

CATHOLIC TIMES



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Camping for All Fun and Faith in the country



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Letters to the editor

“I would like to express my thanks and gratitude for the new issue of the Catholic Times. I have missed this paper so very much, and was extremely pleased to see copies at the church.

Thanks for bringing us up-to-date news on our Catholic community once again. God bless!”

Jasmine Sawyers Eames

“Receiving the Catholic Times with its new face was indeed welcome. I appreciated the coverage of issues such as Bill 52, Bill 60 that have caused so much unrest over the past months.

The Times could become a forum for shared opinion on issues that touch our lives in church and in society. The article ‘Youth and Faith: where are the young people?’ was a good beginning.

I have recently returned from living for two years in Troyes, France. The

hijab and religious dress were quite visible on the street and in shopping areas. France, however, does not tolerate women with their faces covered in public. While there, I did not perceive France to be a welcoming, inclusive society. We must not forget the riots in Paris a few years ago by immigrant youths who had been ghettoized. Lessons to be learned, I believe.”

Marie Azzarello, CND

We want to hear what you have to say!

Send your feedback and suggestions to ctnews@catholiccentre.ca



Bishop's Window

BISHOP THOMAS DOWD
Auxiliary Bishop of Montreal

Dear friends,

In my last Bishop's Window I wrote about renewal, as part of the Easter theme. In this column I'd like to share with you a project that I hope can help kick start that renewal for our parishes: the Parish Vitality Conference being planned for November 13-14-15 of this year.

Since becoming auxiliary bishop for the diocese of Montreal I have been undertaking a series of extend-

ed parish visits, in which I spend a week getting to know a particular parish community. In the past three years I've visited 18 parishes in the English-speaking sector, and I've learned a great deal about how our local churches are doing. I hope to complete these visits in the next two years, but in the meantime certain common themes have definitely emerged.

While we face many specific challenges, depending on the particular parish, it is clear that our common faith is at the root of the solutions we need. Christ calls us to lives of generosity – not just for the Church, but for the world at large. The commitment and generosity that I have witnessed of so many Catholics is truly extraordinary. What we have to do now is develop the leadership and skills to rally that contribution in one united effort.

Think of it: our parishes gather well over 10,000 people in common worship every single weekend of the year. Working together, we constitute a true movement. Our conference in November is about building that movement. A parish is meant to be like a school, where believers in Christ go further and become mature disciples. We want our conference to be a start in that direction.

Of course, a few days in November, no matter how excellent, can only accomplish so much. We will have to continue to work together, and more importantly, to pray together, so that it is truly Jesus who is leading us. But I truly believe that he has sent us his Holy Spirit, and if we learn to follow the Spirit's lead, there is no challenge we can't face.

Please save the dates for next November, and see you at the Parish Vitality Conference!



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The ever-changing world of nonprofits

With an important role in promoting social well-being, organizations are constantly adapting to circumstances

BY ANDY GURAL

THE 2008 recession still casts a long shadow, particularly over the most vulnerable in our population and the nonprofit organizations assisting them. Fundraising for nonprofits has had to adapt to the new economic landscape. This is true for both faith-based and secular organizations.

Catholic organizations

Pillars Trust Fund joined forces with the Foundation of Catholic Community Services (FCCS) and the Father Dowd Foundation to form the 21st Century Catholic Community Campaign in 2010, aiming to raise \$7.5 million cooperatively. These three organizations have deep roots in the English-speaking Catholic community in Montreal and, together, provide assistance to 51 organizations. The campaign has collected more than \$2.3 million to date. Jill Quinlan Bird, executive director of the 21st Century Catholic Community Campaign, says they are not disappointed with results so far, but will continue to adapt plans to changing circumstances.

Bird points out that campaigns need to be very careful with every dollar, and that eliminating duplication of effort is critical right down to the volunteer and resource level, as well as in fundraising. Funding sources have become increasingly more diverse. "Montreal has some donor fatigue," Bird explains, adding that demographics have changed. "The anglophone community is not as rich as it used to be, and the working poor is a growing group needing assistance," she says.

Development and Peace

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) is the international development organization of the Canadian Catholic Church. The organization assists development in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East by working with local non-governmental organizations or social movements. "We have a very loyal donor base," says Michael Casey, the executive director for the last nine years. "The support of the church has been extraordinary, in particular with the Lent period fundraising."

However, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), one of their funders since 1968, has changed priorities, focusing on projects rather than programs. This has had considerable impact upon Development and Peace. "Our whole approach is based upon long term relationships, and not projects," says Casey. Development and



Photo by Development and Peace

In Haiti, Development and Peace funds the reconstruction of houses and community buildings

Peace has reduced the number of countries in which it operates from 31 to 20. Organizations that had developed enough to find their own funding were trimmed as well.

Casey draws attention to a positive change: the general public mobilization to help in natural disasters and emergencies, which have increased in frequency and severity. Non-faith funding has been proving valuable for sudden natural disasters, Casey observes. "People have been extraordinarily generous," he says, adding that the organization is attracting more attention from non-traditional donors.

Centraide

Centraide of Greater Montreal focuses on breaking poverty's cycle, raising money from the community and companies. Revenues last year were down about \$2 million when compared to 2012 due to what Annick Gagnon, public relations coordinator at Centraide, describes as "North-America-wide economic fragility." The result will likely be a general two percent cut in spending.



The 21st Century Catholic Community Campaign funds 51 organizations and their projects, including Camp Kinkora

The organization provides funding for groups in different areas of Montreal, which coordinate efforts with government services such as public health, schools, police, and social services. "Each year the groups we fund present a fiscal report," says Gagnon. A committee made of 60 volunteers is responsible for ensuring that the \$56 million raised last year are not accidentally funding duplicate programs and projects in the same sector of the city.

Centraide affirms making no distinction between secular and faith-based organizations. "What matters is that they do community development," Gagnon explains.

Making it easier to find funding

"Around 80 percent of the users of our services are not Catholic," Bird observes during the initial discussion with potential donor groups and individuals. These discussions can present their own challenges, especially when first approaching non-traditional partners.

Nonprofits needing guidance can count on the Centre for Community Organizations (COCO), which helps community groups improve their services. Communications coordinator Gabriel Bergevin-Estable says that networking with groups like COCO is key to understanding which core and activity-based funding are available: "It is not possible for one person to be conscious of all of the options out there," he says. Which is why COCO provides access to a searchable database of funding groups, foundations, and government bodies. Finding out what money is available for core or mission funding, as opposed to project funding, is part of what this organization helps Quebec-focused nonprofits do. For more information about COCO's activities and services, visit coco-net.org.



