

# Get up!



*Reflective activity*

# *The 2015 colloquium : an experience!*

On 7 November 2015, nearly 500 people, delegates from diverse backgrounds of the diocese, parishes, movements, religious communities and other groups will be invited to a colloquium at the College-Eulalie Durocher.

Like a great crossroad for sharing and reflection, under the breath of the Spirit, everyone will gather together to experience the Word that frees, the dynamism of the Spirit and the mission entrusted to all the baptized.

## *Four phases*

The process for the 2015 Colloquium is taking place in four phases, inspired by the invitation of the Spirit to Peter in Acts 10:

Phase 1: Get Up! (*Starting at Pentecost, May 24, 2015*)

Phase 2: Go Downstairs! (*Start of New Pastoral Year August—September 2015*)

Phase 3: Colloquium (*November 7, 2015*)

Phase 4: Accompany Them! (*Follow up after the Colloquium*)

Each of these phases is an opportunity to deepen an aspect of the mission of the baptized / confirmed who are called to “welcome and reveal the Word”.

## *Activity 1*

This activity lies within a process of reflection on the mission of the baptized in the context of a highly secular society, a reflection whose highlight will be the experience of a Diocesan Colloquium on November 7, 2015.

This activity calls on the participants to take stock of certain aspects of their life of faith in a world undergoing change. It is inviting them to return to the sources of our baptism as a cornerstone for a new missionary dynamic in today's world.

This activity is divided into four steps, allowing the exploration of any one of the aspects of this phase: depending on the time available to you, you may focus more on any one of these parts.

## *Possible adjustments*

If you spend about 20 minutes at each step of this activity, the length of it is estimated at approximately 1 hour 30.

However, according to the time you have or the number of people involved, you can make choices in the elements that are presented to you in focusing more or less time on certain parts.

- If time is limited, choose the questions preceded by the symbol: \*
- If you do the activity in groups, ask participants to read texts and respond in advance to the questions.

# Prayer

“The Spirit said to Peter, ‘There are three men here looking for you. So **get up, go downstairs, and accompany them** without hesitation, because I have sent them.’ (Acts 10:19-20)

## *Get up!*

God, our Father, You like us to get up, raised by the strength of the Word and of Your Spirit.

You want us standing and awake  
amidst the changes affecting our world and our Diocesan Church,  
at the focal point in the search for meaning and in social issues,  
to serve women, men and children who are seeking You.

You want us standing and awake  
wherever life and hope are threatened,  
wherever peace has yet to be made,  
wherever reconciliation is to be offered.

As this is the way we are Your people.

## *Go downstairs!*

Jesus, Son of God, though you are divine in nature you are not distant from us.

Each one of your actions reminds us that God loves  
those in the depths of the gutters and not at the heights of the pulpits,  
those at the curb of the sidewalks and not in the palaces of the powerful,  
those in the dust of the marketplace and not in the comfort of indifference.

You want us close and standing together  
with every person  
in any distress,  
with a spirit of joy.

As this is the way we are Your people.

## *Accompagny them!*

Spirit, Holy Breath of God, you instil in us the joy of the Gospel.

You want us to be bold and courageous in seeking  
new ways of doing, being and loving.

You send us out walking humbly over new and unknown paths,  
to encounter our brothers and sisters in the human family,  
to hear their stories, their lives, their words,  
to bear with them their burdens,  
to be a witness to our hope.

As this is the way we are Your people.

## *First Step: Identify what is happening*

“Québec has nevertheless been influenced in this area, as has much of today’s world, by a trend that is virtually without precedent in human history: many people no longer turn to religion as a guide to the conduct of their lives. For them, it simply is not relevant. This is an outcome of what is called ‘secularization.’ Ultimately, the process of secularization can lead to a culture and lifestyle that make no reference to God, to the sacred or to a religious perspective.”

-AÉCQ, Catholics in a Pluralist Québec, January 2013.



In this context, Catholicism appears for some to be a religion in decline. It must be noted that secularization has direct and very visible implications for our Christian communities.

**What signs seem to attest to this decline in your community?**



For Christian men and women, this situation causes concerns and fears for the present and the future.

**Can you state some of your concerns?**

Nevertheless, spiritual quests still seem to remain alive within men and women today. (See the documentary *L’heureux naufrage*)

**Have you seen any signs of this in the people around you?**

Some communities also make efforts to meet the challenges of secularization.

**Can you name some actions that lead you to hope?**



In light of these observations, major challenges have appeared.

