



Catholic Action Montreal

*“Using our Gifts to Serve our Neighbour”*

# Newsletter – July 2019

## ASYLUM SEEKERS

Catholic Action continues to work in partnership with Le Pont, Welcome Collective and other asylum seeker services. We were able to secure funding for 4 children to go to Camp Kinkora youth camp at the request of Father Francis McKee. These Nigerian natives were in awe just on the ride to St. Veronica’s, remarking on the McDonald’s sign, they have never been and going over a bridge (an overpass). Stay tuned for next month’s letter for an update on their experience 😊

We also assisted Le Pont when their stove broke down as well as delivering more donations of toys for the kids, and winter clothing.



## Isolated Senior’s

We continue to assist breaking isolation for these very important people in our community.

The Lasalle seniors had a great time at camp.

A 90-year-old went on a boatripe even though she was scared...and had a great ride.

An 80-year-old man kept doing laps while the teenagers were getting dizzy watching him. Two 80-year-old women with walking disabilities sat with their feet in the water.

A super day.



One group had an outing which included a stop at Ste. Anne de Bellevue Pier. When looking at one of the yachts that were parked, the owners invited the seniors aboard for a tour.



Thanks to our volunteer drivers we were able to service fourteen trips in July. August is scheduled to be even fuller 😊



We are still looking for volunteer drivers to assist with these very impactful trips. Our volunteer drivers take vacation as do most people, but it happens when the demand is the highest. If you have or are interested in obtaining a 4B classification license (all expenses paid by Catholic Action once obtained) you will join our fabulous team of volunteer drivers. Please contact [jwong@catholicaction.ca](mailto:jwong@catholicaction.ca) for more information!



## Project: "Renew the Face of the Earth"

Following up on last month's report, Peter LeBlanc received approval for some green space specifically allocated to this project. This is similar and in the spirit of the initiative known as Green Churches which is very inspiring:

<https://greenchurches.ca/>

Peter's background and working as an Environmental and Global

Justice Deacon in the Catholic tradition, approached Catholic Action with this project using the space in front of the multifaith Loyola chapel on the south east side (facing Sherbrooke) as a first step to this important project.

The vision:

200 x 200 space full of Garden Towers

Solar energy as this location is south facing.

Plant based food ingredients and ideas.

Partners managing this project together

This will be transparent and self sustaining

Tiny House movement for Seniors, Students, Homeless and Refugees i totally self sustainable Earthship Movement.

Plants, sunflowers and plants that attract butterflies and pollinating Bees.

The Leblancs will initiate the project and will be putting up a garden tower

Would you like to plant something? Contribute for the greater good?

If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact [jwong@catholicaction.ca](mailto:jwong@catholicaction.ca)

## Other activities:

Afghan Women: Catholic Action assisted them with the establishing of an office at the Catholic Centre. You can now visit them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at the Catholic Centre.

This organization has taken on a very important project in their homeland. If you attended our AGM you may recall hearing their president Makai Aref talk about the 3 girls abandoned as a result of the Taliban. We collaborated with them to bring awareness of their plight to the Canadian government by writing to some specific Canadian Ministers. This is an excerpt from the letter:

### I have no parents; “they” say I have no identity

*On what could have been any other day, three sets of parents, with many others, were fighting alongside the Canadian forces for Afghanistan women’s rights. Sadly, three young girls were orphaned by the actions, treachery and violence of the Taliban. As a result, they were placed in a local orphanage where they stayed until they were eighteen, receiving a basic high school education, then were put out on the street.*

*The girls worked hard on their academics and were accepted into the University of Kabul, in the faculty of law, where they continued to excel. Sadly, they discovered that the “system” does not support them, and they have NO proper documentation from the City of Kabul indicating their official status. Once they came to understand their situation, they would ask about their legal status, but their inquiries fell on deaf ears. Without the history of their parents, they have no legal standing in the community, can not get a job, or even live in a hostel. Now, nineteen, twenty and twenty-one, these 3 orphaned university graduates, sadly, call the streets of Kabul home.*



