

Dear parishioners and friends of our communities,

As we approach Thanksgiving, we know that this year again, our celebrations will not be quite as “normal” as they used to be. While we are amid the 4th wave of Covid-19, although some of our churches have reopened, many are still worshiping online. Most likely, if members of your families can travel or feel it is safe enough to do so, you are limited in the number of people or the number of “bubbles” that can meet. It may not feel as it used to be.

It reminds me of the thanksgiving celebration we had in my own family 4 or 5 years ago. That year, I made the celebration a bit bigger and invited not only my family but also my husband’s family. The tables stretched through the dining room and the living room for the big feast. After putting everything on the table, the elders in my family asked me to say grace. At that moment I realized that I had a problem because if some of us are Christians, some are Buddhists, some are atheists, some are agnostics, etc. Within a few seconds I came up with an idea! I asked everyone around the table to name, each at their turn, at least one thing they were thankful for. It saved the situation because believers or not, everyone could name something they were thankful for in their life.

If this year, the members of the family will not be able to gather because we have way more than 3 bubbles, I nevertheless try to not let this get to me and to concentrate on what is positive and what I can be thankful for. There is so much to be thankful for, starting with the fact that we lack nothing of the basics in our life. These days, I am also thankful for the view of the multicoloured mountains I see each day from my home office window.

In our church communities, there is also much to be thankful for. With the big displacement of townspeople moving to the “country”, some congregations have seen new faithful people join in, contributing to worship and the ministry. With many people vaccinated, we have started baptizing people again. What a joy! Trinity Ste-Agathe has a new prayer labyrinth. St. Simeon’s is experimenting with a new style of service once a month. Trinity Morin Heights will soon be livestreaming its Sunday services. The PLL will soon have a new hymnal. St. Francis is now holding fully bilingual services. I see new ministry budding a bit everywhere across the Laurentians and I am so thankful to God that we have the privilege to see that.

When sitting down to take your tea or coffee, I challenge every one of you to take a moment to name all the things you are thankful for at this time. I am sure that if you start writing them you will find way more than you might expect.

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. (Psalm 126.3)

Let us all join and give thanks to the Lord for what He has done for us.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Josée +