**Can you state some of these challenges?**

**How do these challenges personally engage you?**

**How do these challenges engage your community?**

## Second Step: Back to the sources of our baptism

Life is made up of transitions and of change. If some are self-evident, others like the ones we face today, require more courage, boldness and mobilization. Historically, Christians have had to adapt to a changing world. In every age, they have had to draw on the Holy Spirit and the power present in baptism – faith, hope and charity – to move forward.

In the very first words of this passage, which specialists by and large accept as the oldest part of the New Testament (written in the year 50 AD), the Apostle Paul marvelled at the work accomplished by the baptized in Thessalonica.

“We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labour of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father, knowing, brothers loved by God, how you were chosen. For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction. You know what sort of people we were [among] you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, receiving the word in great affliction, with joy from the Holy Spirit.”

- (1 Thes 1:2-6).



### What do you retain from this passage of Paul's?

The Holy Spirit received in baptism keeps on inspiring us each day.

In our daily life, we are able to trust, we are witnesses of trust.

**Can you identify a recent experience in which you, or someone around you, have shown faith?**

In our daily life, we are able to hope, we are witnesses of hope.

**Can you identify a recent experience in which you, or someone around you, have shown hope?**



In our daily life, we are able to love, we are witnesses of love.

**Can you identify a recent experience in which you, or someone around you, have shown love?**

## *Third Step: A Challenge for our Mission*

### **Get up!: Acknowledging one's dignity**

The current situation challenges all the baptized to creativity and renewal. It is inviting them to be bold and show courage.

**“This is exactly what our recital of the Creed implies, that we have the courage to embark on an adventure before we know where it will take us and what it will mean. (...) Whatever form our Christian life takes, the pledge of baptism should surely turn it upside down, or at least shake it about a bit. The proclamation of the Creed, this great love story, invites us to have the courage to become entangled with God and be led beyond all that we know. We must give each other courage for the adventure. (...) The Church should be a school of courage.”**

- Timothy Radcliffe, *Take the plunge*, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2012.

**“Therefore, all sons of the Church should have a lively awareness of their responsibility to the world; they should foster in themselves a truly catholic spirit; they should spend their forces in the work of evangelization. And yet, let everyone know that their first and most important obligation for the spread of the Faith is this: to lead a profoundly Christian life. For their fervour in the service of God and their charity toward others will cause a new spiritual wind to blow for the whole Church, which will then appear as a sign lifted up among the nations (cf. Is. 11:12), ‘the light of the world’ (Matt. 5:14) and ‘the salt of the earth’ (Matt. 5:13).”**

- Vatican II, Decree *Ad Gentes*, no. 36.



**“Don’t be closed in on yourselves, don’t be stifled by petty squabbles, don’t remain a hostage to your own problems. These will be resolved if you go forth and help others to resolve their own problems, and proclaim the Good News. You will find life by giving life, hope by giving hope, love by giving love.”**

- Pope Francis, *Apostolic Letter to All Consecrated People*, November 2014.



**What do you think of all this?**



**What links can you make between the mission entrusted to all the baptized and the challenges identified above?**

## Fourth Step: Introspection

### Get up! : We are the Light of the World

*You will need a candle, a tallow candle, a votive lamp or an oil lamp.*

*You can start this step with a song, like « Veni Creator Spiritus »*

“When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.”

*- (Acts 2:1-4).*

At Pentecost, the disciples were trapped in their fears and their frightfulness.

**Take the time to state again the fears, frightfulness and concerns identified earlier.**

At Pentecost, the disciples were filled with the Spirit.

*You are invited to light either a wax candle, votive lamp, candle or a lamp, etc.*

**Take the time to state again how faith, hope and love dwell within you.**



At Pentecost, the disciples became able to speak, communicate with others what they had witnessed with the Risen One; they became missionaries.

**In the coming days, identify people that you might bring a bit of the light of your faith, of your hope and of your charity to.**

At Pentecost, the disciples were baptized in the Spirit.

On the day of our baptism, this same Spirit was given to us. He is at work in our lives. He is at work in the world. He allows us to call God: Father.

**Our Father,  
Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name;  
Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

# Notes

A large, empty rectangular box with a light green gradient background, intended for taking notes.

Follow the next steps in preparation for the colloquium on the diocesan website [www.dsjl.org](http://www.dsjl.org) or by contacting the leaders of for your parish or movement.



*Diocèse de Saint-Jean-Longueuil*