



Catholic Action Montreal

"Using our Gifts to Serve our Neighbour"

Newsletter – November 2019

ASYLUM SEEKERS

Our winter clothing drive was a huge success. We have collected from St. Jean Brébeuf, Corpus Cristi (twice), St. Edmund of Canterbury, St. Richards, St. Gabriel's, various individuals including people from the Laurentians and Villa St. Martin led by Father Sylvester. These have been shared with Le Pont, Welcome Collective, Transfiguration of our Lord, Chez Doris, and Action Refugees. With the significant weather we had during November, the wind/rainstorm that led to long power outages followed by 20 cm of snow the asylum seekers had an eye opener with a taste of our Canadian winter.



"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



New Family in Lachine

Catholic Action was invited to assist a new family in Lachine, single mother with 3 children. The family was brought to our attention by a couple of parishioners that had already started to help them out. We brought them winter clothing, school bags, food and toys. The mother was brought to tears of gratitude!





NDG Senior Center & Welcome Hall Mission & Catholic Action – collaboration



Two newcomers to Canada are volunteering at NDG senior center, Thursday afternoons to gather food for significantly isolated people who cannot visit the Mission to collect their food baskets. Catholic Action's volunteer bus drivers are delivering the food to these individuals in the West End of Montreal.



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!



We met on November 21st, at the Catholic Centre. What a session! Michael Udy, from QCGN, in his role as Director of Access to Health and Social Services, led us through the **"The Right to Health and Social Services**

in English in Quebec? What an eye opener! NOTE: Super Clinics do not have to speak English - NONE are designated English including Stat Care on the West Island of Montreal.

Do you have a right to health care and social services in English? NO - not all services and not everywhere. We do not have the same services available to us in English as our Francophone neighbours have in French. The conflict arises as employees have a right to work in French and people want the right and, in some cases, have the right to be served in English.



Michael's presentation led to an extremely healthy discussion around **fairness, equal rights and rights to care as required**. Sadly, if we cannot be served by one of the designated institutions that may have some or all services available in English then you are out of luck. Equally ambulance drivers have absolutely NO OBLIGATION to speak to you in any language other than French, many do speak English but as a patient we cannot expect that service. It is important to note that they, (ambulance drivers) are directed to the hospital with the most availability at the time of pick up so you may not get to the hospital of your choice. You can ask but there's no guarantee!

While we may never get equal services there is currently a review underway of all the "Access Programs" in the province. The "Access Programs" are what lists the English services required by each facility and its partner facility that supports any shortfalls. Services are dependent on the geography they serve, population etc.

The "Access Programs" are currently being reviewed (mandate of 5 years) and Michael indicated that by winter the new programs should be available. There was a committee established (Michael Udy is a

member) that evaluated recommended candidates to sit on the "Access Program" teams in each region. The Regional Access committee approves the programs which must list what services are available in English by its own institution and its partner institution. These services are supposed to be monitored by law but that has not yet been done. The Regional Committee is working on the monitoring process. Our coalition will be advocating on behalf of this group representing the English-speaking seniors in Montreal to the Regional Access Committee outlining the concerns/needs discussed. We realized how loud our One Voice could be when you add up the numbers served by the group, not just the membership. St. Antoine senior center alone serves 5000.



We have been blessed with this recognition. Thanks to QCGN



INVITATION

SIXTH ANNUAL QCGN STAFF HOLIDAY BREAKFAST AND OPEN HOUSE

The staff of the Quebec Community Groups Network invites you to celebrate the festive season and share a bite of breakfast with us.

Date: **Monday, December 9**
Time: **from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.**
Where: **QCGN Office - 1819 René-Lévesque West,
Suite 400 (Montreal)**

This QCGN tradition is coupled with a small fundraising activity for one of our members or partner organizations. This year, staff has chosen to raise funds for the Asylum Seekers program at Catholic Action Montreal.

Starting at 8:30 a.m. on December 9, QCGN's elves will be brewing coffee, serving homemade goodies, and flipping pancakes for our members, partners and stakeholders who are invited to share some holiday cheer and make a contribution of cash or warm clothing to support asylum seekers. Since the 18th century, Catholic Action Montreal has dedicated itself to offering care and compassion to those in need. For the past few years, they have been working with Montreal's Archdiocese and other groups to support political refugees who arrive in this country with little or nothing.

If you cannot attend, but want to show your support, you can donate through their [GoFundMe page](https://www.gofundme.com/askingforasylum) at this address: <https://www.gofundme.com/askingforasylum>. You can also send a cheque with Asylum Seekers in the subject line to Catholic Action Montreal, 1857 de Maisonneuve West, Suite 301, Montréal, Quebec H3H 1J9. The group also accepts donation of furniture and other necessities. Contact Judy Wong at jwong@catholicaction.ca.

Please RSVP before December 5 to rita.legault@qcgqn.ca

The Good News Can Diffuse Your Anxiety and Achieve more Peace

The "Kingdom Mindset" workshop is **scheduled for February 29th, 2020** at the Catholic Centre (Metro Guy). This inspiring project, initiated by Adam Paterno, is to **assist people living every day with GAD**

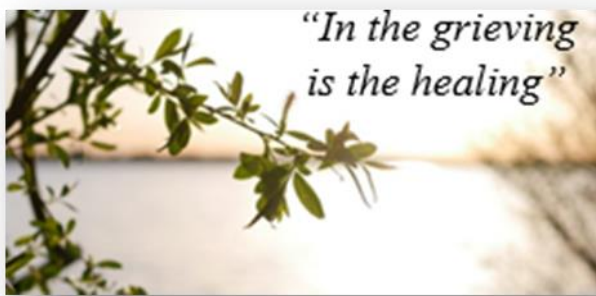


(Generalized Anxiety Disorder). We will be showing how faith, the Gospel readings and listening to the "Word" can assist in dealing with this illness. You are not alone! Notebooks, reference materials, pen etc will be supplied. To cover these costs there will be a \$10.00 fee.

IN THE MEANTIME CHECK OUT ADAMS PODCAST HERE: www.patheos.com/blogs/ontheupside



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. 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 America. 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.

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

There will be training available to get you going 😊

Other activities:

- † We assisted 2 organizations as they establish formal and legally framed sexual harassment policies with the assistance of one of our volunteer organizations.
- † We found a website translator for Camp Kinkora
- † We will be speaking at the Afghan Women's fund raising book launch, November 30th, "Immigrant woman, narratives of pain and resilience", look for an update in December.
- † Catholic Action led a successful strategic plan session with Social Justice Connection board.
- † **NEW MEMBERSHIP:** please spread the news of our work and invite your friends to learn about us and become part of the Catholic Action family.

Happy 1st week of Advent!



Advent Prayer: Awaken Us

Dear Lord God,
awaken us,
that we may be ready
when your dear Son comes,
that we may receive him with joy
and serve you with pure hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

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?

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/>

The year is almost over!
Please renew your 2019 membership before its too late!
Please tell your friends about us
www.catholicaction.ca