“What is truth?” John 18:38

FERDINAND ALFIERI

Member of the Board of Directors of the English Speaking Catholic Council

MOST OF us agree that something is true when it corresponds with reality. Unfortunately, many in our contemporary society believe that truth is in the eye of the beholder, defending that there may be more than one truth. This notion has gained traction because it does not require much effort, while investigating the veracity of an assertion requires time and effort. Moreover, this relativistic notion melds naturally in a society that holds *consensus* to be a supreme virtue. The result is that the greater the number of people who hold a given view, the more that view is deemed to constitute “truth”. The consensus view is accepted as the ultimate truth. Consequently, the process of achieving consensus trumps the urge that should compel us to investigate, understand and reflect upon an issue.

Given this belief system, “truth” can be suppressed, influenced or even created with an ade-

quate marketing campaign, as policymakers know well. In a recent conversation regarding the media offensive influencing events in Ukraine, a colleague stated that Putin was “an imperialist thug” and agreed with Prime Minister Harper that he should be isolated by all other states. I cautioned that he should perhaps enquire further and not arrive at conclusions from a simple reading of the morning headlines. He retorted, “But when *all reputable* sources report the same thing, what further enquiry is necessary? *They must* have assessed all the facts and *they* can’t all be wrong!”

We should not fall into the complacent belief that, by being in line with the view of the majority, even if the majority is considered *reputable*, we are endorsing what is true. About 2,000 years ago, Pontius Pilate advised the masses that he found Jesus unworthy of punishment. However, the *majority* of those amassed, relying upon the claims of the *majority*

of their reputable elite leadership, needed no further enquiry in order to be convinced that the accused should die a slow, humiliating, and painful death. It was the *majority* that preferred Barabbas to Jesus. It was the existence of a *majority consensus* that compelled Pilate to decide to “wash his hands” rather than release Jesus. How convenient and pleasant it was to conform to the directives of the *reputable* people!

Not much has changed today. Self-serving spin, masquerading as fact, emanating from a multitude of interests (mercantile, political, or ideological), is pitched to the public on a daily basis. We are conditioned to understand that conformity offers its immediate rewards.

Let us at least attempt to seek truth in all we do and act in accordance with the instructions of the One who showed us the Way, and not those who tempt us into the corral of the *easy* way. 



Human rights are vital in the fight against inequality

DEREK MACCUISH

Executive director of Social Justice Connection (until recently called the Social Justice Committee of Montreal)

POPE FRANCIS said that “Human rights are not only violated by terrorism, repression or assassination, but also by unfair economic structures that create huge inequalities.” In just a few words, he made the connection between human rights and inequality that few others want to make.

Half the people in the world are trying to survive on less than \$2.50 a day. Eliminating this inequality is a global priority, yet surprisingly, human rights are not considered essential to that fight. The organization with the mandate of leading the effort, the World Bank, does not even have a policy on human rights.

The World Bank refuses to recognize international law, and repeatedly fails to consider human

rights in its activities. As a result, it supports repressive regimes like Uzbekistan and Belarus, where outspoken journalists and activists are routinely jailed and tortured. Projects in Ethiopia and Cambodia have sparked complaints of violence and rights abuse of local people as they were forcibly evicted from their homes. A wealthy businessman in Honduras got millions of dollars in World Bank support even though his gunmen have killed dozens of local farmers in a dispute over land ownership.

The World Bank is now drafting new rules for its lending, and it appears that, for the first time, there will be protection for some groups, like ethnic and religious minorities and people with disabilities. But for some reason it is still refusing to recognize

“Canada should stop its financial support of the World Bank” 

international human rights law, which is much more inclusive and precise.

Canada gives the World Bank a billion dollars each year as part of our foreign aid. By law, this money must be used to protect human rights. If the World Bank fails to recognize, let alone protect, human rights, in its new policy, Canada should stop its financial support of the institution and put the money to better use.

For the moment, though, we will continue to fight for human rights recognition. In the months to come we will find out if we are succeeding. 



CCS: community services for English-speaking Montrealers

The 82 year-old agency is constantly adapting to new realities

BY LUIZA CARREIRAO

FOUNDED IN 1932 as the Catholic Welfare Bureau, this agency went through many transformations in order to address the needs of the most vulnerable. For many years known as Catholic Community Services, today the organization is called simply CCS and serves a multicultural English-speaking community in Montreal. Director general Fred Jansen explains the secular identity that the organization has assumed was necessary in order to serve CCS's mandate, and that it didn't affect the core values of the organization. "We never worked only with Catholics. By being neutral, we can look at the unified needs of the community," he says, adding, "We see ourselves as values-based rather than faith-based." Jansen also



Council of Verdun Southwest. It is also a member of the provincial "Regroupement pour la valorisation de la paternité" and the "Regroupement des organismes pour hommes de l'Île de Montréal". "We partner with many organizations to help them serve the English community in different areas," says Jansen.

“We never worked only with Catholics. By being neutral, we can look at the unified needs of the community”

explains that having a religious affiliation, today, would make it impossible for CCS to get funding from the government and from major funding organizations such as Centraide. "And you cannot talk from a confessional perspective in institutions such as schools, which are essential to our work," he says.

The agency works closely with the provincial Social Services and the City of Montreal, and has embraced the local social development system established in 2006. This system divides the city into 31 neighbourhood tables – tables de concertation – that gather people, associations, and organizations from different sectors to discuss and address the needs of local communities. CCS participates in four local tables: Peter-McGill, LaSalle, Lachine, and the Anglo Family

The tables de concertation assess the priorities in each district considering the funding available from the government, and then decide how to address the local issues, splitting the money among the involved organizations. "It's a great way for other organizations to become familiar with our services, and vice-versa," says Linton Garner, director of Community Development at CCS. "This also makes services provided by other organizations more accessible to the English community."

What services does CCS provide today? Besides the summer camp programs at Kinkora (see pages 8 and 9), CCS has several programs aimed at children and their families. The Early Head Start and Little Learners programs, as well as the TLC preschool in LaSalle,



A visit to the Botanical Garden with the Early Head Start program, which focus on early childhood development and engaging parents in their children's education

focus on early childhood development, filling a void left by the public educational system. Baby Talk provides information and support to expecting parents and parents of small babies., while children in grades 1-6 develop social skills in the Friendship Club. Kids can also participate in the Peace Club for volunteering and service learning, in the Arts program, and in the Homework program for high school students. CCS also operates three senior day centres with activities aimed at the well-being of seniors. "The most vulnerable people are likely kids and seniors, that is why we focus on them," says Garner, adding, "We see ourselves as serving the whole family."

Having adapted to political, economic, and social changes through the decades, CCS still has some challenges to overcome. "We lack enough funding for constancy in our services, and staff to activate the available funding," says Jansen. He points out that the English-speaking community needs to develop a direct relationship with the Ministry of Family, so it can be included in its budget. Some services offered only in French, such as Maison des Familles, should be offered to the English-speaking community too, he says. "They believe the anglophone community has enough, but those who have needs really exist," Jansen states. "We are 16 percent of Montreal's population, we should have proportional funding."

