

September 23, 2020

On the liturgical feast of Saint Padre Pio

After having read the public letter of September 3, 2020 published by Bishop Gilles Lemay from the Diocese of Amos, I would like to reiterate my fidelity to the teaching of the Catholic Church to all the faithful who read this letter.

I have been a priest since June 2, 1989, incardinated in the diocese of Hearst. In May 2011, I met Bishop Gilles Lemay to share with him the spiritual experience of the call to found a semi-monastic fraternity currently known as the *Apostolic Fraternity of Saint Benedict-Joseph Labre*. I arrived in the diocese of Amos on August 1, 2011. According to the original verbal agreement, which was for a period of three years, I was appointed pastor of the Cathedral of Amos and of Christ the King parish on August 15, 2011. In September 2011, I also accepted the parish-mission of Pikogan.

In 2014 at the request of the Bishop, I happily extended the cure for these same parishes for a period of two years. There, I met parishioners of great pastoral collaboration.

It was on June 20, 2012, that the Bishop granted the Approval Decree of the Apostolic Fraternity Saint Benedict-Joseph Labre.

In 2016, I accepted the cure of the parishes of St-Félix-de-Dalquier, St-Dominique-du-Rosaire and Sacré-Coeur de Matagami, which according to the agreement, allowed for the development of the Apostolic Fraternity of Saint Benedict- Joseph Labre, located in St-Dominique-du-Rosaire.

In 2019, I preached a spiritual retreat in California which was featured on the *Countdown to the Kingdom* website. Besides personal messages, the teaching given was based on the messages of the Virgin Mary approved by the Church and in accordance with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, article 7, no 668 to 682.

A confusion has crept into the understanding of this retreat concerning an approval by Bishop Gilles Lemay regarding the messages contained in these conferences. I myself had this confusion corrected. The owners of the *Countdown to the Kingdom* website have responded positively and put the comment on their website. I thank them very much.

Besides this, I never claimed that I was the exorcist of the Diocese of Amos. However, whenever I had to do a ministry in this area, I always asked for the approval of the Bishop. I know my pastoral and ecclesial responsibilities well.

In regards to the Apostolic Fraternity of Saint Benedict-Joseph Labre, the project continues to grow and fulfill the Will of the Father in its trust placed in the Hearts of Jesus and of Mary. It is in the joy of the Holy Spirit that we grow together. Our address has not changed and our phone

number is still the same. You will find all the information on our website *benoitlabre.org*. As for the Studium St-Joseph, it remains online to meet the pressing needs for quality education.

I reiterate my desire to collaborate with the Bishop, the Magisterium of the Church and to maintain a fraternal bond with all people of different circles here, in the United States and with people around the world who support us. Abitibi Témiscamingue was the privileged place for our foundation. In this beautiful region of Quebec, inhabited by people strong in the Holy Spirit, we are happy to be here and to stay here.

Thanks everyone,

Michel Rodrigue, Fabl
Superior of the Apostolic Fraternity of Saint-Benedict-Joseph Labre

c.c. Mgr Gilles Lemay, Bishop of Amos

c.c. Mgr Robert Bourgon, Bishop of Hearst-Moosonee

c.c. Father François Hamel, d.j.c.