



Catholic Action Montreal

"Using our Gifts to Serve our Neighbour"

Newsletter – December 2019

West Island Assistance Fund asking for toys and cash after devastating fire

KATHRYN GREENAWAY, MONTREAL GAZETTE

Updated: December 10, 2019

What do you get when you have disaster, Christmas, and kids, all in the same sentence, an outpouring of donations of toys from Catholics in Action! Our volunteers picked up over 20 large boxes of new toys, some beautiful hand made doll beds and dolls, home made stuffed animals from individual donors. This show of generosity was extremely welcomed by the team at West Island Assistance Fund. As you can see from the picture on the right, the facility that housed all the donated toys was burned to the ground. It was beautiful to see other individuals bringing their gifts as well.



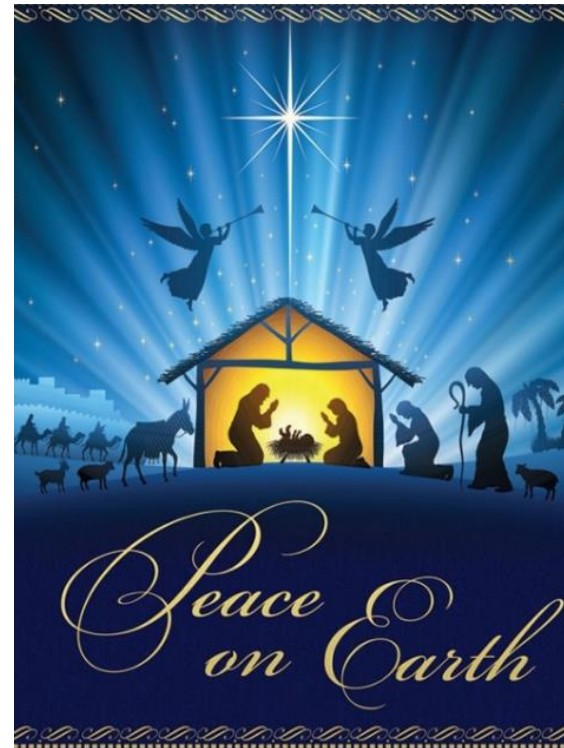
Some Christmas Messages we received:

"Thank you for all your work and dedication. FYI I was very moved to see you at our friend's Stella's apartment in Lachine. (recent refugees from Nigeria). I know Mary Jane had sent you a note regarding Stella and her children a couple of days earlier. To see you there on Saturday morning was a real witness. Your charitable work, kindness and concern for Stella's family left a great impression on me.

May God continue to bless you and your family this Christmas. Merry Christmas." John

"Thank you for everything that you have done, and continue to do, for seniors." Mary

*"Thanks, Judy, for your great work with C.A. I wish you as well blessed Christmas season with all the gang."
Francis*



JUST 2 DAYS LEFT TO OFFER YOUR GIFT!



Just 2 days left is this decade, please consider Catholic Action in your annual giving. Thank you and God bless!

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/45763>

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.

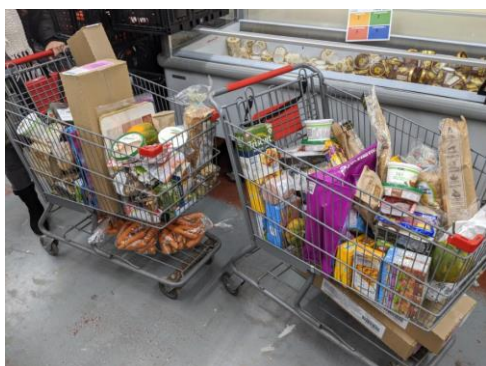


“For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.” Mathew 25:35

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 the homes of 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!



CATHOLIC ACTION WORKING TO IMPROVE THE ISOLATION OF SENIORS.

In cooperation with the NDG senior center one of our volunteer drivers too a group of seniors for a Christmas Lights tour around the city. Needless to say the group was thrilled with the trip!



Catholic Action was honored to share in the fundraising book launch of the Afghan Women of Montreal. The book called, "Immigrants Women's Stories, Narrative of Pain and Resilience" tells the story of 10 women and their struggles to safety and freedom for themselves and their families.

We met a few local government officials. Catholic Action was honored to be presented with a gift of Saffron, from the Deputy Ambassador to Afghanistan from Ottawa for the work of our volunteers. For a copy of the book please contact afghanwomen.cm@gmail.com





Anna Farrow, Executive Director, of the English-Speaking Catholic Council has started to gather the data from the centres. Our coalition will be advocating for improved health services 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. The group will be meeting again January 23rd, 2020. Also, on the agenda, Jennifer Cooke, regional director of CHSSN as well as Patricia Lemery, executive director, CAAP-Île de Montréal. CAAP is Montreal's Complaint Assistance and Support Centre mandated by the Ministry of Health and Social Services to assist and support users who are dissatisfied with the services offered by a Network health and social services on the Island of Montreal. The last presentation of the day will be from the QCGN's Access to Justice in English committee.