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Interview

Community and faith

Elsbeth Cossar, 21, is studying art history and theology and is president of the Concordia University Catholic Student Association (CUCSA).

CT – How important is your Catholic faith?

EC - Very important. My faith is integrated into my life, part of a unified whole. In high school, youth ministry in the diocese of Peterborough inspired me to add prayer to my life. That and a strong community in high school made me excited about my faith.

CT – What role did your family play?

EC - My mother is religious. She's very faithful, inspiring, and committed. She's a good example of how to be joyful in doing things for other people and praying. It's not a chore for her.

CT – What do you think Catholic students are looking for?

EC - A lot of students have drifted in their faith and lost the motivation to go to church. I know a lot of students when they come to a few CUCSA events

say, "I was looking for this for a long time. It was something I needed."

CT – What have you found at the CUCSA?

EC - Community. Encouragement to include prayer in my daily life. I pray the rosary and say the divine office morning and night. I find structured prayer helpful. In group events, I like freestyle prayer for its spontaneity and openness. I recently attended a five-day Ignatian spiritual exercises silent retreat.

CT – What inspires you?

EC - I'm inspired by the charitable aspects of Catholicism.

CT – What advice do you have for young adults searching for meaning in their lives?

EC - Find a community with the same values as



yours. Pick a parish and stick to it. Don't expect perfection every time, but keep going back. Get to know the priest. I live in NDG and have attended Mass at St. Monica's, St. Ignatius, and Loyola Chapel. I was drawn to the chapel because of the building itself, then I found the multi-faith chaplaincy and met Fr Paul Anyidoho who invited me to join the Catholic Student Association. The chapel community is very small. Everyone knows everyone. At St. Ignatius, too, I recognize people and chat with them after Mass.

Parish conference in the works

IS THE parish an outdated institution? Absolutely not, says Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium*, his apostolic exhortation on the New Evangelization. It's a flexible institution that "can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of its pastor and the community." With parishes poised to play a key role in the New Evangelization, the Office for English Pastoral Services is organizing a three-day conference for those involved in parish life and those interested in becoming involved.

Scheduled for November 13-15 at the downtown Nouvel Hotel, the program will include both plenary presentations and many "how-to" workshops, with the aim of supporting parish efforts to sustain vitality and be active witnesses of God's love in their neighborhood. The conference will also feature a mini English Catholic rally, organized by the English Speaking Catholic Council.

To receive periodic updates regarding conference details, contact Cynthia Paginado at oepe@diocesemontreal.org or call 514-931-7311, ext. 229.

Family and marriage survey results out of reach

CANADIAN CATHOLICS will not have access to the national or provincial results of a recent survey on family and marriage issues. The research was requested by Pope Francis in preparation for the October General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, with the theme "The pastoral challenges for the family in the context of evangelization". The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB) sent a synthesis directly to the Holy See, as well as the complete responses to the questions in the preparatory document received from bishops, dioceses, groups, and individuals.

In a comment released by Msgr. Patrick Powers, general secretary of the CCCC, the Conference stated that the research has shown "many Catholics are not deeply aware of the Church's rich and positive teaching on marriage and family," which could result in a gap between the doctrine taught by the Church and what Catholics actually think. Powers also notes that Canadians hope that "the Church could be more effective in presenting its teaching, and might also review aspects of its discipline in certain areas."

Later this year, the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops will release a document containing a summary of the issues sent from around the world.

To see the Preparatory Document containing the questions asked in the survey, visit www.vatican.va, click on Roman Curia, and then on Synod of Bishops. In that page you will find, under "III Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops", a link to open the "Preparatory Document – Pastoral Challenges to the Family in the Context of Evangelization".





Loyola students on a transformative trip

Students experience the Dominican Republic from a different perspective

BY FRANCES CHARETTE PHELAN

A BUCKET of cold water as a makeshift shower wasn't what they were used to. Nor was packing sugar cane in scorching fields, mixing cement for house piers, painting the corrugated exterior of barrio shacks and making the acquaintance of supersized cockroaches. It was all part of a week-long experience lived by a group of 70 Loyola students in March, in the Dominican Republic.

Accompanied by teachers, mentors and some parents, the boys set out on what would prove to be a compelling journey. The initial intent was neither grandiose nor heroic. It was hoped, simply, that living and interacting with people in a world very different from theirs might give them a better sense of the global community. As teacher Brian Traynor, the trip's facilitator, put it: "We were there to live, laugh, play, and especially learn from the Dominicans."

Divided into two groups in two different towns, San Pedro de Macoris and Consuelo, the boys lived with local families - two students per family. They experienced some things that any visitor might: the markets of the towns where they stayed, views of Santo Domingo, a cocoa co-op, a sugar cane plantation, a beach party. Still, their encounters were different. The sights, sounds, and smells of their days were powerful; the activity, focused; the perspective, inspiring.

At the sugar plantation barracks where Haitian worker families survive on an income of \$4 a day, the boys spent some time packing cane. They also tried buying a day's worth of food for a family with the same pay packet a worker would have: just \$4.

They pitched in to build a house using funds they had raised themselves back home. With the help of local workers, it was actually finished by the time they left. They cleaned out a garbage-riddled shanty, then painted it a dazzling shade of blue.

They rode in open trucks. They dug holes. They hauled building materials. They celebrated Mass outside, in dusty yards, where their new friends



Joseph Tutino at work in the sugar cane field

live. Everywhere they went, they were encouraged to contemplate the contrasts between their own lives and the ones they were seeing.

There are few March break trips of which it can be said, as one parent put it: "This experience will stay with our son, and all the other young men who participated in it, for the rest of their lives."

In the footsteps of St. Paul

FR. RAYMOND LAFONTAINE, pastor of St. Monica's parish, will lead a pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey in October, following the path traveled by St. Paul. The pilgrimage will include some leisure time aboard a 3-night cruise through the Greek islands. For more information about the trip, which will take place between October 15 and 25, call Aladdin Travel Agency at 514 489 5723 or aladdin@aladdincorp.com, or get in touch with Fr. Lafontaine at 514 481 0267 - ext. 23 or fr.raymond@videotron.ca.

Corpus Christi at the Cathedral

THIS YEAR, the Corpus Christi celebration presided by Archbishop Christian Lépine will open with a Mass at Mary Queen of the World Cathedral on June 19 at 7:30 p.m. After the Mass, a Eucharistic procession will travel to St. Patrick's Basilica, where a Benediction service will take place. Fr. Peter Sabbath has more information at psabbath@hnoj.ca.

Social Justice Connection

THE NONPROFIT organization formerly known as Social Justice Committee (SJC) has a new name: Social Justice Connection. Executive director Derek MacCuish explains that the change is more appropriate to SJC's identity, since the human rights entity is not a committee. "SJC started out as a committee in a church basement, more than 35 years ago," he says. But now the word 'connection' works better for our education program and advocacy."