*During a visit to Kabul a Canadian family walking by these young women, took them in during their two weeks stay, giving them shelter and food. As they prepared to return to Canada, the family organized shelter for the three victims in a room, however no food or clothing and still no opportunity to work.*

*This family currently does their best to try and send money to the girls to assist them in their struggles, an environment they cannot improve despite their best efforts. No one in government will assist them with securing their identification papers, therefore they cannot secure a passport. We need to help improve this story.*

*The Afghan Women’s Center of Montreal is asking you to assist by getting access to these women and work towards permanent residence or a visitor’s visa to allow them to come to Montreal. We will happily sponsor these 3 women and ensure their well being, while they are here.*

We will give you updates if the group receives any replies to their inquiries. If you have any suggestions please feel free to reach out to [jwong@catholicaction.ca](mailto:jwong@catholicaction.ca)

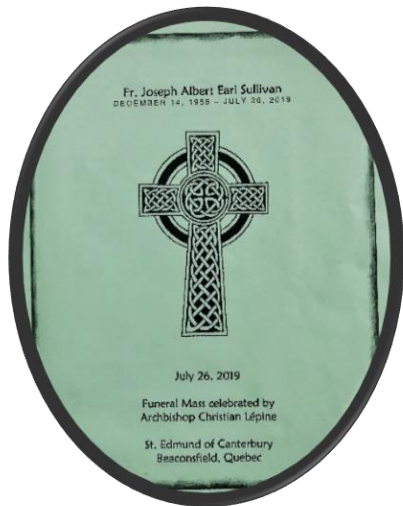




Catholic Action has been asked to assist in the development of a retreat which will be titled the **"Kingdom Mindset"**. This inspiring project, initiated by Adam Paterno, a Catholic mental health advocate. The purpose of the retreat will be to **assist people living every day with GAD (Generalized Anxiety Disorder)**. We will be showing how faith, the Gospel readings and listening to the "Word" can assist in dealing with this illness. You are not alone! Stay tuned as we finalize the content and set the date!



The executive director of the **Foundation of Catholic Community Services, Mike Palmer**, has moved on from this position. The community he helped build, held a surprise luncheon for him. Catholic Action, Aide to the Church in Need and Rachel Green organized the event. It was an emotional celebration of the gratefulness and appreciation the community has for Mike and the ambiance he built with his leadership. Some people were brought to tears including other members of his team. We wish Mike much health and success in whatever path he chooses to follow.



Catholic Action was privileged to assist in the celebration of life for Father Joseph Albert Earl Sullivan, held at St. Edmund of Canterbury Church, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 which included a collaboration of choir singers, altar servers and other lay volunteers represented by the parishes he served.

Presided by Archbishop Christian Lépine, assisted by Bishop Thomas Dowd, and Deacon Ciaran Pitchford, with Concelebrants Fr. Raymond Lafontaine, Fr. Tom Delorme (Pastor) and Fr. Fred Kirouac.

The homilist was Fr. Gilles Albert Surprenant, a great friend to Father Joe. Many brother priests and deacons assisted in the midst of the People of God from the churches Father Joe was pastor.



**Looking for support? Need advice? Starting a project and need some expertise?**

**Contact our executive director Judy Wong [jwong@catholicaction.ca](mailto:jwong@catholicaction.ca)**

**She will be happy to help!**

How can we help?

### We continue to support various groups:

- † Volunteer Board advisors to LaSalle D & D 50+
- † Volunteer Administrative Assistant to FCCS
- † Volunteer Marketing assistance for the Afghan women
- † Volunteer drivers to improve the isolation of seniors with trips to:
  - Angrignon Park
  - Concordia Perform Center
  - Shopping ( 3 different centers)
  - Camp Kinkora
- † Montreal Region Catholic Education Co-op initiative – AN expansion of Ex Corde Schola (strengthening existing Catholic Education) Stay tuned!

*Come celebrate the Eucharist with Bishop Thomas Dowd at the Late Sunday Mass at our Lady of Fatima Parish 7:00 pm : <http://www.our-lady-of-fatima.ca/>*

***Please remember to renew your membership***

***Please tell your friends about us***

***[www.catholicaction.ca](http://www.catholicaction.ca)***