



Catholic Action Montreal

"Using our Gifts to Serve our Neighbour"

Newsletter – September 2019

ASYLUM SEEKERS



Catholic Action continues to work in partnership with Le Pont, Welcome Collective and other asylum seeker services. With the help of one of our Catholic Action members we furnished a family leaving Le Pont with all their apartment needs. From dishes to beds and everything in between.

After receiving their furniture, they paid it forward by assisting a donor by providing transportation of a bed to Le Pont.

We also found some much needed items from our friends at Welcome Collective for another family. As a community we positively impacted these newcomers, by simply doing the Lord's work.

As winter approaches **Le Pont is asking for snow gear for children**, if you can do a collection at your parishes or neighbourhoods, we will assist you getting the items to Le Pont.



Friday, Oct. 4th 7:30 p.m. at **Our Lady of Pompei church**, 2875 Rue Sauve e., Montreal, QC., H2B 1C6, there will be a thanksgiving mass to celebrate the first year of the official **opening of the office of Santa Rita and the Migrant Centre at Pompei.**



"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." Mathew 25:35

Isolated Senior's

We continue to assist breaking isolation for these very important people in our community. We took 8 groups this month, covering shopping, Botanical Gardens and a trip to a chalet up north. Passengers expressed their gratitude to the bus driver, some even offering tips!



On the advocacy front, our **“One Voice” coalition** met this month. Lynda Giffen, Director, Community Development and Engagement, explained her role within the QCGN and the work they are doing for the English-speaking community in Quebec, including our seniors. Our discussions led to examples of French only nurses and sad examples of bullying. It was also identified that we do not have a right to services in English at all facilities. There are designated facilities that offer limited services. This link explains the law well: <https://www.educaloi.qc.ca/en/capsules/health-and-social-services-english>

Lynda also shared that the Regional Health Care objectives and indicated the Centre Sud website is a good example of what all regional services will be like.

<https://ciussscentresudmtl.gouv.qc.ca/propos/services-en-anglais>

We also learned that past president of Seniors Action Quebec, Michael Udy, is now a Member of the QCGN team and will represent us well as: Director of Access to Health and Social Services.

Anna Farrow shared welcomed news that the CHSSN, (Community Health and Social Services Network) hired a Montreal regional development director, Jennifer Cooke, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jennifer-cooke-953781b/?originalSubdomain=ca> Jennifer's role will be to map out available services in Montreal. Vanessa Herrick, Executive Director of Senior Action Quebec, shared their new initiative. She will be developing a **web-based resilience training module**. It will be focused on training seniors to rebuild confidence, and the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties. Targeted for completion in the spring. Judy was contacted by Jackson Ezra Hagner, one of the project co-coordinators of **"Aging in the Right Place"**: As the population ages, the number of older adults experiencing homelessness is also on the rise in Canada. Unfortunately, housing options that support their diverse and complex needs are lacking. To address this important gap, researchers from Vancouver, Calgary and Montreal have teamed up and secured phase 1 funding for a CMHC/SSHRC Partnership Development Grant to build inter- and intra-city capacity between the housing and health sectors in each of the three cities. More to follow on this important project as it develops.



Catholic Action's volunteer drivers served their neighbours with sixteen trips in September 😊

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 for more information!



"Renew the Face of the Earth"

Following up on last month's report, Peter LeBlanc continues his good work at the Loyola Chapel. This work is similar and in the spirit of the initiative known as Green Churches which is

very inspiring: <https://greenchurches.ca/> The Climate March held on September 27th had many faith groups participating.



If you recall, Peter's background has led him to work as an Environmental and Global Justice Deacon in the Catholic tradition. The ultimate goal is for partners to manage this project together as a community. This will be transparent and self sustaining.

If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact jwong@catholicaction.ca

The Pope's Message was also extremely relevant to this cause, click here to see it!

https://youtu.be/LmLZb7_cWV4

Center for Reproductive Loss: We continue our work with Kathleen Gray, executive director, of the center. ***We are actively looking for a volunteer (s) to assist us in this important work.*** Reproductive loss is usually not recognized as an experience to grieve in our society today. The Centre for Reproductive Loss acknowledges the existence of this grief and provides professional support services to those persons, male and female, whose lives have been affected by these painful events. Some of the topics that have been researched and contribute to significant grief are forced abortion, infertility in general, miscarriage and among others. Kathleen is well known in North American and has many groups asking to be a resource to her website and have hers be part of theirs. We are working on a "Reproductive Health Care Options" (RHO) training presentation for schools. We are also working on a succession plan. If you or someone you know would be interesting in joining the team please contact jwong@catholicaction.ca. Whether you are "prolife" or "prochoice", we can help because we are "pro-healing"! We want to assist with the grief related to reproductive loss.



Catholic Action continues to assist in the development of a retreat which will be titled the **"Kingdom Mindset"**. This inspiring project, initiated by Adam Paterno, is close to completion. We have received the opinions of professionals who have reviewed the project. We are close to setting a date for the workshop. 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 the date will likely be in next months newsletter!

We are our thoughts; they create the landscape of our emotional and spiritual lives



Late Sunday Mass:

Cathy Albano has been an extraordinary servant to the Late Sunday Mass managing the Lector ministry since its inception. We are grateful for all she has contributed to the success of this celebration. This was the message sent to Cathy on behalf of the board:

"We want to express, on behalf of the Catholic Action Board of Directors, our deep gratitude for the generous offering of your time and dedicated service to the coordination of the Late Sunday Mass.

God Bless you as you pursue new, exciting adventures in response to the Spirit's calling.

Rest assured of our prayers for you as you journey forward

We ask that you also remember Cathy in your prayers as she goes forward into her new challenges.

The opportunity for **someone new to take on this ministry** is now available. If you would like to me manage/schedule the Late Sunday Mass lectors please contact jwong@catholicaction.ca

There will be training available to get you going 😊

Father Thomas Tou, the First Chinese priest in Montreal, laid to rest



The Chinese community of Montreal bid farewell to Father Thomas Tou, a highly respected pillar of the community.

Fr. Thomas Tou (1921-2019) was born in Beinanfeng, He arrived in Canada in 1957 after being ordained in Beijing on Feb. 2, 1948. He devoutly dedicated his life to the Montreal Chinese Community.

"He did everything," said Pauline Wong, former president of the Montreal Chinese Hospital. "Not only within the church, he was like a social worker. There was nothing that he would not do for his people."

"Father Tou is probably one of the greatest leaders of our community," said Ed Chin. "He was quite a visionary. For the kids, he built schools to help them integrate, summer camps and scholarship programs. For the elderly, he built old age homes that helped all the seniors that didn't know how to speak French and English. So many people benefit from Father Tou."

He officially retired in 1998, but, due to parish needs, returned to serve until 2013. He was called to the Father September 5th. Archbishop Lépine celebrated the mass and paid a beautiful, heartfelt, tribute to Father Tou in one of the eulogies.



Other activities:

- † Afghan Women:
Catholic Action continues to work with this group as they are establishing themselves.
 - We assisted with some marketing initiatives
 - We found a translator for their Immigrant Womens' Stories
- † Catholic Action attended the community information day for the Peter McGill area of Montreal. They are working towards assisting asylum seekers with affordable housing and daycare opportunities.
 - THEY ARE ALSO ADVOCATING TO KEEP THE EX-MONTREAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL SPACE FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING. -Stay tuned!
- † NEW MEMBERSHIP: Another new member has joined our ranks, please spread the news of our work and invite your friends to learn about us.

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

Contact our executive director Judy Wong 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 Marketing assistance for the Afghan women
- † Montreal Region Catholic Education Co-op initiative – AN expansion of Ex Corde Schola (strengthening existing Catholic Education) Stay tuned!
- † 2 volunteer website site managers for 2 non profit groups have joined forces ☺☺

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