MacCuish points out that groups like SJC face challenges to their very existence, due to scarce sources of funding. "We are meeting that challenge by diversifying our funding sources," he says. "We are also building networks of cooperation and support, and embarking on an ambitious expansion of our programming in ways that strengthen our financial self-sufficiency."

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Summer camp: a place to breathe and recharge

Not-for-profit camp programs offer vacation time and even faith retreats for everyone

BY LUIZA CARREIRO

SUMMER IS HERE, and most city dwellers are dreaming of spending long, warm days by a lake, enjoying nature and free time. Not everyone can afford the high rates of a hotel or a rental cottage, though. That is when not-for-profit summer camp programs enter the scene – with low rates complemented by funds raised among the community, they offer children and families the possibility of taking some time to breathe and recharge for the year to come. Within the Catholic community, we find camp programs that even fit some faith time into the vacation schedule.

Diocesan Camping Association

The Diocesan Family Camp, run by the Diocesan Camping Association, gathers around 120 people for a week of fun at Kinkora, a campsite at St-Adolphe-d'Howard owned by the Foundation of Catholic Community Services (FCCS). Aimed at families, this program offers activities for all age groups, including some adult time when parents get together to discuss topics related to faith and life. Each day begins with liturgy at the local chapel, where campers explore the theme selected by the organizing committee for that season. Music, arts and crafts, workshops, and sports are all part of the week-long experience. “Family Camp is a time and a way for multi-generational families to have a summer camp experience together,” says co-director Josie Campisi. “Couples

and singles are also welcome to participate. We all feel like part of a family.”

The Diocesan Camping Association has three other camp programs: Youth in Action, for children aged from seven to 14, Visions Camp for teenagers 14 to 18 years old, and the Diocesan Liturgy Camp, for children between six and 14 years old. Each program takes place one week per year at Kinkora and organizes its own fundraising throughout the year, so it can offer accessible rates for campers.

CCS

Kinkora is also home to two programs managed by CCS: Trail's End and Camp Positive. Trail's End welcomes children from different cultural backgrounds aged six to 17, most of whom live below the poverty line. “Parents don't have money for the extras,

so when school is over, there is no entertainment or learning. Kids have nothing to do,” says Ashley Allen, camps coordinator at CCS. “Our camp is an opportunity to enjoy nature and participate in different activities that they otherwise couldn't afford.” For some children, Kinkora is their summer home, where they are allowed to be kids – even when they don't have a stable home throughout the year, or when they have to be adults most of the time. As a senior camper puts it, Trail's End is a safe place away from school: “It has allowed me to grow up surrounded by positivity.” Outside of the school environment, children learn low-investment activities that they can continue when they go back to the city, as well as teamwork skills, protecting nature, and respecting different people. “It brings them back to basics – no bullying or technology allowed,” says Allen.

Trail's End at Camp Kinkora

CAMP KINKORA belongs to FCCS and hosts several camp programs run by different organizations. Trail's End is one of them – it moved to Kinkora after the sale of its original campsite. The change, as well as funding cuts, had an impact on the scope of the program: “We used to have 500 kids for eight weeks at Trail's End, and now we can offer only three weeks for 100 children,” explains Fred Jansen, director general at CCS. But there might be positive news on the way: “We are hoping to add more buildings, so we can offer more to the community,” he says. 



At Camp Caritas, activities focus on sports



Dominus Vobiscum makes time for fun and faith

Camp Positive offers the same opportunity for adults living with HIV/AIDS – a week to relax, get in touch with nature, and interact with other people in a respectful and cheerful environment. It is especially important because it breaks the isolation some of these campers might be experiencing. “Camp Positive transforms people, it gives us energy for the rest of the year,” says a camper who has been going there for several years. “One camper once told me how, upon arriving in the dining hall at lunchtime, she was comforted by the sound of pill bottle caps popping,” says Penny Arns, director of Camp Kinkora. “She realized she was not alone in dealing with her illness, in having to endure the medication regime that comes with living with this disease”. Both Trail’s End and Camp Positive, although occurring in different weeks of the summer, happen at the same period as the West Island Association for the Intellectually Handicapped (WIAIH) camp, also at Kinkora. Different groups of WIAIH campers stay there all summer, having meals and doing some activities with the campers of Trail’s End and Camp Positive.

Dominus Vobiscum

Another campsite well known to the Catholic community of Greater Montreal is the Orelda-Marian, also owned by FCCS, at Lac Maskinongé. It is home to the Dominus Vobiscum Retreat Centre (DV), run by the Newman Centre and focused on couples and families. It gathers around 500 campers in eight one-week sessions during summer for liturgy and prayer, a marriage enrichment program, a children’s program, and recreational activities. “For many participants, it is the one time in the year when they can focus on their relationship and deal with issues that they are struggling with,” says Jackie Cere, administrative assistant for DV. “The program fosters better skills in communication and handling conflict,” she explains. The structured program occupies the mornings, leaving plenty of time for fun and family activities by the lake.

Orelda-Marian also hosts the Nazareth Family Retreat Weeks and Family Life Weeks, which follow the same concept, but with different content and coordination.

Camp Caritas

Founded by Fr. John Baxter in 1972 as a camp for the Holy Family parishioners, Camp Caritas is, today, a beloved sports-focused program for teenage boys located at Lac Labelle, in the Laurentians. Through a program centered on sports and outdoor activities, Camp Caritas communicates good human values and offers opportunities for boys to share and develop a sense of brotherhood. “We try to positively influence the young men of the world, who usually become alienated from the Church when they become teenagers,” says Baxter. He has had success reaching out to young boys in that moment of life when they are hard to reach. “They sense an acceptance,” Baxter explains. “Every evening we have fire talks, we sit around the fire and exchange views. It’s one of the few occasions when kids can be themselves, open up and talk to each other.”



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For children and teenagers:

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www.youthinactioncamp.ca
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Visions Camp

www.visionscamp.ca | 514 758 5595
2014 season from August 10 to 16
Fees: \$330 for the week

Diocesan Liturgy Camp

www.campdlc.com | 514 927 7521
2014 season from July 20 to July 26
Fees: \$330 for the week, with discounts for siblings

Camp Caritas

www.campcaritas.ca | 514-272-1056
2014 season from July 29 to August 12
Fees: \$425 for the whole period

Trail’s End

www.camptrailsend.ca
514 937 5351 – ext. 277
2014 season from June 29 to July 19
Fees from \$99 to \$495 for the week, according to family income

For families and adults:

Diocesan Family Camp

www.friendsofkinkora.org/dfc/
dfc@friendsofkinkora.org
2014 season from July 27 to August 2
Fees: \$250 per person, with a discount of \$40 for children ages 2-12

Dominus Vobiscum

www.newmancentre.org/dominusvobiscum.ca
514 489 2921
2014 season from June 29 to July 12
Fees: \$400 per family

Camp Positive

ccs-montreal.org/camp-positiv/
514 937 5351 – ext. 277
2014 season from August 17 to 23
Fees: \$120 for the week

You can also find this list on Ville Marie Online (villemarieonline.com). If your camp is not listed here, visit VMO and share your contacts.



