

**Noël Delaquis --- February 19,  
2024**

*Bless the Lord, O my soul  
for 50 years  
of episcopal life*



**A word or explanation:**

**Noël Delaquis was ordained a bishop on February 19, 1974. The following reflection was first communicated to the residents of Villa Aulneau. The intention was to mark this wonderful anniversary by inviting the Villa Aulneau**

**residents to join him in joy and gratitude, sharing a glass of wine and a piece of cake to mark the occasion.**

*Psalm 103 caught my attention as soon as I was ordained a bishop fifty years ago. This psalm has always been very significant throughout my episcopal life, and even before that, as a priest.*

*Today I'd like to share it with all of you, to invite you to rejoice with me in these many years of faithfulness, especially faithfulness on God's part towards me. It is He who chose me to be His Pastor; it is He who has watched over me throughout my life to keep me on the right track in my personal life, to carry out a satisfying ministry; not forgetting to heal me, with very good medical care of course, from a car accident (on Christmas Day! ) that could have been fatal; and finally to enable me to have an enriching*

*experience of monastic life,  
and finally to exercise my  
priestly ministry occasionally  
during the too-long period of  
retirement from regular  
ministry and pastoral  
responsibility, following my  
accident.*

*The psalm is a hymn to God's  
mercy which, in His unfailing  
tenderness and love, leads me  
to praise and thank him for all  
the wonders of beauty,  
goodness and love that we can  
discover in the universe and  
our world; and above all the  
wonders of grace that have  
surely helped me to deepen my  
understanding of His Love for  
our poor humanity and for me  
in particular.*

*For so much goodness and  
love, I want to join the psalmist  
in singing of God's great mercy,  
expressing my gratitude and  
praising his most holy name:*

**Bless the LORD, O my soul,**  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and do not forget all his  
benefits—  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from  
the Pit,

who crowns you with  
steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good as  
long as you live<sup>[a]</sup>

so that your youth is  
renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD works vindication  
and justice for all who are  
oppressed.

He made known his ways to  
Moses,

his acts to the people of  
Israel.

The LORD is merciful and  
gracious,

slow to anger and abounding  
in steadfast love.

He will not always accuse,

nor will he keep his anger for  
ever.

He does not deal with us

according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to  
our iniquities.  
For as the heavens are high  
above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love  
towards those who fear him;  
as far as the east is from the  
west,  
so far he removes our  
transgressions from us.  
As a father has compassion for  
his children,  
so the LORD has compassion  
for those who fear him.  
For he knows how we were  
made;  
he remembers that we are  
dust.  
As for mortals, their days are  
like grass;  
they flourish like a flower of  
the field;  
for the wind passes over it,  
and it is gone,  
and its place knows it no  
more.  
But the steadfast love of  
the LORD is from everlasting to  
everlasting  
on those who fear him,

and his righteousness to  
children's children,  
to those who keep his  
covenant  
and remember to do his  
commandments.  
The LORD has established his  
throne in the heavens,  
and his kingdom rules over  
all.  
Bless the LORD, O you his  
angels,  
you mighty ones who do his  
bidding,  
obedient to his spoken  
word.  
Bless the LORD, all his hosts,  
his ministers that do his will.  
Bless the LORD, all his works,  
in all places of his dominion.

**Bless the LORD, O my soul.**