

Jubilee Festival 2025

THREE DAYS FOR GOD



HUNDREDS OF PARTICIPANTS
3 DAYS, 1 FAITH

« A moment of unity, fervor,
and missionary momentum »

Diocesan Jubilee Festival 2025



June 20 to 22, 2025

Introduction

As part of the Jubilee Year 2025, our diocese was blessed with a rich and meaningful experience of prayer, hope, learning, witness, community, and celebration during the Diocesan Jubilee Festival, held from June 20 to 22. Spread over three days, the event gathered people from across the diocese at both St. Joseph's Cathedral and Notre-Dame de l'Eau Vive Parish. Through liturgical celebrations, times of adoration, conferences, personal testimonies, and moments of fellowship, the festival offered a precious opportunity to fully embrace the meaning of the Jubilee: a call to hope, communion, and mission. This gathering marked the third diocesan event of the Jubilee, following the opening Mass in December 2024 and 24 Hours for the Lord in March 2025. Here is a look back at these three memorable days.

Friday - Vespers and Adoration

The festivities began on Friday evening with a solemn celebration of Vespers at St. Joseph's Cathedral. This time of prayerful reflection was beautifully led by the Servantes de Jésus-Marie, a cloistered community of nuns whose presence outside the monastery is exceedingly rare. They left their convent especially for the occasion, offering a striking witness to consecrated life and contemplative prayer. Their singing, both simple and profound, enveloped the assembly in a reverent silence, drawing all into the mystery of Christ.



The celebration continued with Eucharistic adoration, during which the faithful were invited to pray in silence before the exposed Blessed Sacrament. This moment of contemplative prayer, punctuated by meditative songs and brief spiritual reflections focused on the mystery of the Eucharist, offered everyone a chance to re-center on what is essential in an atmosphere of interior peace and communion.



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Saturday - Conferences and Testimonies

On Saturday morning, the festival continued with two compelling conferences given by participants in the Synodal Assembly in Rome: theologian Catherine Clifford and Bishop Alain Faubert. Catherine Clifford, a professor of ecclesiology at Saint Paul University (Ottawa), has been engaged at every stage of the synodal process. Bishop Faubert, recently appointed Bishop of Valleyfield and a theologian, serves on the Ordinary Council advising the Synod Secretariat and the Pope himself.

They both shared personal experiences of the synod on synodality. Their joint presentations restored depth to this ecclesial process, which—far from being a novelty—is deeply rooted in a sometimes-forgotten tradition of the Church. Under the theme For a Synodal Church, they highlighted the three pillars of pastoral conversion: Communion, which unites God's people as they journey together in the world; Participation, which emphasizes our shared responsibility; and Mission, which calls us to

respond to the needs of our time with a message of liberation and hope. They also spoke of the desired evolution toward a more collegial exercise of authority, one that integrates more fully the various states of life within the Church (priests, laity, consecrated persons). The synodal process is an invitation to listen—to the Word of God, to the Holy Spirit, and to the signs of the times—with humility.

In an atmosphere of praise and sharing, members of the Charismatic Renewal facilitated the afternoon's activities. Powerful testimonies were given by Christians who spoke about God's action in their lives. Two additional presentations completed this significant moment: one by the regional representative of Development and Peace, and another by a former diocesan pastoral worker, both reminding the assembly of the importance of the Church's commitment to social justice.



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Sunday, June 22: Mass and Family Picnic

On Sunday, the final day of the festival, the diocese experienced a spiritual high point with an outdoor Mass celebrated on the grounds adjacent to Notre-Dame-de-la-Guadeloupe Church. Around 600 people—children, youth, families, and seniors—gathered for this joyful and prayerful celebration, enlivened by vibrant music and parish choir singing.

In his homily, Archbishop Paul-André Durocher offered a reflection on the deep meaning of the Eucharist in connection with the central theme of hope, which permeates the entire Jubilee Year. The Mass also had particular significance for the local community, marking the end of the pastoral and school year while ushering in the summer holidays for many families.

The celebration concluded with a moving Eucharistic procession, in which a large and devout crowd followed the bishop in prayer from rue Doucet to rue de la Guadeloupe, making their way toward the church.



After the Mass, a large family picnic brought all participants together in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Hot dogs, a variety of beverages, cotton candy, and other treats delighted young and old alike. Children enjoyed play structures, face painting, and special entertainment, while adults gathered around community games.

At the same time, several booths offered visitors the chance to explore or rediscover various aspects of diocesan and parish life: catechesis, healthcare ministry, vocations, Development and Peace, youth ministry, and many more. The afternoon continued with spontaneous musical entertainment offered by a few parish musicians and singers, adding a festive and authentic touch to a day already rich in emotion and fellowship.



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Conclusion

The Diocesan Jubilee Festival was far more than just a gathering, it renewed our desire to journey together, as brothers and sisters, listening to the Word, the Spirit, and the needs of the world. Through the richness of prayer and celebration, the depth of teaching and sharing, and the beauty of lived fraternity, we leave with hearts more open and rooted in hope. This weekend was a moment of unity, fervour, and missionary momentum for our local Church, truly embodying the spirit of the Jubilee we continue to live together.

As part of an upcoming mailing, you will receive news about the celebration of the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which is still within the context of the Jubilee Year, specifically for the parishes in the English-speaking sector.



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