People & Places

BY KATHLEEN COUGHLIN DUNN

Congratulations to **Sr. Diana Chassé**, SSA, **Sr. Patricia Callahan**, SSA, **Sr. Claire Williams**, SSA, **Sr. Stella Fenile**, CND, and **Sr. Eileen Doiron**, CND, all of whom are celebrating 60 years of religious life; and to **Sr. Lena Salois**, SSA, celebrating her 70th anniversary, and **Sr. Mary Farrell**, CND, marking her 75th. Congratulations also to **Msgr. Francis Coyle**, pastor of St. Patrick's Basilica, and **Fr. Thomas Delorme**, parochial administrator at St. John Fisher parish, both of whom will be celebrating their silver jubilees on July 1st.

The **Marguerite-Bourgeoys Museum**, adjoining Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel, in Old Montreal, has a must-see art exhibit featuring the paintings and poetry of Arthur Guindon (1864 to 1923). Entitled *Shadow and Light*, the exhibit will continue until the end of March 2015. Guindon was a Sulpician priest, storyteller, and self-taught artist who delighted in North American native traditions and legends, as well as French-Canadian history and folklore. Visit marguerite-bourgeoys.com for more details.

Summer outings to Old Montreal might include the *Treasures of Napoleon* on exhibit until September 1st in the crypt of **Notre-Dame Basilica**. Some 350 treasures are on display, including paintings, sculptures, drawings, tapestries, clothing, and other objects. Among them, one of Napoleon's iconic bicorne, the two-cornered black hat he wore into battle. History buffs are in for a treat. Visit napoleon-montreal.ca for more details.

Catharine McKenty and **Alan Hustak** have teamed up to publish a collection of highlights from the life of Catharine's late husband **Neil McKenty**, who passed away in 2012. They are looking for people to share their memories of the well-known Montreal author of five books, including *In the Stillness Dancing*, a biography of the late Dom John Main who brought Christian meditation to Montreal. McKenty was the host of CJAD's popular talk show Exchange for many years. His blog continues at <http://neilmckenty.com>, where memories can be shared.

PROFILE

Clare Hallward: alive with awe and wonder

BY KATHLEEN COUGHLIN DUNN



At 81 years of age, Hallward is active as ever

MONTREALER CLARE HALLWARD was once asked what qualifications she had to head the grants selection committee for the Charles A. and Anne Morrow Lindburgh Foundation. She admitted she did not have any academic diplomas or scientific background to help her assess projects showing a balance between technology and nature but, she added, "I go by a kind of hunch as to whether things ring true or not."

On another occasion, Hallward balked when asked to co-lead a Greek Classics discussion course at the Thomas More Institute for Adult Education in Montreal. "You can supply the wide-eyed wonder," then president, the late Charlotte Tansey, assured her.

Hunches, awe, and wonder are at the core of Hallward's life. In her fifties, when the youngest of her six children was in high school, she followed her hunch to pursue her own education. She discovered the Thomas More Institute (TMI) and was immediately hooked on the Socratic method of learning. "TMI taught me to question," she explains. She graduated in 1996 with a B.A. in Liberal Arts and went on to become a discussion

leader, a course designer, and chair of the Board of Directors, all with a commitment to life-long learning.

Also in her fifties, Hallward followed another hunch and became a Roman Catholic. Born in England, raised by Anglican parents in Argentina, schooled in Spanish, she returned to England for secondary school. It was "the mystery" of the neighbourhood Catholic church in Argentina, "the swirling spirals of incense, statues, candles and soaring arches that left an indelible impression," she says. Her husband John and her children were all very supportive of her decision and she immediately felt "at home." She is a member of St. Anthony of Padua parish.

Known to be a long-time collector of quotations, Hallward was invited in 2008 to select the essential writings of the Austrian-born Benedictine Monk Brother David Steindl-Rast for the Modern Spiritual Masters Series published by Orbis Books. She chose themes close to her own heart such as gratefulness, prayer, silence, and love and wrote an introduction to the book that was published in 2010. On a much smaller scale, she had previously compiled *The Joy of Being*, daily readings with the late Dom John Main, also a Benedictine monk.

A volunteer par excellence all her life, Hallward is particularly proud of helping to found Project Chance, which provides low-cost housing and a program for single mothers committed to finishing their education. She also leads a weekly current events discussion group at Manoir Westmount. One of her favourite sayings from Brother David, she says, is "The fact that you are not yet dead is not sufficient proof that you are alive." Hallward, at 81, is very much alive.



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Eric Durocher named Editor Emeritus



Photo by Justin Durocher

Eric addresses guests during celebration in his honour

THE DISTRIBUTION of the spring issue of the Catholic Times coincided with a tribute paid by the board of directors and friends of the newspaper to the long-time editor Eric Durocher. After 33 years dedicated to bringing relevant and balanced news to the English-speaking Catholic community of Montreal, 24 of those as editor, Eric stepped down in January. On April 3, almost 90 friends and colleagues caught him by surprise at a celebration held at St. John Fisher's parish hall to honor his contribution to the community.

"Despite the long hours, difficult working conditions and the toll that being a news-bearer invariably exacts, I have always regarded my work as a privilege to serve rather than a profession to be pursued," he says, adding, "I considered the celebration a tribute to all who have been part of the Catholic Times' effort over three decades." During the celebration, Eric was awarded the title of Editor Emeritus, in recognition of his role in shaping the publication and helping it become the respected newspaper it has been for many years.

Several people took the microphone to praise Durocher. Laura Ieraci, former news editor of the Catholic Times now living in Rome, could not be there in person, but surprised the party guests with a mock Vatican Radio program about Eric's accomplishments. She highlighted his editorial leadership, high standards, rigorous ethics, and quality journalism, as well as his vision for communications in the church.

Although resigned from the newspaper, Durocher continues working in communications for the Archdiocese of Montreal.



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CWL Corner

BY BARBARA D'ARTOIS - bg.dartois@sympatico.ca

The Montreal Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada held its Annual Convention at St. Ignatius Parish on May 3, focusing on spirituality, helping the needy, and lobbying governments when moral issues and justice are at stake.

The highlight of the Convention was Fr. John Walsh's presentation on homeless women – there are 6,000 living on Montreal streets – and their need for recognition, compassion, and help. Walsh stressed that the CWL could serve as "a perfect conduit for providing an authentic voice for the voiceless." Nazareth House, of which Fr. Walsh is the honorary president, will open Anne's House for women early next winter.

Elected for the next two years were: president - Evelyn Meaney; president elect - Helen Pellerin; 1st and 2nd vice-presidents: Diana Poisson and Barbara Cox; treasurer - Carole Fitzpatrick; secretary - Lydia Fielding; standing



Fr. Walsh surrounded by Rosa Lam and Mary Lynne Desbarats during the CWL Annual Convention

committee chairpersons - Barbara d'Artois, Kathleen Dunne, and Rita Roth. Past president is Beverley Baxter.

