

## **Newsletter - April 2019**

## **Special AGM Edition**

## Happy Second Week of Easter to all!

The Annual General Meeting was held April 23<sup>rd</sup>, at Loyola High School.

Bishop Thomas Dowd opened with a prayer followed by a beautiful version of "I Will Follow" sung by Bradley Cooper Graham.





Chairperson, Anna Graham, welcomed the membership and highlighted our commitment to service in the community and the growth of our membership to 192. LSM continues to thrive.

Executive Director Judy Wong then presented the year in review PowerPoint, (see your annual report attached) followed by the presentation of the Financial Statements by Patrick Gillespie, and three presenters.



Bishop Tom then took the podium to thank the membership for their contributions to the success of Catholic Action and for helping make a dream come true.

Michael Udy – President of Seniors Action Quebec spoke of their advocacy for the English speaking seniors. He also talked of the important role Catholic Action has played in the regional leadership of the English Speaking seniors by created an environment where the centers can meet together to discuss ways to reach the underserved isolated senior.

Makai Haref – Afghan Women's Center of Montreal The Afghan Women's Centre of Montreal is dedicated to improving the life of Afghan women. Makai spoke of the challenges of the Afghan women in Afghanistan and her groups efforts to allow them education and some freedoms. Catholic Action has assisted this group by getting them office space at the Catholic Centre, managing meetings and events, helping with design of their logo, helping them run their first Annual General Meeting. CA ran a workshop for them, arranged for some of the women to go to Camp Kinkora (which was restorative for many) and linked them with the New Horizons for Seniors Program.

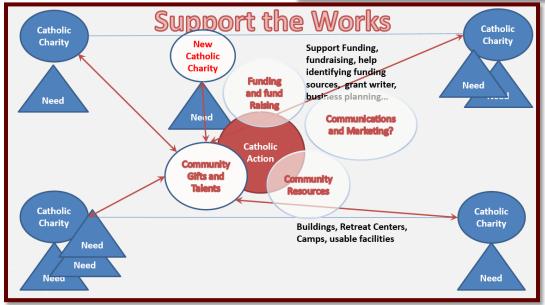


Marcello Tabadao: We congratulated Marcello for being confirmed on Holy Saturday. He spoke about his volunteer work through CA of giving financial training to asylum seekers. He teaches newcomers to Canada how the Canadian financial system works (i.e.: how to open a bank account, credit cards, buying a car, house, how to budget) Probably the most important part of his presentation is when he said, "Probably the most precious thing of the volunteering I do is that it brought me back to my faith".

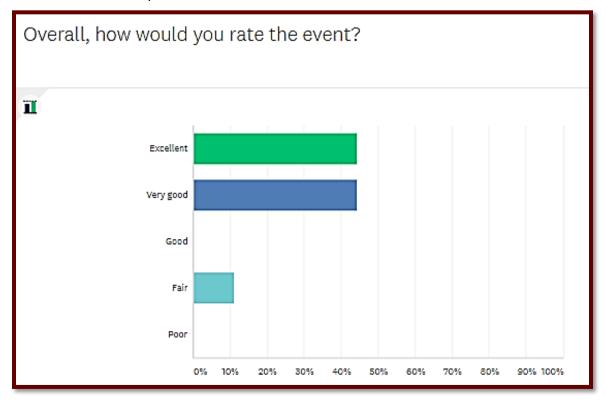
Paul Donovan: Board of Director Member

"Our faith is alive, it engages everyday life. This is what Catholic Action is all about. Catholic Action's first task is to connect to the community- to find out what the needs are. The next task is to support the works." Paul offered a PowerPoint presentation on the vision of Catholic Action.





Based on the survey replies we have received to date from those who attended; it was what expected from the membership!



Some positive comments we received from the survey:

"The way it made me feel part of a community that makes its business to care for others. It ran efficiently while being informative. The refreshments were certainly appreciated. One gets a little hungry between work and home. The atmosphere was lovely. The board and Executive Director were impressive as were the guest speakers. Excellent work done throughout the year. Lovely evening. Thank you Catholic Action. 4/28/2019 8:53 PM

The feeling of welcome and hospitality and the information shared about the current activities and those planned for the future. 4/27/2019 7:43 PM

Loved the fellowship and short presentations and the Afghan lady, Wow 4/27/2019 4:59 AM

For those of you who were unable to attend and completed the survey <u>thank you very much!</u> For those of you who didn't attend please use this link to tell us why, it only takes a minute. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JHK839K

Please remember to renew your membership

http://catholicaction.ca/#member

