, and one in the spring. As the Second Vatican Council said in *Presbyterorum Ordinis*: “Holiness does much for priests in carrying on a fruitful ministry... This holy council, to fulfill its pastoral desires of an internal renewal of the Church, of the spread of the Gospel in every land and of a dialogue with the world of today, strongly urges all priests that they strive always for that growth in holiness by which they will become consistently better instruments in the service of the whole People of God, using for this purpose those means which the Church has approved” (12), of which “spiritual retreats are of great worth” (18).

The two retreats in the fall will have the theme “The joy of being priests!” and I will be delighted to preach them. The **first** will be in **French**, and will take place from Monday afternoon to Friday noon, November 9-13. The **second** retreat will be in **English**. It will run from Monday, November 16 in the afternoon until noon on Friday, November 20, 2009.

The third retreat will be preached by Daniel Cadrin, o.p., with the theme “Pasteurs sur les routes du monde”. It will begin on Sunday, May 23, 2010 in the evening and will go until noon on Friday, May 28. All pastoral personnel – priests, deacons, and mandated laity – are invited.

These three retreats will take place at Val-de-Paix (www.chemin-neuf.ca/valdepaix.html). As places are limited it will be necessary to register in advance. For the fall retreats, the registration deadline is **Friday, October 16**. To register, you may contact our departmental secretary, Miss Cynthia Crevier, at 514-931-7311 ext. 212, or by email at ccrevier@diocesemontreal.org

Registration for the spring retreat will take place **starting in mid-January, and will go until April 30 as long as there is still room.**

Yours in Christ, the Good Shepherd,

+Lionel Gendron, s.s.

Director, Office for Pastoral Personnel