Evelyn Meaney hopes that during her term, "all Councils will share the same goals. We donate to the National Voluntary Fund and to local charities. We need to analyze local needs, give money to where it is needed the most, and to designate how it is to be used. I hope councils will support Anne's House with money and household items." She also hopes to increase League membership.

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Queen of Angels Academy closes

Could this signal trouble for other English-speaking private schools?

BY LUIZA CARREIRAO AND RENÉE HENRY



The 2014 class will be the last to graduate from QAA, which closes its doors after 126 years. In the picture, Principal Mary Reynolds with the 2013 graduates

QUEEN OF Angels Academy, a private Catholic girls' school in Dorval, is closing its doors this June. Financial constraints brought about by decreasing enrolment are the main reason for the closure. "About three years ago, we saw the market was not there," says Dominic Varvaro, president of the school's board of directors. "In 2006 QAA was over capacity but, after that, the trend went downward."

Attempts to save the school included a marketing campaign to increase the school's visibility and highlight its offering. The result was a slight increase in enrolment, but not nearly enough to sustain it. Converting the school to a co-ed institution was an option, but such an initiative would have taken from three to five years to bear fruit.

Despite the difficult situation, the announcement in January was a surprise felt across town. "We were shocked," says Marie Anna Bacchi, director general of Villa Maria, an English and French language girls' school in N.D.G. "We had always con-

sidered Queen of Angels to be our sister school," she adds.

Problems in the anglophone private sector?

Given the school's hundred-year history in the community, its closure makes some people question the future of English language private schools in Montreal. Quebec's eligibility requirements top the list of reasons why these institutions might remain vulnerable.

In 1977, Québec's National Assembly adopted the Charter of the French Language (Bill 101), which states that all children attending both public schools and subsidized private schools, with some exceptions, must be educated in French from kindergarten until the end of secondary school. "Language laws in Quebec do not favour private or religious education," says Varvaro. "They reduce the number of eligible students and, without community consensus to support them, they will not survive."

Add to this lower birth rates and a reduced number of immigrants, and you have fewer children entering the school system. Demographic data show a decline in the number of eligible students at high school age since 2008, says Loyola High School's principal, Paul Donovan. "In 2018, the number should climb back up," he states.

Varvaro cites families' reduced capacity to pay for private education and market saturation for private girls' schools as other reasons that might have affected Queen of Angels' fate. There are currently six private girls' schools serving approximately 1,500 students. Some parents might also prioritize the offering of French language instruction to their girls. "Last year, 14 percent of enrolment from anglophone elementary schools went to French high schools," notes Varvaro.

According to Marie Anna Bacchi, eligibility criteria and birth rate are only part of the problem. Quebec's political climate also plays a role: when the climate becomes unstable, the anglophone population is



more prone to move, which is something that affects all English schools, not just those in the private sector. Michael Cohen, communications director for the English Montreal School Board, says the government had to close 15 public English schools in the last years due to lower enrollment, leaving around 80 schools on the Island of Montreal. “We continue to lose a lot of students because of language laws, an expensive cost of living in Montreal, and lower birthrates,” he says, adding, “the school boards are running on a deficit.”

Other schools are stable

Still, some who have chosen to stay in Montreal see the benefits of private English language education. Ken Drennan, president of the QAA Parents’ Association, is one of them. “In my opinion it’s a more thorough education,” says Ken, whose daughter was in secondary two at QAA. “We put her in French elementary and she didn’t thrive. We were also concerned she would lose eligibility to send her own kids to English school.” Gabrielle Thomas, a secondary five student at Queen of Angels who is part of its last graduating class, considers herself lucky. “I was shy and I thought I was just average, but I was able to thrive and grow as a student and as a person,” she says.

For those parents, there are still many schools to choose from: the Quebec Association of Indepen-

dent Schools counts 23 associated English-speaking schools with approximately 8,000 students in Montreal. According to executive director Sidney Benudiz, they are all financially sustainable. “We had a very small drop in enrollment from last year to now, of about one to two percent,” he states. In spite of the severe drop in enrollment that has con-

“Queen of Angels has offered a phenomenal opportunity to hundreds of girls, enabling them to fly when they left”

tributed to Queen of Angels’ closing, Benudiz points out that, in the last six years, general enrollment in private English schools in Montreal has dropped only about 10 percent. He even says that there is enough space for confessional schools: “The religious schools of our Association are in good financial standing. People make that choice, in the same way somebody would prefer a girls’, a boys’, or a co-ed school.” The administrations of Sacred Heart, Loyola High School, and Villa Maria confirm Benudiz’s statement.

What will happen now?

Following the announcement of QAA’s closure, other schools prepared to welcome new students, trying to make the process easier for everyone. The Sacred Heart School of Montreal waived application fees,

as well as the mandatory entrance test, and offered two information sessions to parents and students of Queen of Angels. “We were adamant with our team that we would not add pressure to these parents,” says Shawn O’Donnell, head of school. “It was really about no barriers to entry. I really think our community has reached out to them.” Villa Maria has also

met with parents and students to see how they could help girls complete their studies. “It was natural for us to mobilize ourselves,” says director general Marie Anna Bacchi. “We have the same history and the same values. QAA was like a legend.”

As for the other members of the community, several teachers will retire, some members of staff have already found employment, and others are still looking for new opportunities.

While the western portion of the campus was sold to a private developer, the school building and most of the property that surrounds it will continue to be used for educational purposes. Queen of Angels Academy will merge with Collège Sainte-Anne de Lachine to form a bilingual co-ed elementary school, which should open in September 2015. [d](#)



QAA’s legacy

QUEEN OF Angels Academy was founded by the Congregation of Sisters of Sainte-Anne in 1888, moving to its current location in 1959. The school’s values are based in those of the founding Sisters, embracing students of all faiths. Starting with 33 students, QAA reached a peak of 500 pupils around 2004, and gathers just below 200 at the time of its closure.

Principal Mary Reynolds says a committee has been formed to prepare a legacy project, setting up a website and displaying QAA memorabilia in a designated room in the building where the school functioned for so many decades. She states the closure is a very sad occasion for everybody connected to the school. “Queen of Angels has offered a phenomenal opportunity to hundreds of girls, enabling them to fly when they left,” she says. “The saving grace is that it is going to continue in a different form, and hopefully in that form it will continue to leave the legacy that the graduates of this school have left in the past.” [d](#)

Eligibility rules for English-speaking schools

THE CRITERIA for a child to be eligible to receive English language instruction is quite restrictive: one of the parents must be a Canadian citizen and the child or a sibling must have received the majority of his or her elementary or secondary education in English in Canada. If a child has a Canadian parent who has received most of his or her elementary education in English in Canada, that child may also be eligible.

The executive director of the Quebec Association of Independent Schools, Sidney Benudiz, says the eligibility law is difficult to comprehend. “We are trying to get the government to modify the law in order to make it easier to understand, and to allow schools to accept allophone students who want to get an English education in subsidized schools,” he states. He believes many francophone families would like to offer their children an English education, and that they should have this opportunity. He points out associated schools favor bilingual education, offering much more French than people expect. [d](#)



Jubilarians celebrate

Montreal religious mark 50 years of consecrated life

BY KATHLEEN COUGHLIN DUNN

“VARIOUS MINISTRY opportunities have called me to go beyond what I thought myself capable of doing,” says **Sr. Sheila Sullivan** of her 50 years as a sister of the Congregation of Notre Dame (CND). Her comment could sum up how many of this year’s golden jubilarians feel about their vocations.

Sullivan taught at St. Paul’s Academy, Marymount High School, and Villa Maria High School, where she was also director of student life, and did pastoral work in St. Augustine’s parish before studying theology in California. Her studies continued at the *Institut de formation humaine intégrale de Montréal*, where she worked with religious suffering from post traumatic stress disorder. She was then elected to serve on the CND leadership team. In retirement, Sullivan serves on the boards of directors of Villa Maria High School, the Marguerite Bourgeoys Museum and Chapel, and the International Bureau for Children’s Rights. She also writes a blog: sistersheila.wordpress.com.

Sr. Maura McGrath, CND, taught at St. Anthony’s, Our Lady of Consolata, and Villa Maria High School, in Montreal, prior to pastoral work in British Colum-

bia. She spent four years in Guatemala learning Spanish and working in literacy and religious education programs. She said this was “a profound experience” in a place where “poverty was a way of life and justice, unknown.” This prompted her to study liberation theology, economics, non-violence and spirituality at Regis College in Toronto. Back in Montreal, she focused on social justice and founded Refuge Juan Moreno to offer short-term housing for refugee women and children. Twelve years later, she was elected to the CND provincial leadership team in Bedford, N.S. Back in Montreal again, McGrath is developing her interest in the interplay between science and theology in protecting the environment.

Sr. Ann Marie Fortin, CND, is a native of Richmond, Quebec, who grew up in a bilingual family. Without any specialized training, she accepted to teach band at Notre Dame High School in Toronto for 28 years. She retired to Ottawa and worked as a translator for the CNDs and as the caretaker for the CND vacation home on Howe Island, near Gananoque. Most recently, she helped relocate sisters to seniors’ residences.



From left to right, Srs. Lorraine Abbass, Maura McGrath, Paula Mahar, Ann Marie Fortin, Sheila Sullivan and Florence MacKenzie, who made profession in 1964

Sr. Lorraine Lebert was born in Windsor, Ont., and came to Montreal to finish high school at Queen of Angels Academy and to enter the Sisters of Saint Anne (SSA). She taught in Kahnawake, St. Regis, and at Resurrection, in Lachine, for 10 years before switching to nursing. She trained in Cornwall and worked in geriatrics at the Montreal General Hospital from 1986 to 2000. In retirement, she has volunteered as a bookkeeper at Queen of Angels Academy, worked in social justice, and run the Breakfast Club at St. Monica’s. What she enjoys most, however, is teaching English to immigrants.

Sr. Shirley Walsh, SSA, was born in Montreal and taught at Holy Family School and Queen of Angels Academy, where she also served as Superior. She was Provincial Superior for six years before moving to Ottawa, where she worked in counseling and spiritual direction. She is now living in British Columbia.

For **Sr. Marjorie Moffatt** of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (SNJM), music and liturgy have been her focus. With a Master’s degree in liturgy and a Doctorate in ministry, there are many firsts in her profile: one of the first sisters to work as pastoral assistant, first religious education program for Catholic children attending Protestant schools, first adult faith education program, first parish RCIA program, and first children’s liturgy of the Word, all for St. Edmund’s in Beaconsfield; one of the authors of the first Catholic Book of Worship; and first Liturgy Office at the Catholic Centre to serve two dioceses. She then became pastoral leader with the First Nations in Sheshatshiu, Labrador, worked for the Diocese of Labrador City-Schefferville, and as director of the Catechetical Centre in Lourdes-de-Blanc-Sablon, QC. Moffatt now does ministry in Lima, Peru.

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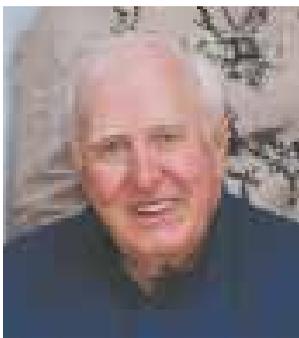
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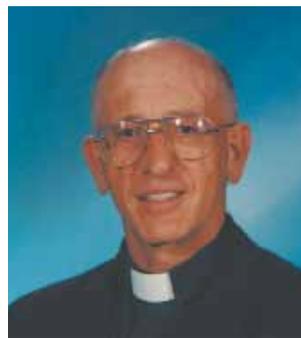
For 50 years, **Fr. Ernie Schibli** has managed to juggle parish work and social justice projects. He was pastor at St. Edward the Confessor from 1975 to 1982 and has been back there since 2001. In setting up the Social Justice Committee and building it into an ecumenical effort, Schibli inspired many people to accept their role in the global community. He is now “winding down,” and leaving social justice leadership to others, while remaining focused on environmental issues. “The Church should be taking more of a role in addressing the issue very strongly,” he says. “We have to make a few better connections between our environment and our faith. We are never going to be able to act towards people if, at the same time, we don’t take care of the planet.” Schibli celebrated his golden jubilee May 9.

Fr. Norman Dodge, S.J., and **Fr. Gerald Mathieu, S.J.**, were ordained together on June 14, 1964, at Regis College in Toronto. Their career paths took them in very different directions.

Born in Saint John, N.B., and raised in Montreal, **Dodge** taught French at Campion College in Regina and did counseling work prior to completion of a Master’s degree in social work from Carleton University. He returned to Montreal to work for the Federation of Catholic Charities and then for Ville Marie Social Services. In 1984, he pioneered a pro-



Fr. Norman Dodge



Fr. Gerald Mathieu

gram of pastoral outreach to seniors and shut-ins, and developed a volunteer team. From 1990 to 1993, he was pastor of a Jesuit parish in Jamaica. Back in Canada, he set up a seniors’ ministry program in Ottawa. At 86, Dodge continues to visit shut-ins.

Fr. Mathieu was born in St.-Gabriel-de-Brandon and raised in Montreal. He entered the Jesuits upon graduation from Loyola High School. He returned to his alma mater in 1966 and has been there ever since, as guidance counselor, and teaching religion, Latin, and public speaking. In retirement, he tutors students in math. “It was my favourite subject in high school,” he says, adding, “It keeps my brain active.” He also coaches tennis and assists at St. Augustine’s parish and at the Ignatian Centre. ☪

OBITUARIES

Fr. Benedict Vanier

ON MAY 13, Quebec’s Catholic community said goodbye to a beloved spiritual leader – Fr. Benedict Vanier, who died at the age of 88. Born in Quebec City in 1925 into a renowned family, the eldest son of the soldier and diplomat Georges Vanier (Canada’s governor general from 1959 to 1967) chose a life of frugality and spirituality. Having served during the Second World War, at the age of 20 he joined the Trappist monks at the Cistercian Abbey in Oka, northwest of the Montreal Island. He was ordained in 1952.

He led many spiritual retreats and his joy in communicating faith was inspirational. ☪

Deacon Thomas Graney

LEAVING A loving family of three children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, deacon Thomas Andrew Graney passed away on April 21, at the age of 89, in Montreal. He became a deacon in 1990 and served the Holy Name of Jesus parish, in Laval, for more than 15 years. “He was known for his sense of humour, and the jokes and stories he liked to tell the parishioners,” says Fr. Peter Sabbath, the local pastor. Sabbath says deacon Graney was greatly missed by the parishioners when he was no longer able to make it there every Sunday morning. Graney also served at St. Paul’s community with Fr. Gerry Westphal and, being a veteran himself, volunteered at Ste.

Anne’s Veteran Hospital, visiting patients and bringing them Holy Communion. ☪

Rev. Bradley McGovern

BY DANIELLE MORIN AND FR. JOHN TORRANCE



REV. BRADLEY McGovern died on April 29, at the age of 66. He will be remembered in the hearts and prayers of many.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Fr. Brad followed a very successful career in banking, and then entered the Society of St. Edmund, obtaining a Master of Divinity from the Toronto School of Theology. After his ordination, he was assigned to St. Mary’s parish in Greenfield Park. During his 30 years of priestly ministry, he worked in several of the English speaking parishes of the Diocese of St. Jean Longueuil.

Father Brad believed in developing a strong community spirit centered upon the Eucharist. He knew his parishioners by name and accompanied them during the highs and lows of their lives. His passion for liturgy, commitment to the youth, a good sense of humour and strong financial background served him well. His most visible legacy was the completion of the Good Shepherd Church in Brossard. He retired about two years ago.

Since his diagnosis with cancer, he “fought the good fight” with courage and hope in the Lord, to the end. ☪



On behalf of our many beneficiaries; The Diocesan Priesthood Guild, The Newman Centre, Youth Ministry Program, and Adult Religious Education Services (to name a few); the Directors of the Pillars Trust Fund wish you – our faithful friends and supporters – a Happy and Safe summer holiday.

The Pillars Trust Fund returns to active fundraising this October. Your generous response to our annual campaign is our ‘Call to Action’ to maintain and to support the programs and services we all count on, which are unique to our English Catholic Community’s growth. We would also like to remind you of the 8 p.m. Sunday Mass celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Tom Dowd at Our Lady of Fatima Church, 875 Marcel-Laurin Blvd., in St. Laurent, open to all.

Have a great summer and we will see you in the fall!

The Pillars Trust Fund Inc.

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Two new saints for Quebec

BY BEVERLY AKERMAN

QUEBEC HAS gained two new saints: St. Marie of the Incarnation, founder of the oldest educational institution for females in North America, and St. François de Montmorency Laval, Quebec's first bishop. Pope Francis declared them saints through equivalent canonization on April 4.



Portrait of St. Marie of the Incarnation by Hugues Pommier -- Archives of the Ursulines of Quebec

“Equivalent canonization” requires thorough study of the candidates’ life, writings, holiness, and reports of favours granted through their intercession. Unlike the usual canonization procedure, verification of miracles wasn’t required, nor the usual studies through the Congregation for Saints’ Causes.



Portrait of St. François de Montmorency Laval by Claude François -- Musée du Séminaire de Québec

Marie Guyard was born in Tours, France, in 1599. Although interested in the religious life, Marie bowed to her parents’ wishes and married. At 19, with their son only six months old, her husband died. Twelve years later, she entered the Ursuline order, sailing for New France (now Quebec) with several colleagues in 1639. She became the first Mother Superior of the convent those women established in Quebec. The nuns educated the daughters of French colonists and First Nations peoples, eventually teaching in Huron, Algonquian, Montagnais, and Iroquois languages. St. Marie of the Incarnation died at Quebec in 1672; her son had become a Benedictine monk.

François-Xavier de Montmorency Laval was born in 1623 at Montigny-sur-Avre, France. Educated by Jesuits and called to the priesthood in 1647, he was consecrated bishop in 1658, arriving in Quebec the following year as the territory’s first bishop. St. François de Laval began his mission among the 500 colonists and reached out to the Native peoples. He travelled vast distances on foot, by snowshoe, and canoe, earning admiration for his great devotion. He created the Séminaire de Québec – a community of priests – and founded the Petit Séminaire for young boys, the Grand Séminaire for candidates to priesthood, and the Grande Ferme, a school teaching skilled trades. He spent decades fighting the alcohol trade between French colonists and indigenous peoples. St. François died at 85, in 1708. [↗](#)

Following Marguerite

ARE YOU planning a trip to Europe this summer? How about a stop at the birthplace of Marguerite Bourgeoys, the foundress of the Congregation of Notre Dame? Sr. Marie Azzarello, CND, spent two years in the city of Troyes, France, helping renovate the Centre Culturel Marguerite Bourgeoys, focused on making Marguerite’s story known, and providing reflection activities for visitors. She recounts what one can expect when visiting the space: “You will see highlights of her life, an overview of the historical period in which she lived, her movement to the new world, and where our Congregation is present in the world today.”

Marguerite Bourgeoys was a lay woman when she left Troyes for Ville Marie in 1653. For many years, she had been engaged in community outreach work, following an inspiration drawn from an episode in the life of Mary, the mother of Jesus, known as “The Visitation” – as told in Luke’s gospel. In Marguerite’s parish church in Troyes, St. Jean au Marché, there is a 16th century sculpture depicting this passage: Mary visiting her cousin Elizabeth. Marguerite’s spiritual director told her that image represented a journey, a way for women to be in service of the community beyond cloistered religious life, or marriage. “That scene offers an image of how church should

be lived, and a way of being church in today’s world,” Sr. Azzarello interprets.

That is the spirit Marguerite Bourgeoys brought with her when founding the first non-cloistered community of apostolic educators in North America. The same way you can follow her footsteps in Old Montreal – especially in Bon Secours Chapel, which she established in 1675 – you can trace her steps in Troyes. “There, I have walked the streets of Marguerite’s early life, stood before or entered places that marked significant moments in her life,” Sr. Azzarello recalls. About the renovation work she helped complete, she states, “The results were marvelous.” Worth a visit. [↗](#)



The 16th century sculpture depicting The Visitation at St. Jean au Marché