INVITATION

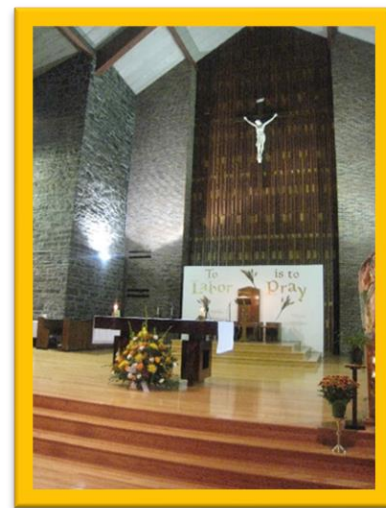
SIXTH ANNUAL QCGN STAFF HOLIDAY BREAKFAST AND OPEN HOUSE

Catholic Action was blessed to be the unsolicited recipient of this Christmas fund raising breakfast. We are truly grateful to the team at QCGN and will proudly continue our partnership into the new decade!

SHARING OUR STORY AT ST.GABRIEL'S PARISH

Sister Dianna of St. Gabriel's parish invited us to share our story with the good people of that parish earlier this month. We were honored to share the altar with Father Raymond Lafontaine. Their parishioners ran a "baby clothes" drive for Le Pont which lined the walls of the church on red strings acting as a close line where the little outfits were hanging.

The parishioners welcomed us and following our talk met us after mass with many inquiries.



The Good News Can Diffuse Your Anxiety and Achieve more Peace

The **"Kingdom Mindset"** workshop is "tentatively" **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.



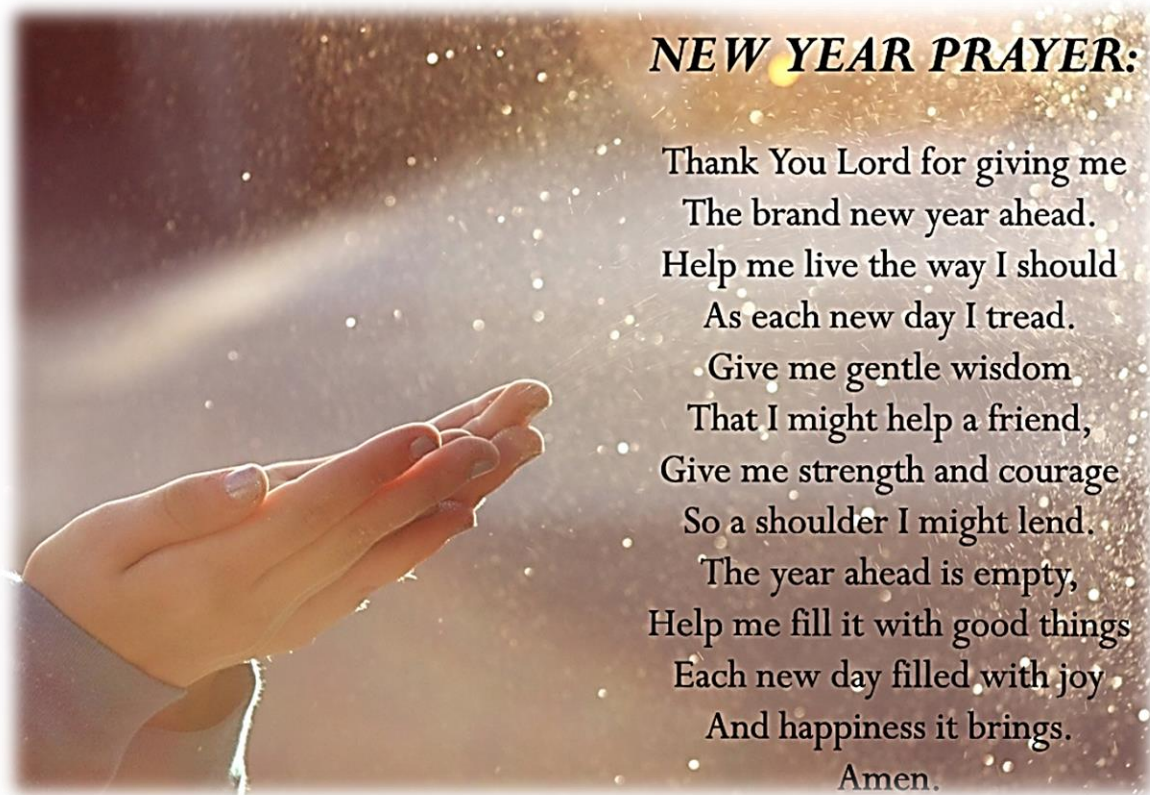
Kathleen is well known in North America. We are also working on a succession plan. If you or someone you know would be interesting in joining the team please contact jwong@catholicaction.ca. Whether you are "prolife" or "prochoice", we can help because we are "pro-healing"! We want to assist with the 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:

- † **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.



NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.
Amen.

*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