



**Congratulatory letter to Cardinal Marc Ouellet
on the 50th anniversary of priestly ordination**

Your Eminence,

In communion with all the other Bishops in Canada, and with much fraternal joy and esteem, I would like to congratulate you on the 50th anniversary of your ordination to the presbyterate.

Through the many decades of faithful service to holy Mother Church as a priest of Christ and dedicated pastor of souls, you have contributed in varied and significant ways to the spreading of God's Kingdom wherever you have served. Your commitment to the formation of priests, your love for the pastoral care of the faithful, your *diakonia* of the truth and loyal service to the Holy See have been shining examples of the life-giving ways you use your gifts in the work of evangelization and witnessing.

The Apostle to the Gentiles taught that when one member of Christ's Body is honoured, all the members share in that joy and recognition (cf. 1 Cor 12:26). Your powerful and grace-filled witnessing does indeed spur us on and allows for Christ's light to radiate ever more so in and through the life of the Church – mystery of communion.

Receive, therefore, our sincerest and most profound wishes for this significant milestone in your life as a faithful servant of Christ and the Church, his Bride. Our prayers will continue to accompany you as your journey continues to unfold by the grace of God and your ministry is blessed in new ways for numerous years to come.

With renewed prayerful best wishes and deep communion of hearts, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ the Good Shepherd

+Lionel Gendron, P.S.S.
Bishop of St-Jean-Longueuil
President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops