



Catholic Action Montreal

*"Using our Gifts to Serve our Neighbour"*

# Newsletter – October 2019

## ASYLUM SEEKERS Le Pont Celebrates 2 years!



  
DIMANCHE 3 NOVEMBRE  
12H - 14H

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**LE PONT**  
**A DEUX ANS!**

DÎNER BÉNÉFICE + ANNIVERSAIRE

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Entrée et repas complet  
Représentation de danse  
Stationnement gratuit  
**Billet : 15\$ en ligne ou à la porte**

 Église catholique à Montréal

CENTRO SANTA FAMIGLIA  
4765, BLVD. ROBERT, ST-LÉONARD  
[LEPONT@DIOCESEMONTREAL.ORG](mailto:LEPONT@DIOCESEMONTREAL.ORG)

October is a celebratory month for Le Pont. If you recall, just about 2 years ago, Catholic Action was one of the first to assist Le Pont in its cleaning and furnishing of where many asylum seekers have found peace. "We made a commitment in 2017, when we were mandated by the Diocese of Montreal to create this service for asylum-seekers in Quebec: to offer all-inclusive services based on the real needs of the recipients. In this humanitarian spirit, we are closer to the recommendations of Pope Francis: "Welcoming, Protecting, Promoting, Integrating" Asylum seekers", Arthur Durieux, director of Le Pont. Regina, a full time volunteer, associate and friend of the Pont said, "At Le Pont, the asylum seekers arrive with fear and uncertainty. They come out very safe and strong. There is family and community support, social, and a humanism that allows the asylum seeker to prepare and gain assurance." These encouraging words we feel every day to give the

best of ourselves for all these families. Catholic Action and our volunteers assisted Le Pont is serving people from 38 countries with an average stay of 43 days. ***You can celebrate the great work of Le Pont at their benefit lunch, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2-4PM at the Centro Santa Familia.***



Catholic Action also visited Le Pont's Halloween party where a fabulous lady, Carolina, and her family organized and delivered new snowsuits and napsacks to the kids, while snacks, tables of toys, stuffed animals and other clothing was made available. The kids chose a costume, dressed up and enjoyed a day of goodies, games and goodwill.

**NEW SHOWSUITS  
AND NAPSACKS**

**Winter Clothing,  
Toys, and Stuffed  
animals**

**Our winter clothing drive is as important as ever. We have collected from 2 parishes and shared 6 bags of items to Welcome Collective. We have new requests this week for winter clothing for adults and children from Le Pont and Transfiguration parish.**

To cap off this piece for October we have **a beautiful story of community from Father Francis** from Jesus Light of the World. Father called me looking for assistance for a new family to Canada, who being responsible, purchased health insurance. Sadly, the mother fell ill and passed. The insurance policy had not yet been activated when the mother fell ill. This father and young children were left with medical and funeral bills of over \$35,000.00. As Catholic Action was pursuing potential assistance we received this message from Father Francis, *"The Ivoirian community came through in a big way for this family who tragically lost their mother (mother of 3 little ones). The bills for hospital and funeral home have been paid, by a "national fundraising event" by their folks from that country. What unity! Amazing! All this to say, thanks for looking into ways of supporting them. Sounds like things are under control... by the Lord's grace and the goodness of these folks."*



*"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*

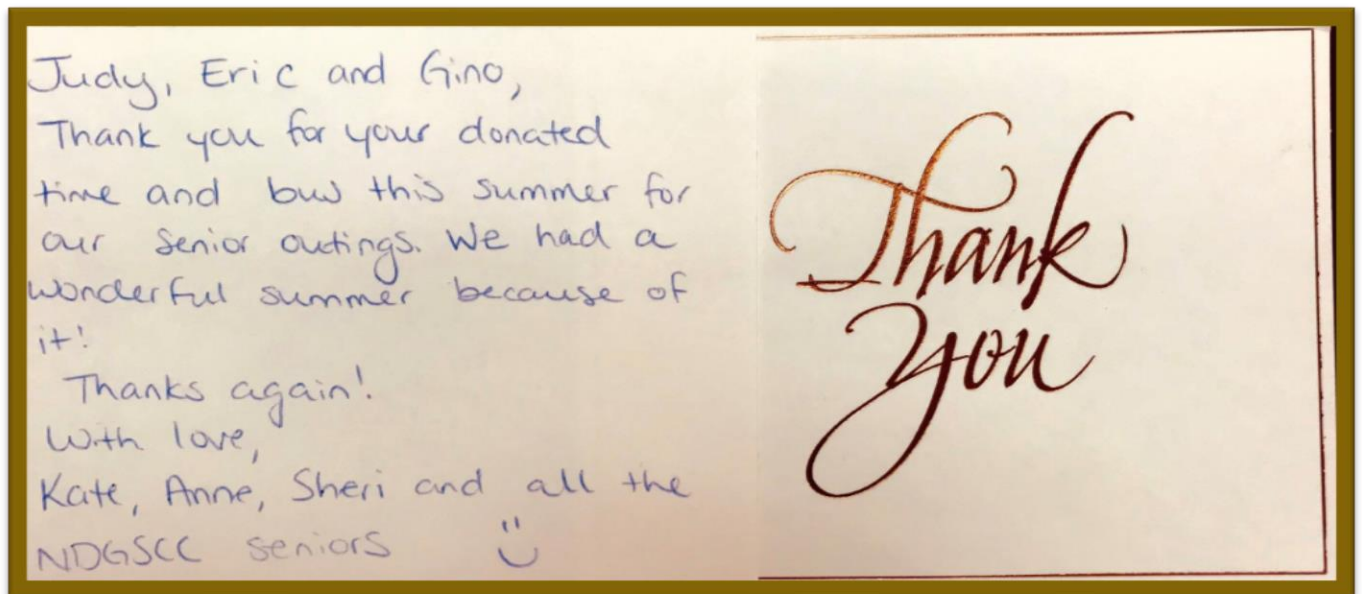
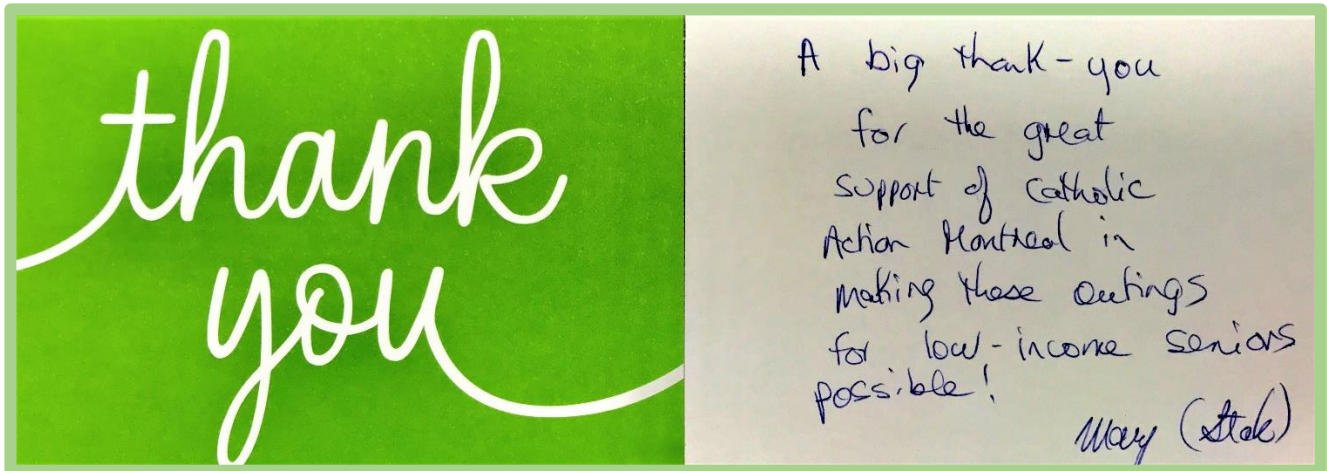


**Aid to the Church in Need:** As Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) prepares to issue its international report on the persecution of Christians (2017-19), its Canadian office is organizing a second observance of Red Wednesday to raise awareness and to educate the public about the issue and the importance of religious

freedom. To be held Nov. 20, the event is an opportunity to stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians worldwide. Marie-Claude Lalonde, National Director of ACN Canada, is delighted by the attention given to the event this year by the Chancellor of the Grand Séminaire de Montréal, Mr. Guy Guindon, Sulpician. **"The historic building of the Grand Séminaire de Montréal will be lit up in red and the seminarians will hold a vigil on Thursday, November 21, at the historic chapel,"** she said before adding: "We are also waiting for news from the Diocese of Calgary. Last year, more than 50 activities were organized there." The Red Wednesday tradition began in the United Kingdom a few years ago and has been taken up by several national ACN offices around the world, including France, Italy and the Philippines. Follow this link for ideas on how you can help our brothers and sisters being persecuted.

<https://acn-canada.org/red-wednesday/>

## Isolated Senior's



### **MILE END MISSION: Grandmother spends time with all her grandchildren since Christmas**

Catholic Action was asked to assist in the reunion of a Grandmother with her 6 grandchildren after the death of their mother. The mom died a year ago at the young age of 33 leaving behind 6 young children who are partially separated from each other; 5 children are with the dad's parents and 1 child is with her uncle. The grandmother whom is a Mile end Mission member has no means of transporting the children to her house or to an outing so that she can spend time and make memories with all the children together. Catholic Action used the New Hope bus and one of our volunteer drivers to pick up at the 3 locations allowing the family to enjoy a fun day at Quinn's Farm together pumpkin picking, playing, and sharing a meal. Everyone had a fantastic time and using the minibus to make it happen was greatly appreciated by everyone in the family!





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

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!



### **Chez Doris**

Chez Doris is a charitable organization offering a daytime shelter 7 days a week for all women in difficulty. The house provides meals, respite, clothing, socio-recreational activities as well as practical assistance in a secure and accepting environment. They have recently called on Catholic Action to assist with finding volunteers. Their needs are:

If you are interested, please contact:

**Leah Peck**, Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator, [Leah.Peck@chezdoris.org](mailto:Leah.Peck@chezdoris.org)  
**514 937.2341 poste 238**

1. Driver with a valid Class 5 driver's license to pick up and deliver goods from donors to Chez Doris. The volunteer candidate must be available two days a week and be willing to travel within the Greater Montreal area.
2. Female professional Massage Therapist to give gentle massages to its clientele on a volunteer basis. The volunteer candidate must possess a minimum of one-year experience as a massage therapist and certification from a recognized institution. Bilingualism is an asset.
3. Volunteer to assist with sorting of donated clothing
4. Volunteer psychologist role is to provide psychological counseling to women, assess, diagnose, and implement treatments plans. Their focus is to provide one-on-one services to the Chez Doris clientele on a priority needs basis. Commitment/availability for a minimum of 3 hours per week.



Social Justice Connection has asked Catholic Action to assist them in the nomination for the L'ordre du Quebec for Father Ernest Schibli for his immense humanitarian work in area of civil rights. Doing this research was eye opening, learning the sacrifices and danger this man faced in serving the Lord. Here is an excerpt from the nomination. "By 1980 that attention included El Salvador, where the level of repression had grown significantly. SJC was encouraged in its work by Archbishop Oscar Romero in a letter sent March 18, six days before his murder. Fr. Ernie returned to Central America many times in the years to come, often bringing groups of people to learn and experience life in that region. He worked with refugees in Honduras fleeing the conflict in El Salvador. He was with Rigoberta Menchu when she returned from exile to face the military dictatorship in Guatemala; later she would refer to him as one of her 'guardian angels' for accompanying her on that dangerous journey. Using his vacation time, "Padre Ernesto", was on the streets of Guatemala using his presence as a life jacket protecting indigenous people struggling for social change against gross military, economic, and human rights assaults. His vacation was routinely spent assisting the needs of the under-served." **Please pray that it is reviewed in a positive light.**

**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](mailto: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 meeting in early November to finalize 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!



IN THE MEANTIME CHECK OUT ADAMS PODCAST HERE: [www.patheos.com/blogs/onthepside](http://www.patheos.com/blogs/onthepside)

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



Late Sunday Mass: Lector Ministry

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

There will be training available to get you going 😊

Other activities:

- † Afghan Women: Will be having their Immigrant Women’s stories book launch, November 24<sup>th</sup>. This is a collection of the stories of the challenges they faced as they made their way to Canada. Catholic Action Continues to assist them with their marketing needs.
- † Chez Doris has some particular needs – We were able to secure a small donation for them.
- † 2 new volunteers joined our portal in October 😊
- † NEW MEMBERSHIP: 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](mailto:jwong@catholicaction.ca)**

**She will be happy to help!**

How can we help?

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)



### *A Pumpkin Carving Prayer*

*Lord open my mind and fill me with your wisdom*

*Lord take out all my sin and fill me with your love,*

*Lord open my eyes to see your glory,*

*Lord let me life be a sweet aroma to you,*

*Lord help me to speak your words of truth and love*

*Lord fill me with our light to shine for all to see.*